



# Ministry of External Affairs

Annual Report | 2018-19

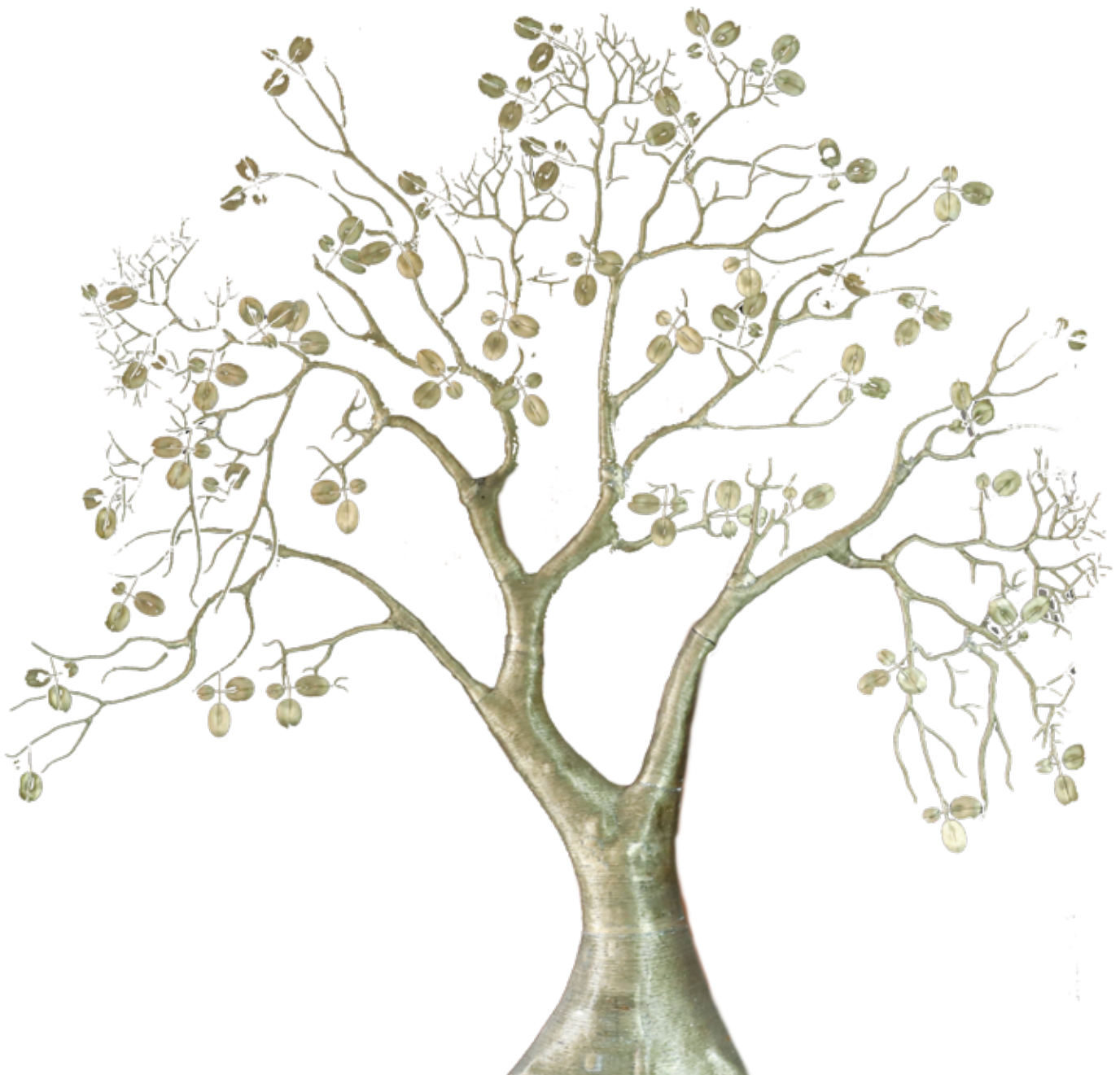




# Ministry of External Affairs

New Delhi

**Annual Report | 2018-19**



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# INTRODUCTION AND SYNOPSIS

During the year under review, the Ministry of External Affairs continued its pragmatic and outcome oriented engagements, to enhance India's security, uphold its territorial integrity, and, promoting and facilitating India's economic transformation. This was done in a pro-active manner, through strengthened bilateral, regional and multilateral partnerships and, by seeking to build influence in key global forums. The pace of our outreach efforts with the Indian diaspora also continued, with characteristic vigour and innovative mechanisms.

Bilaterally, Prime Minister's informal summits with Russia and China, the 2+2 engagement with the US, high level visits to Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, as also to the Central Asian Republics, is illustrative of a new phase in the expansion of India's diplomatic engagements. India's broadening horizons on maritime issues were postulated through presentation of a six-point Indo-Pacific policy, reinforcing our concept of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region). India played a pioneering role on climate change and global warming issues with the holding of the First General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi on 2nd October 2018. This coincided with the

launching of the two-year celebrations to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. India's emergence as a global forum for deliberations on international relations and globalization was demonstrated through the holding of international conferences covering the three pillars of geopolitics, geoeconomics, and geotechnology.

India's policy of '**Neighbourhood First**' continued to be accorded the highest priority, with a focus on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity. The pace of bilateral engagements was maintained and the focus was on making progress on the execution of infrastructure and connectivity projects. Projects in rail, road, ports, inland waterways, shipping and energy and fuel transmission are being implemented with our partners in the neighbourhood. Initiatives for broadening people-to-people ties continued side-by-side.

In Nepal, the Arun III hydro-electric project and the Nepal-India Ramayana Circuit were launched in May during Prime Minister Modi's state visit. The Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh agreed that this is a 'golden chapter' in bilateral



relations, with several initiatives underway to boost transport and energy connectivity. India has offered three lines of credit to Bangladesh totaling US\$ 8 billion. In solidarity with Bangladesh's efforts to provide succor to those displaced from North Rakhine State in Myanmar, India launched Operation Insaniyat and supplied three tranches of humanitarian aid.

India is also assisting Myanmar to create an environment conducive to the return of displaced persons through the Rakhine State Development Programme. The two countries have signed a Land Boundary Crossing Agreement whereby designated boundary points were opened up to the normal movement of visa-holding travellers, including from third countries. Efforts are on to intensify cooperation in the energy sector.

The newly elected leaders of the Maldives and Bhutan made India the destination of their visit overseas visits. India's ties with Sri Lanka remained positive and were further strengthened during the year, marked by close contacts at the highest political level, increasing trade and investment, and implementation of people-oriented developmental projects.

The year witnessed several key developments in India-Afghanistan ties, including, the delivery of wheat and pulses to Afghanistan from India, expansion of air freight corridor between the two countries, and commencement of work for several India-assisted socio-economic developmental projects in Afghanistan identified under the New Development Partnership announced in 2017.

With strategic autonomy at its core, India continued to step up its engagement with all the **major powers** of the world, taking independent decisions in the national interest. The "informal summit" mechanisms with China at Wuhan and Russia at Sochi were important milestones. India and the US held their first 2+2 dialogue between foreign and defence ministers, consolidating the global strategic partnership. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Tokyo in October 2018 for the 13th India-Japan Annual Summit with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe further built upon the unprecedented transformation in the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan over the last nearly five years, covering a wide range of areas of cooperation and highlighting the shared values and interests of the two countries. Taken together,

these engagements and dialogues facilitated the direct and candid exchanges of views between the respective leaders and for forward-looking strategic dialogues on domestic, regional and global issues.

The **Act East** policy has received a boost with the renewed global emphasis on the Indo-Pacific region. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue, the first such by an Indian PM, during which he articulated India's policy in the Indo-Pacific region. India's vision of the Indo-Pacific integrates our Indian Ocean policy of "Security and Growth for All in the Region" (SAGAR) into an inclusive Indo-Pacific framework.

India's sustained engagement with the **Indo-Pacific** region is evident from the continued exchange of high-level visits, defence and security cooperation, including on counter-terrorism and other transnational crimes; comprehensive economic engagement; regular dialogues on education and skill development; capacity building through scholarships and ITEC programmes; cultural cooperation including promotion of Indian culture through Indian cultural centres and growing ties with the diaspora. India and ASEAN have stepped up cooperation to boost maritime cooperation and physical, digital and cultural connectivity. There is also deepening synergy on non-traditional security issues like terrorism, cyber-security, and environmental threats.

Carrying forward India's '**Think West**' policy, coordinating energy and security interests, External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE for bilateral engagements during the year. In December, the India Ports Global Limited company assumed responsibilities for operations in Iran's Chabahar port, which will provide sea-land connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia. A waiver was obtained from the US which enabled the continued imports of Iranian oil and separate mechanisms were evolved for payments and marine insurance.

A new momentum was given to our engagement with **Africa**, with the 10 principles outlined in Prime Minister Modi's historic address to Uganda's Parliament in July. Advocating "cooperation and not confrontation", India proposed bilateral cooperation focusing on financing for development of Africa through lines of credit, transfers of technology including in

the digital domain to accelerate development and expanding the training of Africa's human resources. India has enhanced its cooperation with Djibouti, Somalia and other countries in the region to secure their interest in the areas of anti-piracy and maritime security. India has also been contributing troops including military observers and police personnel for MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic Of Congo).

Overall, the vigour and vitality in India's **diplomatic outreach** continued through the year. At the level of Heads of State and Government, the year witnessed, *inter alia*, incoming visits by the Presidents of Russia, Maldives, Seychelles, Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, Prime Ministers of Bhutan, Nepal, Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Italy, Bangladesh, and Norway. Similarly, outgoing visits included those by the President to Vietnam, Australia, Tajikistan, Myanmar, Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland, Zambia, Greece, Suriname, Cuba, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Czech Republic. The Vice President visited Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, France, Belgium, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Serbia, Malta, Romania and USA. The Prime Minister visits provided fresh impetus to relations with China, Sweden, UK, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal, Russia, Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa, Japan, Argentina and Maldives. This extensive diplomatic outreach is illustrative of the Government's policy of proactive engagements in a fast changing world order so as to promote national interests.

The world stood in solidarity with India on the 10th anniversary of the 26/11 attacks. India reiterated its commitment to combating the menace of terrorism at the global level and strongly condemned **terrorism** in all its forms and manifestations. India continued to hold structured consultations through the Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism with various partner countries. During the year 2018, India held counter terrorism dialogues with Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Russia, Tunisia, UK, US, Uzbekistan and with EU, BRICS and BIMSTEC.

At the multilateral level, India continued to contribute to shaping the global agenda on an array of cross-cutting issues such as climate change, nuclear non-proliferation and black money. The Prime Minister's proposals for cracking down on economic offenders formed part of the G20 agenda and the outcome declaration at the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires. The



G20 Summit also saw intensive engagement, with the first ever Japan-America-India (JAI) trilateral meeting as also the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral meeting. India announced that it would host the G20 Summit in 2022, the 75th year of India's Independence.

The **General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** was inaugurated on 2 October 2018 in Delhi, along with the 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and 2nd Global Re-invest Meet. The ISA is the first UN-affiliated inter-governmental organization to be headquartered in India. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was conferred the United Nations' Champions of the Earth Award for his "bold environmental leadership on the global stage".

India continued with its **development cooperation** programmes with partner countries across a wide range of sectors. During the year, Lines of Credit (LoCs) of about US\$ 1.03 billion were extended to various countries and nine projects aggregating to US\$ 101.13 million have been completed, and more than ten thousand civilian training slots were offered to 161 partner countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. Given its popularity and in-line with the changing needs and technological advancements around the world, new platforms like e-ITEC and ITEC-Onsite have been included in the bouquet of ITEC offerings.

Cooperation on the humanitarian front was extended by India to countries affected by disaster. Medicines were made available, inter alia, to Mozambique, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania, Madagascar, Swaziland, and Kenya. Food items and other relief material were supplied to Bangladesh and Syria. India launched Operation 'SamudraMaitri' for earthquake and tsunami assistance to Indonesia.

**Domestic transformation** has been made integral to India's

foreign policy strategy. Intensified engagements with our partners have brought visible economic benefits to the people of India, through enhanced foreign investment and technology tie-ups, leading to the setting up of factories and creation of jobs. This dovetailing of diplomacy with development and prosperity has led to forging of foreign collaborations for promoting schemes of national renewal, including Make in India, Skill India, Smart Cities, Digital India and Start-up India.

The growing impact of India's **civilizational values** on international cooperation, underpinned by the enduring conceptual framework of "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*", was movingly manifested when artistes from 124 countries came together to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and rendered Gandhiji's favourite bhajan *Vaishnava Jana To* for a global audience on the International Day of Non-Violence. The Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas celebrations at Varanasi in January 2019 further strengthened the bonds between the Diaspora and their homeland.

The emphasis of the government on **service delivery and citizen-centric governance** is reflected through steps to implement 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). These are presently operational in the MEA and Missions/Posts abroad. A number of e-governance and automation projects have been also undertaken by the MEA in consonance with the aims and objectives of Digital India such as Foreign Service Institute Alumni Portal, E-Audit Portal, Revamped Know India Programme and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Portals, Diplomatic Identity Card Registration and Issuance System etc.

The following pages provide further details on the key developments in India's foreign relations during the year.

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## INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

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### Afghanistan

The multifaceted strategic partnership between India and Afghanistan witnessed continued strengthening. The momentum of high level bilateral exchanges was maintained,

including with the visits of President of Afghanistan Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in September 2018 and the Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in June 2018 and

September 2018. Bilateral trade crossed US\$ 1 billion as a result of initiatives including 'Air Freight Corridor'; India's development partnership and capacity building programme for Afghanistan was scaled up; and cooperation, including in the areas of security, connectivity; and promotion of friendly exchanges was deepened. India has extended support to all efforts for an inclusive peace and reconciliation in keeping with its consistent policy that all such efforts should be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled; and committed its support to promoting peace, security, unity, sovereignty, plurality and democracy in Afghanistan.

### Pakistan

The movement in bilateral relations remained constrained owing to the continuing support in Pakistan to cross-border terrorism against India; absence of any credible action on the ground against infrastructure of support to terrorism in areas under Pakistan's control; and increased incidents of unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan forces, including in support of terrorist infiltration, along the Line of Control and International Border. India, as part of its consistent policy, expressed its desire to have normal relations with Pakistan in an environment free from terror and violence, and called upon Pakistan to create a conducive environment for the same. Persistent efforts were made to move ahead on humanitarian and people to people issues, including those related to prisoners, fishermen and pilgrim visits. As a result of persistent efforts, in November 2018, India's proposal to establish a "Corridor" to facilitate smooth and easy access for Indian pilgrims to visit Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib, currently located on the Pakistani side of the International Border, was agreed to by Pakistan.

### Bangladesh

India-Bangladesh relations expanded in depth and complexity in the year under review. During Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India (West Bengal) to open a Bangladesh Bhavan at Shantiniketan and to receive an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Kazi Nazrul Islam University, the two Prime Ministers agreed that the relationship had reached a 'Golden Age'. In the past four years, the imperative of expanding bilateral ties has taken on an all-of-Government character, with departments ranging from Power, Defence

and Commerce to Ministries of I&B, Shipping, P&NG all developing new programmes for bilateral cooperation.

In pursuit of this perspective, Governments of both sides have expedited work to ensure the utilization of India's three credit lines - which total almost US\$ 8 billion; the highest allocation on credit lines as well as the best terms India has offered so far. Bangladesh is also a major recipient of grant aid, with thirty-five Small Development Projects completed, and a further forty in progress.

### Myanmar

Following Prime Minister's successful State Visit to Myanmar in September 2017 and State Councillor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's visit to India in January 2018 for the 25th anniversary of India-ASEAN relations, the positive trajectory of bilateral ties was maintained. External Affairs Minister visited Myanmar in May 2018, signing during her visit five MoUs including the Land Boundary Crossing Agreement whereby designated boundary points were opened up to the normal movement of visa-holding travellers, including from third countries. Foreign Office Consultations were also held at the level of Foreign Secretary in June 2018 in New Delhi.

Substantial progress was recorded in accelerating some of our legacy infrastructure projects, with the completion of construction of two elements out of three (port plus inland waterway) of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project. Efforts are also underway to complete other major projects including the widening and expansion of 69 bridges on the Trans-Asian (Trilateral) Highway between India, Myanmar and Thailand, and the Kalewa-Yargui stretch of this road. Further progress was made during Foreign Secretary's visit to Myanmar in October 2018, when a MoU was signed to appoint a private operator to run and maintain both the port and waterway component of the Kaladan Project.

Capacity building projects continued to expand, with nearly 1000 Myanmar officials, policemen and citizens receiving training at Indian institutions. Defence ties with Myanmar also expanded with visits by the Chief of Air Staff and the Myanmar Chief of Staff (Navy). Our ties will now expand to include a partnership in building defence infrastructure as well, beginning with a Technical Agreement to supply coastal surveillance systems.

In the year under review, we also expanded ties to intensify cooperation in the energy sector, going beyond prospecting and exploration for oil and gas to initiate explorations for downstream product development including refineries, power generation and distribution. Recognizing the importance of helping Myanmar create an environment conducive to the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State, India completed 50 out of 250 prefabricated houses for all communities in that State, under the Rakhine State Development Programme, signed in December 2017. The calendar year concludes with the State Visit of the President of India to Myanmar, which would be the first visit at this level since 2006.

### Bhutan

India and Bhutan share extraordinary ties of friendship and cooperation marked by mutual understanding, goodwill and respect for each other's interests. Both countries jointly celebrated in 2018 the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations with a series of commemorative events that showcased the strong people to people ties between the two countries. The year 2018-19 witnessed sustained progress in all areas of co-operation, including hydro-power, communication, defense and security, infrastructure, health, education, culture, IT industry and agriculture. The momentum of bilateral ties was sustained through series of high-level visits and interactions at the functional level. His Majesty the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck visited India in August 2018 to pay respects to late former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering, accompanied by a high-level delegation, paid a State visit to India from 27-29 December 2018. This was Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering's first overseas visit after assuming the office in November 2018. During the visit, the announcement of the Government of India's commitment to provide Rs. 4500 Crore grant assistance to Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan was made. The visit also provided an opportunity to review the wide spectrum of bilateral engagements including in hydro-power, economic co-operation and the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Earlier during the year, then-Prime Minister of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay paid an official visit to India from 5-7 July 2018.

Work on development projects progressed at a steady pace in the year 2018-19 under the Government of India assistance package of Rs. 4500 Cr towards the 11th Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2013-18), apart from an Economic Stimulus Package of Rs. 500 Cr. Overall, Gol disbursed Rs. 4975 Cr out of the committed amount of Rs. 5000 Cr for Bhutan's 11th FYP; timely Gol assistance has been helpful in implementation of several development projects that are serving the people of Bhutan well.

### 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. Intensive bilateral engagements, including high-level visits between the two countries, continued in 2018-19. The Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli paid a State visit to India from 6-8 April 2018. This was followed by two visits of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi to Nepal - a State visit from 11-12 May 2018 and a visit to attend the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu from 30-31 August 2018. The high-level visits provided an opportunity to comprehensively review bilateral partnership as well as to launch new initiatives in the areas of agriculture, inland waterways and railways. The year also witnessed intensive official and technical level bilateral engagements. India and Nepal have comprehensive economic and developmental cooperation. India is the largest trade partner of Nepal and one of the largest investors in Nepal. A number of social and physical infrastructure projects within Nepal and cross-border connectivity projects are in different phases of implementation. An Integrated Check Post at Birgunj (Nepal) and 400-bed Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala at Kathmandu were inaugurated in April and August 2018, respectively. Power sector cooperation has deepened with the completion of two more cross-border transmission lines as well as commencement of work on 900 MW Arun III hydropower project. 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, a number of infrastructure projects, including post-earthquake reconstruction projects, are being implemented in Nepal. India and Nepal have robust cooperation in the area of capacity building and human resource development. India offers about 3000 scholarships to Nepalese students every year, providing opportunities to study in Nepal and in India. Under the ITEC programme, more than 250 scholarships are offered annually to Government and non-Government employees of Nepal for training in technical institutes in India.

### China

The Closer Developmental Partnership between India and China reached a new milestone in 2018 with the first Informal Summit between Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi and President Mr. Xi Jinping held in Wuhan in April 2018. The Informal Summit, which reflected the desire on both sides to raise the level of their bilateral relations, set the stage for enhanced high level engagements throughout the year. Prime Minister Modi and President Xi themselves held three more bilateral meetings during the year on the margins of multilateral summits. India joining the SCO as a full member and China taking over the chairmanship of SCO in 2018 provided further opportunities for greater interaction between the two sides at senior levels. Bilateral visits by the Ministers of Defence, Public Security and Foreign Affairs of China further expanded the scope of cooperation between the two sides. In order to further strengthen the contacts at people-to-people level, the two sides also launched a High Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges. Overall, the year witnessed a sustained positive momentum in India-China bilateral relations.

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## INDIAN OCEAN REGION

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Deepening relations with small island nations in the Indian Ocean and nurturing a climate of stability, peace and growth in the region are important cornerstones of India's foreign policy. India's vision for the Indian Ocean Region has been articulated by PM in his SAGAR doctrine "Security And Growth for All in the Region".

### Sri Lanka

India-Sri Lanka relations flourished over the year. The momentum from the landmark visit of Prime Minister to Sri Lanka was retained with implementation of people-centric development projects and expanding economic engagement. Bilateral relationship strengthened with high-level political engagements and people-to-people contacts. Expansion in scope and spread of India development assistance projects to hitherto untouched areas in central and southern Sri Lanka has helped in change of perception regarding India as a reliable developmental partner. Overall, the ties matured in areas like security and defence cooperation, disaster management, education, culture, trade and commerce, tourism, space and connectivity to a level which can be termed as multi-faceted.

### Maldives

During the period under review, Maldives underwent its Presidential elections 2018, with the opposition coalition candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih (Ibu Solih) emerging victorious. India was one of the first countries to congratulate Ibu Solih on his victory and recognize the election results. At the invitation of President-elect Ibu Solih, Prime Minister Modi visited Maldives on 17 November 2018, as a special gesture to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. The new Government has reiterated its India-first policy. Prime Minister Modi invited President Solih to pay a State visit to India. The newly appointed Foreign Minister Mr. Abdulla Shahid visited India from 24-27 November 2018, in preparation for President Solih's visit.

Defence Cooperation continued to be an important aspect of our relationship. GoI undertook a Short Refit of Maldivian Coast Guard Ship Huravee from 1 August - 30 November, 2018 at Vishakapatnam. The 14th edition of the Trilateral Joint Naval Exercise, "Dosti-14" between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives was held on 25-29 November 2018 in Maldives. The 3rd Joint Staff talks were held in Malé on 26-27 June 2018.

### Mauritius

India and Mauritius relations experienced an intensive engagement, in keeping with the traditional close political, economic, cultural and diaspora linkages. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj led a delegation to the 11th World Hindi Conference held in Mauritius from 18-20 August 2018. The conference also saw participation of Hindi enthusiasts from around the world. On the economic front several rounds of negotiations towards conclusion of CECPA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement) were held, resulted in signing of the Joint Study Report in November 2018.

Reinvigorated Development Partnership involved implementation of several Grants-in-aid projects namely Metro Express, ENT Hospital, New Supreme Court Building, Social Housing and Digital Tablets for school children under the Special Economic Package of USD 353 million, Civil Service College; and 18 other priority projects under line of credit of USD 500 million. The special carve out in the OCI scheme has also gained popularity in Mauritius and is strengthening our people-to-people linkages. Mauritius Prime Minister Mr. Pravind Jugnauth was invited as the Chief Guest of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in January 2019 in Varanasi.

### Seychelles

Riding on the enhanced Development Partnership assistance committed by Government of India, India-Seychelles Relations entered into a new phase of close bilateral partnership. Our pragmatic, outcome oriented engagement was re-energised in June 2018 by successful State Visit of President H.E. Mr. Danny Faure to India. The visit saw signing of 6 important

agreements pertaining to various sectors of cooperation and gifting of US\$ 30 million worth Dornier aircraft to Seychelles for enhancing EEZ Surveillance. PM also announced US\$ 100 million Defence LOC to Seychelles.

Earlier in May 2018, the 9th Joint Commission Meeting led by Foreign Secretary of India and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Seychelles was held in Mahe after a gap of more than 5 years. The first hydrography meeting led by Chief Hydrographer of India and Seychelles also charted the way forward in the field of Hydrography capacity building. The specific focus of development partnership assistance during the period was on institution building, besides extending assistance in the areas of defence, policing, health, renewable energy and community development sectors of Seychelles.

### Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

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.

India announced couple of new initiatives at the 18th IORA Council of Ministers Meeting in November 2018 Durban, after the successful implementation of 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.

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## SOUTH EAST ASIA AND ASIA PACIFIC

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Under India's Act East Policy (AEP) launched in 2014, India has been engaging robustly with countries in Southeast Asia region, Oceania, Northeast Asia and East Asia. ASEAN is at the core of AEP. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue on 1 June 2018, during which he articulated India's policy in the Indo-Pacific region. Prime Minister during his address affirmed ASEAN Centrality in the Indo-Pacific region. Through the

Indo-Pacific construct, India envisages a greater role for itself in the wider region. The upgrade from Look East to Act East not only highlights the importance of the region through a more proactive and pragmatic approach but also addresses key strategic, economic and cultural opportunities and recognises the role of the diaspora.

India is also actively engaged with Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island countries (PICs) through political

understanding, security and defence cooperation, and economic engagement. India's sustained engagement with the Indo-Pacific region is evident from frequent high-level visits; strong defence cooperation, which includes training, ship visits, joint coordinated patrols, defence sales and defence supplies; close security cooperation especially in counter-terrorism and other transnational crimes; comprehensive economic engagement; regular dialogues on education and skill development; capacity building through scholarships and ITEC programmes; cultural cooperation including promotion of Indian culture through Indian cultural centres and growing ties with the diaspora.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited three Southeast Asian countries (Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore) in May-June 2018 and became the first Indian Prime Minister to deliver the keynote address at Shangri-La Dialogue on 1 June 2018. President of India visited Australia, Vietnam and Myanmar in November-December 2018. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. Other Ministers of the Government of India travelled to various countries to promote cooperation in trade & investment, education, health etc. Ministerial visit at the level of Minister of State took place to various Pacific Island countries for the first time which included Samoa, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Timor Leste and Tuvalu.

The Government of India engages with Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam and Pacific Island countries through its various development assistance programmes.

## Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

After successfully hosting the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in January 2018, India continued with its calibrated efforts to pursue a dynamic and multi-dimensional relationship with ASEAN. In accordance with its 'Act East Policy', India has boosted ties with the ASEAN Member States across political, security, economic and cultural spheres. Prime Minister's visit to Singapore in November 2018 to attend ASEAN-related summits further cements our growing strategic engagement with a very important region in our neighbourhood with whom we share a long-standing civilisational bond. There is increasing emphasis from both India and ASEAN to deal with non-traditional security issues like terrorism, cyber-security, and environmental threats. Cooperation in the maritime domain has gained increasing prominence in India's dialogue with ASEAN and other regional forums. India has made concerted efforts to boost connectivity in physical, digital and cultural spheres with ASEAN countries. The focus on digital connectivity remained prominent, with India's offer to undertake pilot projects on rural connectivity to create digital villages in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam. On enhancing people-to-people contacts, initiatives being pursued include the ASEAN-India Network of Universities; 1000 fellowships to ASEAN students to pursue PhD in Indian Institute of Technology; and 2019 being declared as ASEAN-India Year of Tourism.

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## EAST ASIA

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

Among the prominent developments in India's relations with DPRK in 2018 included the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs General Dr. V.K. Singh (Retd.) to DPRK in May 2018 at the invitation of the DPRK Government. In addition, India welcomed the inter-Korean Summit meetings held at Panmunjom (27 April 2018) and Pyongyang (18-20 September 2018) and the USA-DPRK Summit Meeting (12 June 2018) held in Singapore, expressing hope that such

engagement will help in reducing tensions and pave the way for lasting peace and reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula.

### Japan

India-Japan relationship has been transformed into a partnership with great substance and purpose and is a cornerstone of India's Act East Policy. India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, forged during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan in 2014, continued making significant strides in 2018. The highlight of the bilateral relations in 2018 was the visit of Prime Minister

Modi to Japan from 28-29 October 2018 which showcased the increasing convergence of our interests and values as two important democracies and opened new avenues for our deepening partnership in diverse sectors.

### Republic of Korea (ROK)

India-ROK bilateral relationship, elevated to the level of Special Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to ROK in 2015, gathered further momentum with the State visit of President Moon Jae-in to India from July 8-11, 2018. The momentum of high level visits was maintained by the visit of First Lady of the Republic of Korea, Mrs. Kim Jung-sook to participate in the Deepotsav event organised by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. Other important events in 2018 included

the visits of the Speaker of ROK's National Assembly and ROK's Defence Minister to India in March and August 2018 respectively.

### Mongolia

India's traditionally friendly and cordial relations with Mongolia have steadily improved over the years, following Prime Minister's historic visit to Mongolia in May 2015 when bilateral relations were upgraded to Strategic Partnership. A number of high-level exchanges took place in 2018 between the two countries, including the visits of Mongolian Defence Minister and Secretary of National Security Council in March and December 2018 respectively. From the Indian side, External Affairs Minister and Union Home Minister visited Mongolia in April and June 2018 respectively.

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## EURASIA

### Russia

The 'Special and Privileged' Strategic relationship with Russia, which constitutes an important dimension of India's foreign policy, attained a new high with the first landmark Informal Summit between President Mr. Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Sochi, Russia in May 2018. This was further consolidated with the visit of President Putin to India for the 19th bilateral Annual Summit in October 2018. Prime Minister's meetings with President Putin on the margins of the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, East Asia Summit in Singapore and G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires and the regular exchange of visits at the level of Ministers and senior officials during the year added further depth to our bilateral engagement. Both sides continued with various projects of cooperation in the Strategic sectors of defence, civil nuclear energy and space. There was a special emphasis on strengthening bilateral trade and economic ties with the first India-Russia Business Summit held on the margins of the visit of President Putin and the first India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue held in St. Petersburg in November 2018.

### Central Asia

India's outreach with its extended neighbourhood of Central Asia saw further progress with the visit of President of

Uzbekistan to India and that of our President to Tajikistan in October 2018. External Affairs Minister visited Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan, after a brief stopover in Turkmenistan, during her Central Asia tour in August 2018. She also visited Tajikistan on 11-12 October 2018 to participate in the SCO Heads of Government Meeting. India's continued outreach to Central Asia resulted in a historic initiative to hold the first "India-Central Asia Dialogue" at the level of Foreign Ministers, with the participation of Afghanistan, which took place in Samarkand on 13 January 2019. The Dialogue further deepened India's engagement with the Central Asian region.

### Ukraine and Belarus

India continued to have cordial relations with Ukraine. Both countries held a Joint Working Group meeting on Defence cooperation in June 2018. India and Belarus relations witnessed a qualitative forward movement with the visit of a Parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker to Minsk in June 2018. India and Belarus also held meetings of the Inter-governmental Commission and Foreign Office Consultations in Minsk and New Delhi, in September and October 2018 respectively.

### South Caucasus

India's relations with Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia continued in an upward trajectory. India and Azerbaijan continued to have productive exchanges with the visit of a delegation led by Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan for the Inter-governmental Commission meeting held in New Delhi in October 2018. Earlier, External Affairs Minister visited Azerbaijan in April 2018 to attend the mid-term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Cultural relations with Georgia strengthened with an extended period of the exhibition of the relics of St. Queen Ketevan, highly revered in Georgia, whose relics were found in India. India-Armenia ties in the field of education were consolidated with the visit of a delegation led by the Armenian Deputy Minister of Education and Science to participate in the FICCI Higher Education Summit in New Delhi in November, 2018.

### Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

India has a historic relationship with all SCO countries. This relationship is anchored in mutual trust and goodwill, which are the main pillars of our multidimensional relationship. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj attended the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting held in Beijing on 23-24 April 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the official delegation to the Summit of Heads of State of SCO in Qingdao, China on 9-10 June 2018. A total of twenty-two outcome documents were signed at the Summit, including the Joint Communiqué and 'Appeal to Youth' against radicalization. EAM attended the SCO Heads of Government meetings on 11 & 12 October 2018 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

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## THE GULF AND WEST ASIA

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### Gulf

India has a close and strong relationship with the Gulf region which has remained a region of prime importance in our extended neighbourhood. Our bilateral friendly ties with each of the Gulf countries are deep-rooted in a shared history and have been constantly nourished through growing multidimensional cooperation and vibrant people-to-people engagement.

The region is one of our largest trading partners with a trade of US\$ 123 billion in 2017-18, energy supplies with over 50% of crude oil and 70% of LNG requirements of our country. Besides, strategic oil reserves being created in India with close cooperation with the region and investments in green field oil refinery project add to our energy security assurances. A huge diaspora of over 9 million contributes to the goodwill between the countries besides contributing to annual remittances of over US\$ 38 billion (in 2017).

In the past few years, intensive high-level exchanges have taken place leading to enhanced and diversified engagement with this region. This unprecedented focused and targeted engagement with countries in the Gulf region is a part of

clearly identified foreign policy objectives and has resulted in achieving significant and tangible outcomes in important areas of interest.

In the year 2018-19, the close and growing political engagement with the countries in the region continued during the year starting with Prime Minister's visit to UAE and Oman in February 2018. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar and the UAE for bilateral engagements during the year. Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry visited Oman from 15-18 July 2018 to co-chair 8th Session of India-Oman JCM.

### Iran

The year witnessed strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Iran. The high level bilateral political exchanges included the State visit of H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran to India in February 2018 and two visits of the Foreign Minister of Iran to India, in May 2018 and January 2019. Bilateral cooperation, including in the areas of economic, energy, connectivity, people to people contacts was expanded. The Trilateral Agreement



between India, Afghanistan and Iran for Establishment of International Trade and Transit Corridor through Chabahar came into effect in July 2018 and the Indian company opened its office and started operations at the Shaheed Behesti Port at Chabahar from December 2018.

### West Asia and North Africa

West Asia & North Africa (WANA) continues to remain important from energy security, food security and for global peace and security. Relations with all the countries of the WANA region were taken forward in a calibrated manner, through the regular holding of institutional dialogue mechanisms and high-level exchange of visits. This region is a primary source of rock phosphates and its derivatives, and potash the key raw materials for the production of various fertilizers. More than 80% requirements of rock phosphates

are sourced from the countries in this region. This region is also rich in minerals. India intensified its efforts to further secure its energy interests in the region. India forged greater defence and security cooperation with most of the countries in the region through formal and informal mechanisms that include intelligence sharing; counter-terrorism; cyberspace etc. India has enhanced its cooperation with Djibouti, Somalia and other countries in the region to secure their interest in the areas of anti-piracy and maritime security. The momentum created by several high-level exchanges last year was sustained with exchanges of a series of ministerial/official visits in 2018. Several business delegations were also exchanged to promote our economic and trade interests in the region. In the backdrop of the financial crisis being faced by UNRWA, India enhanced its annual contribution to the UNRWA from USD \$ 1.25 million to USD \$ 5 million from 2018.

## AFRICA

### East & South Africa

During the year 2018-19, India-Africa relations continued to enjoy an unprecedented renaissance. We further enhanced our political engagement with African countries. The year saw first ever visits by an Indian President to Swaziland (Eswatini) and Equatorial Guinea in April 2018 and the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Rwanda in July 2018. President also visited Zambia (April 2018) and Prime Minister visited Uganda after a gap of 21 years and South Africa in July 2018. Vice President visited Botswana (October-November 2018), Zimbabwe (November 2018) and Malawi (November 2018). Parliamentary exchanges during the year included a visit by Zambian Speaker and his delegation, in addition to Ugandan Parliamentary delegation.

The high-level political engagements were supported by regular holding of institutional mechanisms, including at the Ministerial level. We hosted the 9th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) with Tanzania (October 2018), second JCM with Ethiopia (May 2018) and 3rd JCM with Mozambique (November 2018). 8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee was held in August 2018. The External Affairs

Minister also visited South Africa for the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting and IBSA Foreign Ministers' Meeting. MoS (External Affairs) visited Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea. The official level engagements included the first ever Foreign Office Consultations with Uganda and Rwanda (April & May 2018) and the first Joint Working Group on Health with Malawi.

President of Rwanda H.E. Paul Kagame visited India to attend the International Solar Alliance Conference in March 2018. President of Comoros H.E. Azali Assoumani visited India from 10-12 March, 2018 in connection with the founding conference of the International Solar Alliance. General (Retd.) Dr. Constantino G.D.N. Chiwenga, the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Saulos Klaus Chilima, the Vice President of the Republic of Malawi, and Edwardkiwanuka Ssekandi, the Vice President of Uganda, visited India to participate in the 13th edition of the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held on 25th-27th March 2018. They met Vice President of India on the sidelines of the Conclave. The Vice President of Zimbabwe, who was also the special envoy of the President of Zimbabwe, called on President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 23 March 2018.

In order to have a more meaningful diplomatic presence in Africa, the Union Cabinet of India has decided to open 18 new Embassies/High Commissions in Africa in the next 4 years which will take the number of Indian Missions in Africa to 47. In this context, Indian Missions in Rwanda and Djibouti have already been opened this year.

Significant events organized by India at the Ministerial/high-level included commemoration of the 120th year of the incident involving Mahatma Gandhi at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station in South Africa and West Africa Regional CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in Nigeria in November 2018 and launch of India for Humanity Programme in Malawi. In India, dignitaries from Africa participated in the first Assembly of International Solar Alliance (October 2018) and Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (September-October 2018).

There was significant expansion in programmes both in geographical reach and sectoral coverage. India continued to assist African countries by Grants assistance (medicines, books, vehicles etc.), Lines of Credit, technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, scholarship for higher education and a range of capacity building programmes including short term civilian and military training courses. Since 1st April 2018, 11 new Lines of Credit for an amount of US \$ 1038 million have been extended for construction of new Parliament building in Swaziland (Eswatini), Parliament building in Burundi, Disaster Recovery Center in Malawi, agricultural projects and products, dairy cooperation, construction of electricity lines and sub-stations, water projects, etc. Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi laid the first stone for the construction of a road in Sofala province of Mozambique for the GoI financed US \$ 150 million road project. 9 projects aggregating to US \$ 101.13 million have been completed in 2018-19.

The new capacity building institutions launched included Gandhi-Mandela Skills Center in South Africa and upgrade of Indo-Zim Technology Center in Zimbabwe. Capacity building and skills development programmes remained at the center of India's expanding development partnership. We continued with our popular training and scholarship programmes under ITEC, ICCR, IAFS Programmes and PPP training initiatives.

New training programmes on Dairy Cooperation was initiated during this year.

On the economic front, our trade with Africa multiplied and diversified. The current bilateral trade figures are US \$ 62.12 billion which is an increase of nearly 22% over the previous year. The SADC Business Summit was organized in South Africa and Invest in India Business Forum in Johannesburg in November 2018.

Among the important agreements concluded this year include Extradition Treaty with Malawi, MoU on Dairy Cooperation with Rwanda, Capacity Building in Civil Nuclear Cooperation with Malawi, Space Cooperation with South Africa, Diplomatic Visa Waiver Agreements with several countries and Defence Cooperation Agreement with Uganda.

As regards defence cooperation, the year saw first ever goodwill visit by Indian naval ships in 2018 to Comoros, goodwill ship visits took place to Madagascar (May and October 2018), Mozambique (September 2018) and South Africa (October 2018). The year saw visits of Chief of Army and COSC to Kenya and Tanzania. Chief of South African Navy visited India in November 2018.

The focus on cooperation in the health and pharmaceutical sector was maintained with gifting of medicines and medical equipment, including Bhabhatron and ambulances, etc. to various African countries, including Lesotho, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Madagascar and Zimbabwe. The new initiative in the area of Public-Private Cooperation continued this year and was expanded to include more training programmes and more hospitals.

To make the movement of Indian and African people easier, eTV facility was expanded to cover 33 countries from Africa. Air connectivity was enhanced with the announcement of direct flights from Dar es Salaam by Air Tanzania from December 2018.

Under our initiative of trilateral cooperation with like minded countries, we concluded the first ever South-South Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding for joint projects in Africa with UAE. The second round of Dialogue with France was held on 11 December 2018. With Japan,

we announced joint setting up of Cancer Hospital in Kenya. With Japan, we are also establishing a platform of Japan-India Business Cooperation in Asia-Africa region to enhance the exchanges with Indian and Japanese businesses towards developing industrial corridors and industrial network in Asia and Africa.

India participated in the positive internal political developments in some African countries. Gol deputed a peace observer for the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Peace Process with the Army wing of the main opposition party in Mozambique. India also sent a team of 8 election observers to observe the historic elections held in Zimbabwe in July 2018.

### West Africa

India's relations with countries in the West Africa (WA) region continued to expand and diversify during the year. The period was marked by several high-level bilateral visits and meetings on the sidelines of international/multilateral conferences. Our active engagement contributed towards the strengthening of political ties, growing economic (trade and investment) linkages and deepening of development partnership.

The region (covering 25 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 year. India also sources a significant amount of raw cashew nuts from countries in the region including Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Senegal.

The region remained politically stable. However, the threat of terrorism and challenges posed by transnational organized crime continued to affect several countries. There have been better coordination and synergy of efforts amongst the

countries of the region to deal with the threat of terrorism. These efforts include the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) or FC-G5S established by Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. India has been contributing troops including military observers and police personnel for MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic Of Congo). At present 2,930 Indian personnel are deployed with MONUSCO.

During the period April 2018-March 2019, presidential elections were held in Mali (July 2018); Cameroon (October 2018); Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) [December 2018]; Nigeria [February 2019] and Senegal [February 2019]. Chad, DRC, Gabon, Guinea (January 2019), Mali, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe and Togo also witnessed parliamentary elections.

President Shri Ramnath Kovind visited Equatorial Guinea in April 2018. During the year, former Minister of State (MoS) Shri M.J. Akbar, visited Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea. The founding conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in New Delhi in March 2018 witnessed enthusiastic participation from countries in West Africa and included President of Burkina Faso, Niger, Vice President of Cote d'Ivoire and several ministers.

India's bilateral trade with countries in West Africa was US\$ 28.78 billion [FY 2017-18]. This represented an increase of 29% over FY 2016-17. The increase was both in exports and imports. 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 1450 civilian ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme) slots; over 200 defence slots (111 slots to Nigeria) and 300 ICCR scholarships were allocated to WA countries. All 25 West African countries continued to support India's candidature in various elections in the United Nations and related international bodies. 14 West African countries have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement.

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## EUROPE AND EUROPEAN UNION

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### 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 Norway, Malta, Czech Republic and Denmark. There were outgoing visits of President to Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria & Czech Republic and Vice President to Serbia, Malta and Romania. PM participated in the first ever India- Nordic summit at Stockholm and interacted with the leaders of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark & Iceland. 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.

### Western Europe

India's continued its multifaceted engagement with the countries of Western Europe including Belgium, France, Germany, UK, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, etc. Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Brussels for the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) hosted by the European Union on 18-19 October 2018 and called upon the King of the Belgians and discussed the excellent bilateral cooperation between Belgium & India as well as contemporary issues of shared interest. The Vice-President also represented India at the commemorative ceremony of World War-I Armistice Centenary and participated in the inaugural Paris Peace Forum on 11 November 2018 in Paris. He inaugurated the memorial for fallen Indian soldiers at Villiers Guislan on 10 November 2018.

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj paid a 4-nation official visit to Italy, France, Luxembourg and Brussels from 17-23 June 2018. The visit to the four European nations provided an opportunity to hold in-depth discussions with the political leadership on a wide range of global, regional and bilateral issues and advance our growing strategic engagement with the European Union.

India and France marked twenty years of their Strategic Partnership which was established in 1998. The relationship is marked by a close and growing bilateral relationship and convergence of views on a range of international issues. The areas of defence and security cooperation, space cooperation and civil nuclear cooperation constitute the principal pillars of the Strategic Partnership. Apart from these traditional fields of cooperation, India and France are increasingly engaged in new areas of cooperation like security in the Indian Ocean region, climate change including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and sustainable growth and development among others. Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Paris on 11-12 October 2018, for the first bilateral Ministerial Level Annual Defence Dialogue with her counter-part Ms. Florence Parly, France's Minister for the Armed Forces.

High-level visits between India and Germany helped maintain the momentum in bilateral relations in 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Germany in April 2018. Federal President of Germany Dr. Frank Walter Steinmeier undertook his first visit to India in March 2018. The mutual trust and understanding shared by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel was manifested in several meetings and phone conversations that took place during the year. There were regular bilateral visits, both at the central and the state levels from both sides, and continued interaction and cooperation in diverse areas, such as trade and investment, manufacturing, skill development, renewable energy, infrastructure, innovation, defence cooperation, science and technology and education.

India and Italy commemorated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations with year-long celebrations in India and Italy. Relations received a further boost with the official visit of Prime Minister Mr. Giuseppe Conte in October 2018, exactly one year after the visit of

former Italian Prime Minister Mr. Paolo Gentiloni. This was Prime Minister Mr. Giuseppe Conte's first visit to Asia after taking Office in June 2018. He led the Italian official-cum-business delegation to the 24th edition of the Department of Science and Technology-Confederation of Indian Industry (DST)-(CII) Technology Summit where Italy was partner country. The visit of External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj, to Italy on 17 June 2018 was the first major political exchange with the new Italian government.

The Dutch Prime Minister Mr. Mark Rutte led a trade mission to India on 24 & 25 May 2018. This was the largest ever Dutch trade mission to India.

The multi-faceted strategic partnership between India and the United Kingdom received fresh impetus with the visit of Prime Minister to London on 18 April 2018, which was the third at Prime Minister-level within a span of three years. Ten MoUs/agreements were signed during the visit across diverse areas such as a cyber-relationship framework, rejuvenation of river Ganga, skill development, vocational education, safe nuclear energy use, cooperation in animal husbandry, fisheries and dairying, sharing of criminal records, research in humanities and social sciences under the Newton-Bhabha programme and setting up of a centre of excellence in Ayurveda and traditional Indian medicine. Following Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit, the momentum in bilateral cooperation was maintained through the year with a number of Ministerial visits from both sides.

**European Union:** A multi-tiered institutional architecture of cooperation exists between India and the EU with summit level meetings since 2000. The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' in 2004. Today, India and the EU have over 30 dialogue mechanisms covering a large gamut of issues of mutual interest.

2018 has been, by all standards, a very eventful year in the India-EU strategic partnership. Our intensive engagement has been constructive and result-oriented in the areas identified by us in our Agenda 2020 and in the 14th India-EU Joint Statement.

The European Union came out with a new Strategy Paper for India on 20th November 2018 covering wide canvas with concrete action points to be worked upon over the next 10-15 years.

In 2018, apart from various ministerial level visits, we have had summit level meetings with Germany, UK, Spain, France, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands and Portugal, which further cemented our already robust ties. There have also been a series of visits by Commissioners of the European Commission to follow up - and road maps have been made for co-operation in the different sectors.

The EU is India's largest regional trading partner with India's bilateral trade with the EU in 2017-18 crossing \$101 billion.

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## THE AMERICAS

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### North America

2018-19 witnessed significant forward movement in India's bilateral relations with the U.S. and steady progress in relations with Canada. The first-ever Trilateral Summit involving leaders of India, the U.S. and Japan took place in November 2018 in Buenos Aires. The inaugural meeting of the India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue in September 2018 set the stage for rich discussion and outcomes on foreign policy, defence and security fields. India's elevation as a Strategic Trade Authorization Tier-I partner country for the purpose of U.S. trade in dual-use items reflected benefits to India as a Major Defence Partner of the U.S.. Counter-terrorism cooperation and coordination with the U.S. on regional counter-terrorism challenges improved significantly. The visit

by Prime Minister of Canada to India and the India-Canada Strategic Dialogue of the two Foreign Ministers, both in February 2018, provided impetus to functional cooperation on a number of areas, including for countering terrorism and violent extremism.

### Latin America

India attaches importance to its relations with Latin America and the Caribbean region. The presence of more than one million Indian diaspora which is culturally and emotionally attached to India adds a special dimension to the relationship.

During 2018, India's relations with the region both in terms of our political engagement as well as our trade and

commercial linkages intensified, marked by many VVIP visits and interactions. Regular exchange of messages between the leadership of India and of LAC countries helped maintain close contacts.

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### UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS & LEGAL AND TREATIES DIVISION

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In 2018, India continued its active engagements with international organizations including United Nations (UN), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Commonwealth. PM led the Indian delegation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in London in April 2018 during which he made a series of announcements like doubling of financial contribution by India to Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) as well as Commonwealth Small States Offices in New York and Geneva, opening of Commonwealth sub window under the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, capacity building programmes in ocean development and cricket training scheme for under-16 years youth from Commonwealth countries in India. These announcements signal India's efforts to step up its engagements with the Commonwealth.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation at the 18th NAM Mid-term Ministerial conference held in Baku in April 2018. EAM also led the Indian delegation during the High-Level segment of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Session from 25 September to 1 October 2018. In her statement at UNGA, EAM emphasized the urgent need for reform of UNSC and early finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

High level exchanges included those by Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, President of the 73rd session of UNGA in August 2018 and Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for UN peacekeeping operations in June 2018.

India provided a voluntary contribution of US \$ 100,000 to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone in November 2018. The Residual Court is mandated to, inter alia, provide protection and support to witnesses and victims; supervise

enforcement of sentences; provide legal aid and conduct contempt proceedings.

### India and Peacekeeping

An International UN Peacekeeping Ministerial meeting will be held in New York on March 29, 2019. This follows the 2017 Vancouver and 2016 London Ministerial Conferences on UN Peacekeeping.

The 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), with the theme 'Making the United Nations relevant to all people: Global leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies' commenced on 18 September 2018 in New York. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation during the High-Level segment of the 73rd UNGA Session from 25 September to 1 October 2018 and delivered India's national statement on 29 September 2018.

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 in the UN. The L69 group, with contribution from all its members including India, produced a 'Handbook on Security Council Reforms: 25 years of Deliberations' compiling all documents produced under the UNSC reform process in the last 25 years.

The G-4 Foreign Ministers (consisting of India, Brazil, Germany and Japan) held their annual meeting in New York on 25 September 2018 on the sidelines of the 73rd UNGA Session to review progress of UNSC reform.

India continued to push for greater priority to be given within the UN system for 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 (CCIT), and ensure greater transparency and effectiveness of existing UN counter terrorism structures.

Secretary General of the UN Mr. Antonio Guterres visited India from 1-4 October 2018 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister. Secretary General Guterres participated in the

Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention on 2 October 2018. He also attended the joint inaugural ceremony of the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA), 2nd RE-INVEST Conference and Energy Ministers Meet of Indian Ocean Rim Association of States (IORA) member countries.

India continued to be the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping troops, having provided more than 200,000 troops and police personnel since 1950s. As on 31 October 2018, India is the fourth largest Troop Contributing Country (TCC) with 6,608 personnel deployed in 9 peacekeeping missions.

India was elected to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the term 2019-2021, securing the highest number of votes (188 out of 193) among all the 18 candidate countries. India was re-elected to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations (CNGO) for the term 2019-2022. India was also elected to five UN Bodies: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) for the term 2019-21; Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS for the term 2019-2021; UN-Women (Executive Board of UN-WOMEN) for the term 2019-2021; CPD (Commission on Population and Development) from 16 April 2018 to 2021; and CSoCD (Commission for Social Development) from 16 April 2018 to 2021. India was re-elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) for 2019-2022 term.

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## DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

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In 2018-19, India remained actively engaged in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and international security and maintained a strong and credible narrative based on its experiences and engagements in various regional and multilateral forums. India continued to play an active role 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 its national

security interests and tradition of close engagement with the international community to promote cooperative efforts in dealing with global challenges in a changing geo-strategic environment.

India participated actively in the meetings of the 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) and UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA on SALW), as well as various other multilateral forums and mechanisms dealing with these issues.

India became a member of the Australia Group (AG) in 2018. India also actively engaged with the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Hague Code of Conduct, contributing to the global efforts towards realization of the goals of non-proliferation.

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## MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

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### BRICS [Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa]

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led India's delegation at the Tenth BRICS Summit on 25-27 July 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Leaders held discussions on Economic & Finance Cooperation, Global Economic Governance, and International Peace and Security. The outcomes of the Summit included the Johannesburg Declaration in which strong sentiments were expressed by BRICS Leaders on Terrorism. BRICS Leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They recalled the responsibility of all States to prevent the menace of terrorist networks and actions from their countries. BRICS Leaders also held their customary informal meeting on the margins of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 30 November 2018. The Leaders held discussions on the 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 Thirteenth G20 Summit

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the Thirteenth G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 30 November & 1 December 2018. The theme of the Summit was “Building Consensus for fair and Sustainable Development”. The agenda of the Summit included global economy, women empowerment, universal health coverage by 2030, sustainable development, corruption, terrorism, climate sustainability, infrastructure, international trade, energy transitions, and sustainable food future. The G20 Leaders issued a communiqué at the Summit which declared that the objective of the Summit was to build consensus for fair and sustainable development through an agenda that is people-centered, inclusive and forward-looking. At the Summit a Leaders’ Retreat on ‘A Fair and Sustainable Future’ was held on 30 November 2018.

### IBSA [India, Brazil & South Africa]

During the year two meetings of IBSA Foreign Ministers were held. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation to the Ninth IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, which was held in New York on 27 September 2018. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met the Foreign Ministers of South Africa and Brazil in Pretoria on 4 June 2018 for the informal meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers wherein they issued an IBSA Joint Declaration on South-South Cooperation.

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## SAARC & BIMSTEC

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### The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation fulfils India’s key foreign policy priorities of ‘Neighbourhood First’ and ‘Act East’. BIMSTEC received a significant push at the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit held at Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation for the Summit. The theme of the Summit was “Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal region”. The Kathmandu Declaration adopted at the Summit seeks to intensify regional cooperation in key sectors of security and counter-terrorism, disaster management, connectivity

and trade, energy, agriculture and poverty alleviation, S&T, culture, tourism, and people-to-people contacts.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj attended an informal meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers held on the sidelines of the 73rd UNGA Session in New York on 27 September 2018. Regional security cooperation got further boost with the holding of the 2nd meeting of the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs in Dhaka in March 2018. India organized BIMSTEC Regional Cyber Security Dialogue at IDSA, New Delhi from 5-7 December 2018. The First BIMSTEC Military Exercise (BIMSTEC Millex-2018) on the theme of Counter-Terrorism was held in Pune from 10-16 September 2018.

### South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj attended an informal meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers held on the sidelines of the 73rd UNGA Session in New York on 27 September 2018. Secretary (Economic Affairs) led the Indian delegation at the 12th Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers on the sidelines of the annual meeting of Asian Development Bank in Manila, the Philippines on 4 May 2018.

India participated at other official and technical level meetings of SAARC including those of its regional centres/ specialised bodies and sectoral meetings. India’s initiative of extending its National Knowledge Network to the countries of South Asia has moved forward with the inauguration of the first leg of its extension to Sri Lanka on 15 January 2018. India continued its support for South Asian University (SAU) which was established as a Center of Excellence in India. The SAARC Disaster Management Centre (IU), Gandhinagar continues to operate fully funded by India.

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## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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Development cooperation is an abiding pillar of India’s external engagement. India’s geopolitical, strategic and economic interests and the commitment to shared prosperity have guided its large-scale and wide-ranging development assistance programme. The Development Partnership Administration in the Ministry of External Affairs channels delivery of India’s development assistance that responds to



the priorities and needs of fellow developing countries. Such assistance manifests in sharing of India's own accumulated experiences and expertise in multiple fields and building sustainable long- term capacities and assets that contribute to the chosen development trajectory of its partner countries.

Development assistance is mainly rendered in the form of Lines of Credit (LoC), grant assistance, Small Development Projects, technical consultancy, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as well as capacity-building programmes under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC).

The immediate neighbourhood and South-East Asia have been a traditional and strong focus of India's development assistance. Development cooperation with countries in India's neighbourhood reinforces India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policy. It constitutes a growing dimension of the close and multi-faceted ties with these countries. India has active and wide-ranging development cooperation with all its partners in the neighbourhood including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Such cooperation includes infrastructure development, including roads & bridges, waterways and transmission lines, construction, power generation, agriculture, capacity building, education, health, and community development.

Development Cooperation is an integral part of India's foreign policy. In recent years, India's development programmes in various countries have expanded substantially, both in geographical reach and sectoral coverage. This inter alia includes Grant assistance, Lines of Credit, 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 Affairs in January 2012 for efficient execution and monitoring of India's development projects through the stages of conceptualization, launch, implementation, and commissioning.

Major development projects identified by the host governments as priority areas are under implementation

in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the Maldives in the areas of infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health and others. In addition, various projects initiated for the development and strengthening of cross-border connectivity with India's neighbours are progressing satisfactorily. Beyond the neighbourhood, bilateral projects in sectors like energy, power plants, electricity transmission & distribution, roads, railways, ports, agriculture & irrigation, industrial units, archaeological conservation, information and computer technology (ICT) and Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) 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, 269 LoCs aggregating to US\$ 26.42 billion have been allocated to different countries in various sectors, of which US\$ 11.18 billion has been allocated for African countries and US\$ 15.24 billion for countries in Asia, Latin America, and Oceania. During the year under review, LoCs of about US\$ 1.03 billion were extended to various countries. Between April to November 2018, 11 new LoCs have been approved with total value aggregating to US\$ 1.03 billion. Nine Projects aggregating to US\$ 101.13 million have been completed in 2018-19 (April to November 2018).

During 2018-19, 11051 civilian training slots were offered to 161 partner countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (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. Given its popularity and in-line with the changing needs and technological advancements around the world, new modalities like e-ITEC and ITEC-Onsite have been included in the bouquet of ITEC offerings.

Cooperation on the humanitarian front was extended by India to the countries affected by disaster. Inter alia, medicines were made available to Mozambique, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania, Madagascar, Swaziland, and Kenya. Food items and other relief material were supplied to Bangladesh and Syria.

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## ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

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The Economic Diplomacy Division focuses on the economic aspects of the country's foreign policy. It undertook a number of initiatives during financial year 2018-19. Efforts were made to ensure greater coordination between the MEA, central government ministries/departments, state governments, business chambers and missions/posts abroad with the objective of expanding the reach of India's exports, open new business opportunities for Indian enterprises overseas, enhance India's economic engagement in the immediate neighborhood and beyond, attract greater investments, promote tourism and culture, and make India an attractive business destination.

To enable the Indian Missions/Posts to intensify their economic engagement with the countries of their accreditation, ED & States Divisions under their "Market Expansion Activities" budget have extended funding to the tune of Rs. 16 crores. The funding has been utilized to help promote Indian exports through catalogue shows and buyer-seller meets, engage consultants to prepare market studies, organize business seminars to attract foreign investments, and undertake advocacy work to promote interests of Indian enterprises seeking business opportunities overseas. In addition, the ED Division has also processed proposals to the tune of Rs. 6 crores to support specific trade and investment promotion activities in India by apex business chambers in India.

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## STATES

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The State Division was created to operationalize the principles of cooperative federalism, and Diplomacy for Development. It aims to facilitate the external outreach of states/union territories, and to foster closer links between the states/UTs, the MEA, and the Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

The Division promotes provincial and regional cooperation in bilateral relations. In 2017, the Division facilitated the signing of various Sister City/Sister States Agreements, and other MoUs between States and foreign entities. The Division participated in various provincial and regional investor meets, and significant cultural events. The Division has provided assisted foreigners in distress within Indian states. The Division also facilitates interactions between Indian states and foreign embassies and diplomats based in India.

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## COUNTER TERRORISM

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The issue of terrorism found prominent mention in various bilateral and multilateral meetings at all levels in the wake of various incidents of terrorism that occurred in different parts of the world during the year. During all such interactions, India reiterated its commitment to combating the menace at the global level and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. India continued to hold structured consultations through the Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism with various partner countries. During the year 2018, India held counter terrorism dialogues with Australia, Canada, Egypt, France Indonesia, Russia, Tunisia, UK, US, Uzbekistan and with EU, BRICS and BIMSTEC.

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## GLOBAL CYBER ISSUES

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Cyber Diplomacy Division, within the Ministry of External Affairs, deals with international cyber issues both at bilateral and multilateral levels. The main objective of such engagements is to safeguard India's cyber interests, while following a multi-stakeholder approach. As a key member of the UN, India participated in discussions leading to adoption of two resolutions in the UN First Committee of the General Assembly - one establishing the sixth UNGGE (United Nations Group of Governmental Experts), the other establishing a new open-ended group on developments in the field of information security. These Groups are expected to continue studying these issues with a view to promoting common understanding, existing and potential threats in the space of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States as well as norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour of

States, confidence-building measures and capacity-building. MEA, as part of India's multi-stake holder team, participated in the ICANN 63 meeting in Barcelona held in October 2018. India also held bilateral cyber dialogues with Brazil and UK and a Joint Task Force on cyber security with Sweden in 2018. MEA also participated in discussions on cyber security with Russia led by NSCS. India and USA renewed their agreement for cooperation in cyber security issues. Bilateral agreements were signed with the Kingdom of Morocco and Seychelles for cooperation in the area of cyber security.

### BOUNDARY CELL

The Boundary Cell is responsible for providing in-house cartographic expertise, advice, and technical inputs to the Ministry. It assists the territorial divisions with clarifications regarding land and maritime boundaries. The Cell remained watchful of the depiction of India's international boundaries in foreign journals and atlases. The Boundary Cell 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.

### POLICY PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The Policy Planning and Research Division continued its mandate of undertaking continuous analysis of our principal foreign policy objectives and providing research based perspectives on various regional and global developments to the the Ministry. This was done both in-house and through proactive outreach to various Indian think tanks and research organisations.

The Division also organised conferences in partnership with major think tanks and academic institutions, with the aim to develop platforms in India where discussions on contemporary foreign policy issues can take place among leading strategic experts and policy makers around the world.

The Division also developed institutionalized dialogues on policy planning with our important diplomatic partners

for exchange of views on long term strategic planning and priorities. India's participation in important diplomatic conferences in India and abroad was also organised, to present India's perspective as well as to benefit from exchanges between experts and policy makers at such conferences.

### PROTOCOL

Protocol Division comprises a total of seven sections viz. Protocol-1, Protocol-II, Protocol-III,

Protocol (Hyderabad House), Protocol Special, Protocol (Hospitality & Accounts) and Government Hospitality Organization (GHO.)

In 2018, Protocol-I Section handled 151 incoming/outgoing visits at the level of Head of State, Vice

President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister (as on 03 December 2018).

### CONSULAR, PASSPORT AND VISA SERVICES

Issuance of passports has emerged in recent years 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 36 Passport Offices, the CPV Division (only Diplomatic & Official Passports) and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration. This network has been vastly expanded by adding 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 263 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) in association with the Department of Posts, as extended arms of the 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 2018, the Ministry processed more than 1.21 crore passport and passport related applications in India compared with 1.17 crore during 2017 showing a growth of 4%. The 36 Passport Offices, Headquarters and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands received 1,21,74,758 passport and passport related applications including Police Clearance Certificates, against which 1,12,54,707 passports (inclusive of 449 Diplomatic passports, 18,009 Official passports) were issued. Also, 5,112 Surrender Certificates (SC), 3,315 Identity Certificates (IC) and 1,946 Line of Control (LoC) permits were issued. The 184 Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued approximately 11,63,026 passports. Thus, the Government of India, in total, issued 1,24,17,733 passports in the year 2018. As on December 2018, over 7.96 crore citizens held valid passports. India today is placed third behind China and the United States in terms of global passport issuance.

The Ministry of External Affairs, in association with the Department of Posts, 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 407 POPSK. Out of these, 263 POPSK have become operational as on 2 January, 2019. Nearly 14 lakh passport applications have been processed at these POPSKs during 2018. With the addition of 263 POPSK, the total number of Passport Kendras functional in the country is 356 as on 2 January, 2019.

The mPassport Seva Mobile App with additional facilities to apply, pay and schedule appointments for passport services was launched on 26 June, 2018. This App is available in Android and iOS platforms. In the year 2018, 2.23 lakh applications were filed using mPassport Seva Mobile App. Citizens would not require access to a computer and printer to apply for passport services. With effect from 26 June, 2018, an applicant can apply for passport from anywhere in India. One lakh applications were filed under this scheme during the year 2018. This citizen-friendly initiative will enable applicants to choose the Passport Office (PO) and thus the desired Passport Seva Kendra (PSK)/ Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) under the PO where they

wish to submit their application irrespective of whether the present residential address specified in the application form lies within the jurisdiction of the selected RPO or not. The Police Verification (PV) would be conducted by the Police Station in whose jurisdiction the address mentioned in the form falls and the passport will also be dispatched at the same address.

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.

The process of integrating the Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad into the Passport Seva Project was commenced in October 2018. The aim is to provide a centralized passport issuance platform and application for the Indian citizens living abroad and seeking Passport-related services. As part of the pilot project, the High Commission of India in London launched the Passport Seva Project on 24th October, 2018 followed by the Consulates General of India at Birmingham and Edinburgh respectively. Embassy of India in Washington DC, Consulates General of India at New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston and Atlanta launched this Project in November 2018. Ministry aims to complete the integration of all Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad at the earliest. In order for functional enhancement and simplification of procedure for realizing 'Minimum Government Maximum Governance', the Ministry introduced the following measures:

- i. The policy regarding issue of passports to surrogate children was reviewed and the requirement of registered surrogacy agreement has been done away with.
- ii. Issue of passport on Out-of-Turn basis under Tatkaal scheme has been made simple and now there is no requirement of Verification Certificate for issue of passport under this scheme.
- iii. The Police Verification process has been revamped and they are now required to check only the criminality and nationality of the passport applicant leading to simplification of the process.

- iv. The validity of Emergency Certificate has been extended from 3 months to 6 months.

### OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Overseas Indian Affairs Divisions are driven by the vision of development through coalitions in a world without borders. They seek to connect the Indian diaspora community to India, and also to strengthen the institutional frameworks which provide for the support and welfare of overseas Indians. It provides information, partnership, and facilitation for all matters related to the Indian diaspora. The Division also engaged in several initiatives which aimed at the diaspora, for the promotion of trade and investment, emigration, education, culture, health, and science and technology.

As part of Government's commitment to strengthen engagement with diaspora, among the major initiatives hosted during 2018-2019 were Videsh Sampark outreach program, Know India Program, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conferences, Scholarship program for diaspora children, and Awareness Campaign on Safe and Legal Migration.

### ADMINISTRATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

Administration Division's constant endeavour is to optimise manpower utilisation by managing the human capital of the Ministry both at Headquarters and 187 Indian Missions/Posts abroad. To this end, the Division oversees cadre management which involves 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.

In pursuance of the Cabinet approval in March 2018 for the opening of 18 new Missions in Africa during 2018-21, six Missions have been identified to be opened in the first phase. Of these, Mission in Rwanda has already been opened and Missions in Djibouti and Equatorial Guinea will be opened shortly. Preparatory administrative and establishment related work in respect of Missions in Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso and Guinea are already underway.

Establishment Division looks after the maintenance and upkeep of all office buildings and residential complexes of the Ministry; purchase and supply of office equipment, furniture and stationary; and matters related to purchase and supply of special procurement items and official vehicles for Missions and Posts abroad. The MEA has actively participated in various Swachh Bharat activities during the year 2018-19.

### RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND CHIEF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

During the year, the Ministry continued efforts towards full implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. In keeping with the 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 and disposal of RTI applications has been implemented in 184 Missions/Posts abroad by aligning them with the RTI web portal. A total of 1946 RTI applications and 160 First Appeals seeking information under the RTI Act, 2005 have been received in the Ministry during the period from 01 April 2018 to 30 November 2018 and have been disposed satisfactorily.

### E-GOVERNANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

EG&IT Division is taking steps to implement different components of the Digital India Programme in the MEA 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 MEA and Missions/Posts abroad. A number of e-governance and automation projects have been also undertaken by the MEA in consonance with the aims and objectives of Digital India such as Foreign Service Institute Alumni Portal, E-Audit Portal, Revamped Know India Programme and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Portals, Diplomatic Identity Card Registration and Issuance System etc. In addition to steering the e-governance projects, the Division has also consistently

pursued a focused approach to manage and mitigate ever-growing challenges of cybersecurity.

### PARLIAMENT AND COORDINATION

The Parliament Division is the Ministry's interface with Parliament and the 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 with respect to foreign students studying in India and foreign scholars coming to India for field visits/training/inspection etc. in various institutions. In all 4,186 clearances were issued during the period from April 2018 to December 2018.

The Education Section of the Ministry dealt with the selection, nomination and admission of foreign students from 57 friendly neighbouring and developing countries for MBBS, BDS, MD/MS, B. Arch., BE, B. Pharmacy, and Diploma courses in Engineering in various institutions in India under the Self Financing Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. Persecuted religious minority migrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan based in India are also offered seats under this scheme.

### EXTERNAL PUBLICITY

In a rapidly evolving communications environment, the XPD Division continued to constantly strive to promote a better understanding of our foreign policy priorities to the outside world. This is achieved through our extensive engagement with the media and by enhancing the public diplomacy footprint both in India and abroad. The mantra has been 'people-centric', which is to take the foreign policy domain down to the grass root level, with a series of existing and new initiatives. The digital media and modern tools have been leveraged to maximise our desired objectives.

The Division pioneered three special initiatives during this time. Under the Students and MEA Engagement Programme (SAMEEP), IFS officers go back to their schools or universities and deliver a presentation on the role of the Ministry of External Affairs and on Indian foreign policy. Separately, XPD Division also launched the 'Videsh Aaaya Pradesh ke Dwar' (Foreign Policy at your Doorstep) under which special outreach sessions in State capitals were held for engaging regional media. To cater to curious young minds abroad, the Division launched 'Bharat Ek Parichay' to create a separate India Corner in libraries abroad which will be stocked with 51 book titles carefully selected about India.

XPD Division played a nodal role in the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi in India and abroad. Of special note was the launch of a video medley of the Mahatma's favourite hymn, Vaishnava Jana To, performed by singers from 140 countries around the world. The medley was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Swachh Bharat Conference on 2 October 2018. In a unique and ambitious initiative, a LED projection on Mahatma Gandhi was screened in capitals across the world on 2 October.

These efforts have played a critical role in creating awareness of the Ministry and the Government's foreign policy as proactive and effective, leading to tangible outcomes while enhancing India's stature in the world.

### FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

During the year 2018-19, the training programmes at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) have been further reviewed,

revised, and revamped in terms of content as well as methodology, in accordance with new Training Framework of the Ministry of External Affairs adopted in July 2013. The focus is to make training directly relevant to functional requirements by developing competencies and skills for effective discharge of duties and functions. With this mandate, there is also a greater emphasis on mandatory mid-career training programmes (MCTPs) at different levels. The Training for Group B of IFS was also revamped and intensified by introducing new elements in the training,

In 2018, the largest number of training programmes for foreign diplomats was held since the inception of FSI. This included Special Courses for Afghan, Somali, Bangladesh, Gambian, Nigerian, Tunisian, Myanmar and Iranian diplomats. The 1st Familiarisation Programme for Resident Heads of Mission (HOMs) from Latin American countries and Special Courses for Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) diplomats and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) diplomats were introduced.

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### NALANDA DIVISION

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The international footprint of Nalanda University continued to increase in 2018-19. At present, it has around 378 students which include forty international students. The year 2018 also marked the consolidation of the University's management for opening new schools. The first phase of construction of the Nalanda University's permanent campus is in progress. 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.

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### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE POLICY AND PROPAGATION OF HINDI ABROAD

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Ministry has a well organised programme for propagation and promotion of Hindi abroad with the involvement of our Missions/Posts. The 11th World Hindi Conference was successfully organized in Mauritius wherein External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation.

With the objective of promoting Hindi worldwide, a World Hindi Secretariat was setup in Mauritius under a bilateral agreement and joint budgetary support of Governments of India and Mauritius.

The MEA regularly organizes programmes for popularizing Hindi abroad with the involvement of its Missions & Posts, cultural organizations and associations, including Hindi Pakhwada, and the World Hindi Day. Hindi teaching materials, including Hindi text books and children books etc. are supplied free of cost to educational institutions abroad. The MEA also extends financial support to educational institutions abroad.

The MEA continued to accord high priority to the Implementation of Official language Policy of the Government of India. A Hindi Advisory Committee is working in the MEA under the Chairpersonship of EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. MEA regularly inspects its subordinate offices to take stock of the progressive use of Official language Hindi in Official business.

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### INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

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During the year 2018-19, ICCR undertook a wide range of activities to promote better understanding abroad of India. As part of its academic and intellectual activities, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offered 3,940 scholarship slots to foreign nationals for studying in India under its various scholarship schemes. With the launch of Admission to Alumni (A2A) portal, ICCR for the first time executed the admission process through an online portal.

The ICCR signed ten MoUs for establishing new Chairs and administered seventy existing Chairs of Indian Studies. The ICCR runs thirty-seven full-fledged Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) and two Centres under PPP model around the world. ICCR organized four international conferences/seminars including the third International Conference on Indologist held in St. Petersburg; 1st International Yoga Conference held in New York City; Seminar on Linguistic Links between Persian and Sanskrit Language (with special reference to Sanskrit Grammarian Panini) in collaboration with the Institute of Humanities and Cultural Studies, Tehran and series of seminars on "Delivering Democracy" were

organised in the US, UK, Germany, UAE, and Singapore. The ICCR launched a lecture series— Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Memorial International Oration – on the occasion of the World Culture Day on 21 May 2018. The first oration was delivered by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj.

ICCR sponsored the visit of 128 art groups comprising of 778 artistes to ninety-one countries, who gave 396 performances across the globe. India was the Guest of Honour country at the Cervantino Festival in Mexico. ICCR organized fifty-four performances all over India by twenty-one performing art groups from nineteen countries. Africa festival in May 2018, International Ramayana Festival in October 2018 and Days of Russian Culture of India in October/November 2018 were the major highlights.

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## THE INDIAN COUNCIL FOR WORLD AFFAIRS

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The Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) continued with its research on political, economic and security development in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America and Caribbean, and the wider geo-strategic environment. Endeavour remained to address issues that were at the top of the foreign policy agenda and make its research outputs more policy effective. The research undertaken was disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs and Viewpoints, Discussion Papers, Shodh Lekh which were published on the ICWA website.

In line with its mandate, ICWA conducted a large number of events which include dialogues, conferences, seminars, lectures, interactions, round table discussions and outreach activities. Further, ICWA continued the process of translating its academic outputs in Hindi, which were regularly posted on its website. ICWA has now opened its library for general public and membership rules have been eased.

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## RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) organised several important events which, among

others, include the 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue on the theme “Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation”. RIS has worked closely with the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, as the Knowledge Partner for AIIB, along with with leading industry associations of India – FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM. RIS continues to be engaged across inter governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to enhance policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

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## LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

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The Ministry of External Affairs Library performs the duties of a library and also acts as a Resource and Information Centre for the use of officers and staff members of MEA at headquarters 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 Virtual Reading Room with 8 cubicles and is equipped with computers and internet facility for users /research scholars.

Archives & Record Management Division of the Ministry deals with all matters related to archives and record management. Upgradation of Record Management Software (REM), replacement of existing software and replacement of existing server with two new servers as well as old desktops which are being used for accessing data through the Record Management Software is being undertaken by E-Governance & Information Technology (EG&IT) Division. With provision for scanning/digitization of records in the new software, the existing data may be transferred from old software to new software. Till November 2018, this Division destroyed 2256 old records/registers/books on receipt of destruction approval. 3752 non-current public records/files of more than 25 years old were transferred to National Archives of India for preservation and permanent custody after due appraisal under Public Records Act & Rules 1993/1997.

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## FINANCE AND BUDGET

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The total budget allocated to the Ministry of External Affairs for the Financial Year (FY) 2018-19 was ₹15011.00 crores in the Budget Estimates (BE) stage. The largest allocation



in the Ministry's budget was for Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) with foreign countries through assistance as grants and loans. In FY 2018-19, of the total budget of ₹15011 crores, the TEC outlay was 41.53% or ₹6235.05 crores, of which ₹5398.55 crores (35.96%) was for grant programmes and ₹836.50 crores (5.57%) was for loans. The second largest allocation in the Ministry's budget was for maintenance of more than 180 Indian diplomatic Missions

and Posts abroad. Of the total budget for FY 2018-19 of ₹15,011 crores, the bifurcation of allocations between establishment heads and non-establishments heads was 28% (₹4,223 crores) and 72% (₹10,788 crores) respectively. The Ministry has revenue receipts of ₹4280.11 crores till 31 December 2018 in FY 2018-19, from passport services (Rs. 1957.64 cr), visa fees (1823.08 cr) and other receipts (Rs. 499.39 cr).

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## INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

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### AFGHANISTAN

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Afghanistan is a key neighbour and shares a strategic relationship with India. The strong foundations of India and Afghanistan's bilateral relationship lie in its rich history and civilisational linkages which are several millennia old. Our relationship is further guided by the vision of all-round development of our two countries and the region as a whole. The collective efforts of Afghanistan and India this year were guided by this philosophy. Consequently, the year witnessed several high level exchanges between the two sides and also observed several key developments, including, the delivery of 170,000 tonnes of wheat and 2,000 tonnes of pulses to Afghanistan as grant assistance from India, accelerated development and operationalisation of the Chabahar Port for assured connectivity to Afghanistan, expansion of air freight corridor between the two countries, increase in bilateral trade of over 40% to over US\$ 1.143 billion and commencement of work for several India-assisted socio-economic developmental projects in Afghanistan identified under the 'New Development Partnership' announced in 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 September 2018; visits of Chief Executive of Afghanistan Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in June and September 2018; visit of Finance Minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Humayun Qayumi in September 2018; visit of Defence Minister of Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. Tariq Shah Behrami in April 2018; visit of Chairman of Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission of Afghanistan, Dr. Nader Nadery in September 2018; and visit of Minister for Rural Rehabilitation and Development of Afghanistan, Mr. Mujib Rehman Karimi in September 2018.

High level visits from India to Afghanistan included visits of the Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Keshav Gokhale in September 2018, the Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhavan to Kabul



in October 2018 and Secretary (Economic Relations), Shri T. S. Tirumurti to Kabul in August 2018.

The National Security Advisor of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamdullah Mohib visited India from 3-5 January 2019. During the visit, bilateral discussions were held with NSA Shri Ajit Doval.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj met the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Salahuddin Rabbani on the sidelines of C-5 + India Ministerial Meeting to be held on 12 & 13 January 2019 in Samarkand.

### **Economic & Connectivity Cooperation**

The volume of trade between the two countries has shown significant improvement in the last financial year, registering a 40% increase to cross the US\$ 1 billion mark. On this front, notable achievements have included the expansion of the Air-Freight Corridor between the two countries and commencement of commercial operations at the Chabahar port in Iran.

Air Freight Corridor which had commenced operations between India and Afghanistan in June 2017 has now been further expanded to include New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata on Indian side and Kabul and Kandahar on Afghan side. Both sides have pledged to further expand the operation to other cities. Between April and November 2018, over seventy-two flights had operated between Afghanistan and India ferrying over 1,227 tonnes of air cargo worth over US\$ 90 million. The Air Freight Corridor has in particular benefited the Afghan farmers and small traders in exporting their good to the large Indian market. Further, related to India's economic assistance through greater connectivity, over 5,000 containers with 170,000 tonnes of wheat and over 2,000 tonnes of pulses were sent as India's grant to Afghanistan through Chabahar Port.

The second edition of the India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show was organised in Mumbai in September 2018 to boost trade and investment ties between the two countries. The first edition of the trade show was held in New Delhi in September 2017. The 2nd edition drew wide participation from several hundreds of Indian and



Signing of Visitors book by President of Afghanistan at Hyderabad House, New Delhi (September 19, 2018)

Afghan companies, businessmen and entrepreneurs, and an estimated over 500 business and investment deals worth over US\$ 270 million were finalised at the trade event. India-Afghanistan Joint Working Group on Trade, Commerce and Investment met in November 2018 in Kabul. While expressing satisfaction in recent achievements in this field, it was decided to focus on further consolidating the trade and investment relationship between the two countries.

### Development Partnership

India-Afghanistan Joint Working Group on Development Cooperation met in Kabul in August 2018 and held a comprehensive review of various ongoing, recently completed and future projects. Progress was also reviewed of the new projects which had been identified for implementation under the 'New Development Partnership' which was unveiled in September 2017. The most prominent projects under the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan include the Shatoot Dam to address the supply of drinking water for Kabul along with facilitating irrigation, low cost housing for returning refugees in the Nangarhar province, road connectivity to Band-e-Amir in Bamyán province that would promote tourism, 116 High Impact

Community Development Projects in all thirty-four provinces of Afghanistan and several others.

### Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

India has been contributing towards capacity building and human resource development efforts in Afghanistan through its several ongoing scholarship and training programmes. Every year, India offers over 3,500 scholarship and training slots in India. The most popular scholarship programme in this context is the Special Scholarship Scheme for Afghan Nationals run by the ICCR, which offers 1,000 scholarship slots annually to study in India. The implementation of the scholarship programme for 500 scholarships for the next of kin of martyrs of Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) began from current academic year. As per the available estimates, over 15,000 Afghan students are currently studying in India. Afghan officials and experts have also been trained under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and various other schemes. In October, India organised a joint training programme with China for training of Afghan diplomats.

## Socio-Cultural Exchanges & People To People Contacts

The India-Afghanistan Foundation (IAF) has been mandated to promote people-people contacts and socio-cultural, arts and educational contacts between the two countries. This year five Afghan poets and writers were sponsored by the IAF to attend the annual South Asia Literature Festival in New Delhi in October 2018.

## International Conferences on Afghanistan

India has also been playing a prominent role at various international fora towards promoting peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. India's principled position that such efforts should be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled, has garnered wide international support and also appreciation within Afghanistan. In 2018, 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. Some of the important international meetings on Afghanistan this year have inter-alia included the second Kabul Process, Tashkent Conference,

Moscow Format Talks, and the Geneva Conference. A brief description of some of these meetings is placed below:

- **Second Kabul Process:** The second meeting of Kabul Process took place on 28 February 2018 in Kabul. India was represented by Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale. India welcomed the call for peace and reconciliation made by President Ashraf Ghani to armed groups to disarm and become part of national mainstream.
- **Tashkent Conference:** The Tashkent Conference was held in Tashkent on 27 March 2018 where the international community backed President Ghani's call for peace made at second Kabul Process meeting. India was represented by former Minister of State, Shri M. J. Akbar.
- **Moscow Format Talks:** India participated at the Moscow Talks on Afghanistan held on 9 November 2018 at non-official level.
- **Geneva Conference:** Geneva Conference on Afghanistan was held in Geneva on 27 & 28 November 2018. The



External Affairs Minister meets LTG. Tariq Shah Bahramee, Minister of National Defence, Afghanistan in New Delhi (April 13, 2018)

Conference reviewed the progress made by Afghanistan as regards reform initiatives, both institutional and socio-economic, under the decade of transformation 2015-2024. The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.).

- **SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting:** Additional

Secretary Shri Gitesh Sarma led the Indian delegation to the 2nd meeting of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting held in Beijing on 28 May 2018. The meeting discussed issues on three agendas, namely the current situation of Afghanistan and its neighbouring regions, the reconciliation process in Afghanistan and role of SCO and measures for cooperation between SCO and Afghanistan.

## BANGLADESH

Bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh were further strengthened in 2018. There were a number of high-level engagements that gave a strong impetus to bilateral ties. Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina visited India on a two-day visit on 24 & 25 May 2018 for the joint inauguration of Bangladesh Bhavan at Shantiniketan University. She was awarded a Doctor of Literature (D.Lit.) by Kazi Nazrul University in Asansol. The Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh also met on the side-lines of summits of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in April 2018 in London and BIMSTEC in August 2018 in Kathmandu.

The two Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated, in September 2018, construction works of the following projects in Bangladesh under Government of India (GoI) Lines of Credit/ grant financing: (i) 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh; (ii) Akhaura-Agartala rail link; (iii) rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazzpur section of Bangladesh Railways; (iv) a 130 Km India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline from Siliguri to Parbatipur, Bangladesh and (v) additional rail lines of Dhaka-Tongi- Joydevpur section of Bangladesh Railway.

Minister of Home Affairs Shri Rajnath Singh visited Dhaka on a three-day official visit on 13-16 July 2018 for the 6th



Prime Minister with West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee and Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh inaugurate Bangladesh Bhavan in West Bengal (May 25, 2018)

meeting of India- Bangladesh Home Minister Level Talks. Discussions at the talks included various security related issues including border management, cooperation in countering illegal activities, consular and visa issues, etc.

Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu visited Bangladesh on 24-28 September 2018. He met with Commerce Minister of Bangladesh Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister of Bangladesh Mr. A. K. M. Shahjahan Kamal and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Mr. Obaidul Quader. The two Commerce Ministers discussed a number of trade, investment and connectivity issues including signing of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), improvement of infrastructure and operations of Land Customs. Stations on the Bangladesh-India border, recognition of test certificates, anti-dumping measures, removal of port restrictions and constitution of a Bangladesh- India CEO Forum for providing policy level inputs, etc.

Minister of State for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways and Chemicals & Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya visited Bangladesh on 9 & 10 October 2018 to participate in the Second South Asia Maritime Logistics Forum held in Dhaka. He met the Shipping Minister of Bangladesh Mr. Shajahan Khan on the side-lines of the Forum to discuss issues of bilateral interest.

From the Bangladesh side, important Ministerial level visits included that of Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali in August 2018 to attend the funeral of former Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; Cultural Affairs Minister Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor in April 2018 to visit Shantiniketan; Industries Minister Mr. Md. Amir Hossain in April 2018 to attend the 8th Regional 3R Forum of Asia and Pacific for Clean Water; Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism Mr. A. K. M. Shahjahan Kamal in August 2018 to attend 6th International Buddhist Conclave; Industries Minister Mr. Amir Hossain Amu in August 2018 to attend the inauguration of India International Mega Trade Fair; Planning Minister of Bangladesh Mr. A. H. M. Mustafa Kamal to attend the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi in October 2018; State Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Shahriar Alam to attend the 2nd Indian Ocean RIM

Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi in October 2018.

In addition to the above high-level visits and exchanges between the two countries, there have also been frequent visits at senior officials level on a regular basis for various bilateral mechanisms. Twenty-five MoUs / agreements for cooperation in various sectors were signed by the two countries in this year.

### Security and Border Management

46th and 47th Director General (DG)-level conferences of Border Security Force (BSF)-Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were held in Dhaka and New Delhi on 23 April and 3 September 2018 respectively. A border coordination conference between Jessore and Rangpur region commanders of BGB and frontier Inspector Generals (IGs) of North Bengal, South Bengal and Guwahati frontiers of BSF was held on 3 August 2018 in Siliguri. The DG of Indian Coast Guards (ICG) visited Bangladesh on 8-11 January 2018 and the DG of Bangladesh Coast Guards (BCG) visited India from 26-30 August 2018 to attend the third and fourth DG level meetings between the two coast guards.

### Defence Cooperation

There have been regular exchanges of visits and meetings on the defence side. Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed visited India on 31 July-5 August 2018 on his first foreign tour after assuming office. Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy visited Bangladesh on 24-29 June 2018. Chief of Bangladesh Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat visited India on 13-17 October 2018 on a five-day official visit. The inaugural annual defence dialogue between the armed forces of India and Bangladesh was held in New Delhi on 7 May 2018.

The first inaugural Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the navies of India and Bangladesh was conducted on 27 June-4 July 2018. This was the first time a coordinated patrol was organized between the two nations.

Muktijoddha related engagements, annual reciprocal visits of Muktijoddhas and war veterans on the occasion of victory day were undertaken in this year and scholarships worth BDT 7.12

crore (Rs. ₹6.14 crore) were distributed to more than 1,900 wards of Muktijoddhas.

### Economic and Commercial

India-Bangladesh bilateral trade has been growing steadily over the last few years. India's exports to Bangladesh in 2017-18 stood at US\$ 8,614.35 million, and imports from Bangladesh during the same period were US\$ 685.65 million. Bangladesh's exports to India in the period April-September 2018 stood at US\$ 414.62 million. India's exports to Bangladesh in the same period stood at US\$ 4,387.53 million.

Various meetings of institutional mechanisms to promote bilateral trade were held this year included the 4th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Fisheries in New Delhi on 4 & 5 June 2018; first meeting of the Joint Committee on Border Haats in Agartala, Tripura on 22 & 23 July 2018; 12th meeting of the Joint Group of Customs in Dhaka on 7 & 8 October 2018; 19th meeting of the Standing Committee on Protocol on Inland Water Trade and Transit in New Delhi on 24 October 2018 and Shipping Secretary Level Talks in New Delhi on 25 October 2018.

In the area of power sector cooperation, 15th Joint Working Group (JWG) and 15th Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meetings were held in Sylhet on 24 & 25 September 2018 respectively.

In the areas of science & technology, the first JWG meeting on Information Technology & Electronics between India-Bangladesh was held on 29 January 2018 in New Delhi. The 5th Joint Science and Technology Committee (JSTC) meeting was held on 26 & 27 February 2018 in Dhaka and the 1st meeting of joint committee on peaceful uses of nuclear energy was held in Kolkata on 25 & 26 July 2018.

In addition to the above regular meetings of various mechanisms to promote cooperation in bilateral trade, a twenty-member business delegation led by the President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce visited Bangladesh in September 2018 and a business delegation led by the Food Secretary of India including representatives of the Indian sugar industry visited Dhaka in November 2018 to explore the possibilities of raw sugar export to Bangladesh.

### Connectivity

Both the Governments undertook various measures in this year to further enhance connectivity between the two countries. These include launch of a trial-run of container rail service between India and Bangladesh in April 2018; launch of new flight services on Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata route in August 2018; signing of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in October 2018 for operationalisation of an MoU on Passenger and Cruise Services on Coastal and Protocol Routes and signing of Agreement on the use of Chittagong and Mongla ports for transfer of goods to and from India in October 2018. These measures will give further fillip to people to people contacts and trade relations between India and Bangladesh.

### Development Partnership

Government of India (GoI) has been supporting several development and infrastructure projects in Bangladesh in various sectors including railways, ports, roads, shipping, education, health, water, culture, urban development and disaster management etc. under Lines of Credit (LoC) /grant financing under 'Aid to Bangladesh'.

The 13th Line of Control (LoC) review meeting between India and Bangladesh was held on 6 & 7 June 2018 in Dhaka to take stock of the progress of various projects under the three LoCs cumulatively amounting to about US\$ 8 billion. There has been substantial progress in the implementation of projects under the LoCs.

Under 'Aid to Bangladesh' grant financing programme, so far, thirty-five Small Development Projects (SDPs) amounting to BDT 126.2 crore (Rs. ₹107.6 crore) have been completed which include construction of students' hostels, cultural centres, orphanages, etc., and forty projects are currently under implementation with an outlay of around BDT 230.9 crore (Rs. ₹196.4 crore). In addition, the Government of India has also extended grant assistance under this programme for several infrastructure projects worth BDT 1121 Crore (Rs. ₹957.3 crore) in Bangladesh including construction of Akhaura-Agartala rail link, dredging of inland waterways in Bangladesh and construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline.

As in the past, this period also saw a number of training programmes organized for Bangladeshi civil servants, police



officers, narcotics department officials, border guarding forces, judicial officials, nuclear scientists, defence establishments and teachers etc. apart from regular ITEC courses and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships.

Various short-term training courses were conducted by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka in Hindi, yoga, hindustani classical vocal and instrumental music, kathak, Manipuri dance, painting and Sanskrit basic course for Bangladeshi nationals. The Cultural Centre also organized several cultural events during this year.

### Visas

In the year 2018, the various policy, as well as process-related

initiatives, were implemented to augment the visa processing capacity of the Mission and to streamline the visa issuing process. The inauguration of the integrated state-of-the-art Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) at Jamuna Future Park, Dhaka by Home Affairs Minister Shri Rajnath Singh in July 2018 was another step towards making Indian visa issuance system more user-friendly. With the inauguration of this facility, the previous system of quota-based online application system was done away with and the walk-in submission system was implemented across all nine Indian Visa Application Centres (IVACs) in Bangladesh. The total visas issued by Mission / Posts in Bangladesh is expected to cross 1.4 million in 2018 in continuation of the trend last year.

## BHUTAN

India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations characterized by utmost mutual trust and understanding. Both countries jointly celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations during the year 2018. High level bilateral exchanges and visits sustained the momentum of the bilateral ties during the special Golden Jubilee year.

### Golden Jubilee Commemorative Events

Several commemorative events, covering various themes of the special bilateral ties including arts, crafts, sports, shared spiritual connections were jointly celebrated during the year, which have not only underlined our unique ties, but also



President meets Dr. Lotay Tshering, Prime Minister of Bhutan in New Delhi (December 29, 2018)

highlighted the cultural and religious linkages, people-to-people contacts, close economic cooperation and academic/youth exchanges. With the launch of the joint logo by External Affairs Minister and then Foreign Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Damcho Dorji in January 2018, the events during the year covered various cities in India including in the bordering States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and West Bengal, all of which have contributed to a better understanding of cultures on either side of the border.

### High-level exchanges: Expanding Development and Economic Partnership

Prime Minister of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay visited Guwahati in February 2018 to participate as 'Guest of Honor' at the Advantage Assam Summit. During the visit, PM Tobgay held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Royal Bhutanese Consulate in Guwahati was jointly inaugurated by Foreign Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Damcho Dorji and the Chief Minister of Assam Shri Sarbananda Sonowal in the presence of PM Tobgay.

Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale paid an official visit to Bhutan on 1 & 2 April 2018 to discuss bilateral matters, including the commemorative activities planned in 2018 to mark the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay paid an official visit to India from 5-7 July 2018 at the invitation of Prime Minister. He was accompanied by Lyonpo Namgay Dorji, Finance Minister and senior officials of Royal Government of Bhutan. During the visit, Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay called on the President of India and held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay thanked the people and Gol for latter's support to Bhutan's 11th Five Year Plan.

His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck visited New Delhi on 17 August 2018 to pay last respects to former Indian Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale paid an official visit to Bhutan from 18-20 November 2018 and held discussion with the Bhutanese leadership and senior officials on a range of

bilateral matters, including high-level exchanges, economic and development co-operation, hydro-power co-operation, people-to-people ties, and commemorative activities being jointly organized in the Golden Jubilee year.

The India-Bhutan bilateral consultations on development co-operation between India and Bhutan were held on 12 December 2018 in New Delhi. During the consultations, both sides reviewed the progress of implementation of the 11th Five Year Plan and discussed the elements of Gol's development assistance for Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering paid a State visit to India from 27-29 December 2018. He was accompanied by Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lyonpo Loknath Sharma, Minister for Economic Affairs and senior officials from the Royal Government of Bhutan. Both sides reviewed the wide range of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. During the visit, the Government of India's development assistance package for Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan for the period 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2023 was announced. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi conveyed that India will provide grant assistance of Rs. ₹4500 crore towards Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan, and a transitional Trade Support Facility of Rs. ₹400 crore over a period of five years to strengthen bilateral trade and economic linkages. Recognizing the importance of further expanding economic co-operation, both sides reviewed the implementation of ongoing bilateral hydro-power projects in Bhutan and agreed to expedite their implementation. They reiterated their commitment to jointly develop 10,000 MWs of hydropower generating capacity in Bhutan and in this regard discussed the Sankosh Hydropower Project. Both sides also expressed satisfaction at the progress of the 720 MW Mangdechhu HEP and welcomed the mutual understanding reached by the two sides on the tariff for the import of surplus power from the project by India.

### Economic and hydro-power cooperation

During the year, work progressed steadily on the 720 MW Mangdechhu HEP in Bhutan, being built with Gol assistance; the project is due to be commissioned in 2019. Further, progress has been made during the year on the Gol-assisted Punatsangchu-I,

II hydro-power projects. The bi-national project Authority meetings of the Punatsangchhu-I, II and Mangdechhu projects were held on 2 & 3 May 2018 in New Delhi.

The India-Bhutan bilateral meeting on Trade and Transit, at Commerce Secretary Level was held on 17 & 18 May 2018, in Thimphu. The high-level meeting reviewed the decisions taken during the last bilateral meeting on Trade and Transit held on 18 & 19 January 2017 in New Delhi and discussed ways to deepen trade and economic partnership between the two countries.

The inaugural event of the 'Bhutan-India Trade and Investment Promotion Expo' (BITIPE), 7th Thematic Exhibition on Indian Handicrafts and 4th Agri- Flori Fair 2018 was held on 12 September 2018 near Changlimithang Stadium, Thimphu. The event was organized by Bhutan Chambers of Commerce &

Industry (BCCI) and was supported by Embassy of India, Thimphu.

### Capacity Building and People to People Ties

Around 1200 GoI Scholarships are awarded to Bhutanese students annually to pursue undergraduate and post graduate studies in Indian institutions of higher learning. During 2018, eight scholars under the Nehru-Wangchuck Scholarship, 864 under Ambassador's scholarships and eighty-nine Undergraduate Scholarships benefitted. Twenty training slots are offered by GoI under ITEC. In FY 2018-19, a number of government officers from Bhutan are being trained in premier government training institutions along with IAS, IFS, IAAS & IRS officers of India. In addition, India has been deputing lecturers to various colleges affiliated to the Royal University of Bhutan. In FY 2018-19, eleven lecturers have been deputed to the Royal University of Bhutan from India.

## CHINA

### Leaders Level Engagement

The Closer Developmental Partnership between India and China reached a new milestone in 2018 with the first Informal Summit between Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi and President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping, held in Wuhan on 27 & 28 April 2018. The Informal Summit reflected the desire on both sides to raise the level of their bilateral relations and helped the two leaders in forging



Prime Minister and the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Xi Jinping in Wuhan, China on April 28, 2018.

a common understanding of the future direction of India-China relations built upon mutual respect for each other's developmental aspirations and prudent management of differences with mutual sensitivity. Both sides agreed to hold the second Informal Summit in 2019 in India.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping held bilateral meetings three more times during the year on the margins of multilateral summits, including on the sidelines of SCO Summit in Qingdao on 9 June 2018, BRICS Summit in Johannesburg on 26 July 2018 and G20 Summit in Buenos Aires on 30 November 2018.

### High-Level Exchanges

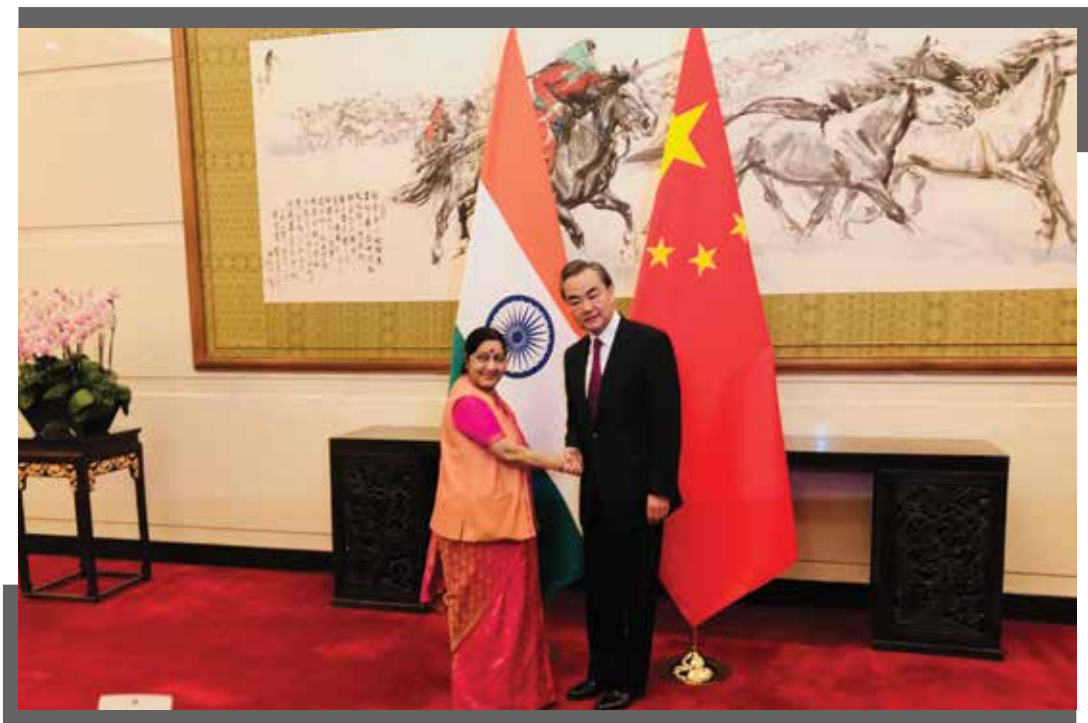
As part of the regular high-level engagements between India and China, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj paid an official visit to China from 21-24 April 2018. During the visit, External Affairs Minister held a bilateral meeting with State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China Mr. Wang Yi, and also attended the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Beijing.

National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval visited China on 12 & 13 April 2018 and held consultations on bilateral, regional and international issues with Mr. Yang Jiechi, Member of Politburo and Director of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee in Shanghai.

State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China Mr. Wang Yi paid an official visit to India from 21-23 December 2018 and co-chaired the first meeting of the India-China High-level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges in New Delhi. During the visit, he also called on President Shri Ramnath Kovind and held a bilateral meeting with NSA.

### Special Representatives Talks

The Special Representatives of India and China on the Boundary Question – National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval and State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China Mr. Wang Yi – met in Chengdu on 24 November 2018 for the 21st round of Special Representatives' Talks. Recalling the strategic guidance and support to their work provided by the leaders at the Wuhan Summit, the Special Representatives resolved to intensify their efforts to achieve a fair, reasonable



External Affairs Minister meets Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China in Beijing (April 22, 2018)



Foreign Secretary meets Kong Xuanyou, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China in New Delhi (June 05, 2018)

and mutually acceptable solution to the India-China boundary question at an early date. The Special Representatives agreed that pending the final resolution of the boundary question, it is important to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas and to ensure that the boundary question does not affect the overall development of the bilateral relationship.

The 12th and 13th rounds of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) were held in Chengdu on 27 September 2018 and in New Delhi on 29 January 2019 respectively, during which both sides reviewed the situation along the India-China border areas.

### Other High-Level Exchanges

Among the high-level visits from China to India, was the visit of State Councillor and Minister of Public Security Mr. Zhao Kezhi from 21-25 October 2018. During the visit, Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Mr. Zhao Kezhi co-chaired the first India-China High-Level Meeting on Bilateral Security Cooperation on 22 October 2018 in New Delhi, and discussed

issues of mutual interest, including bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, and welcomed increased cooperation between India and China in the area of security cooperation. An Agreement on Security Cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Public Security of China was also signed by the two Ministers.

Exchanges under a variety of bilateral dialogue mechanisms also took place during the course of the year. The Disarmament and Arms Control Dialogue was held on 10 April 2018 in Beijing. The Maritime Affairs Dialogue was held on 13 July 2018 in Beijing. The Consular Dialogue was held on 27 June 2018 in New Delhi. The 8th India China Joint Working Group meeting on Counter-terrorism was held on 30 January 2019 in Beijing. Another significant event was the first India-China Joint Training Programme for Afghan diplomats, which was conducted from 15-26 October 2018 in New Delhi and from 19-30 November 2018 in Beijing.

As part of regular exchanges between India and China envisaged under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Affairs and the International

Department of the Communist Party of China, Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Raghubar Das visited China from 2-6 September 2018. Separately, Ministers and senior officials from the states of Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh also paid visits to China.

India joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as a full member and China taking over the chairmanship of SCO in 2018 provided greater opportunity for interaction between the two sides at ministerial as well as official levels. Apart from the visit of External Affairs Minister to Beijing on 21-24 April 2018 for SCO Foreign Ministers meeting, Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman also visited China from 23-25 April 2018 for SCO Defence Ministers meeting in Beijing. Minister of State (IC) for Tourism Shri A. K. Alphons visited China on 8 & 9 May 2018 for SCO Tourism Ministers meeting at Wuhan. Minister of State (IC) for Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma visited China on 15-18 May 2018 at Sanya. Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) Shri Rajinder Khanna visited China on 21 & 22 May 2018 for the meeting of Secretaries of National Security Council at Beijing. An Indian delegation led by Justice A. K. Sikri, Judge, Supreme Court of India visited China from 23-27 May 2018 for the meeting of Chairpersons of Supreme Courts.

### Cooperation in Water Resources

During the visit of Prime Minister to Qingdao in June 2018, the two sides renewed for another five years the existing MoU for the provision of hydrological information of the Brahmaputra River in flood season by China to India. A similar MoU for Sutlej River is already in force. In pursuance to the extant MoUs, China provided hydrological information for Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers to India during flood season in 2018.

### Defence Exchanges

Bilateral defence and military-to-military exchanges between India and China continued throughout the year. State Councillor and Defence Minister of China General Wei Fenghe visited India from 21-24 August 2018. During the visit, the two sides held extensive discussions on bilateral defence related engagement as well as regional and international developments. Subsequently, the 9th India-China Annual Defence and Security Dialogue (ADSD) was

held in Beijing on 13 November 2018. During the Dialogue, which was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Shri Sanjay Mitra and Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Department of Central Military Commission Lt. General Shao Yuanming, both sides agreed on specific defence exchanges for 2019.

Other exchanges during the year included visits of a delegation from National Defence University of China to India in June 2018 and a delegation led by the Deputy Commander of Western Command to India in July 2018. These visits were followed by the visit of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to China in August 2018. Vice Chief of Air Staff led an Indian delegation, which participated in the Zhuhai Air Show in China from 4-8 November 2018. The 7th India-China joint training exercise 'Hand in Hand 2018' was held on 10-23 December 2018 at Chengdu, China.

### Trade and Economic Relations

Apart from the Protocol for export of rice from India to China, which was signed during Prime Minister's visit to Qingdao in June 2018, the two sides signed two more Protocols on the export of fish meal and fish oil, and on export of tobacco leaves from India to China in November 2018 and January 2019 respectively. Procedures related to the export of rapeseed meal were also completed to enable export of Indian rapeseed meal to China.

Delegations led by Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, visited China in June and August 2018 to discuss bilateral commercial issues with the Chinese side. Commerce Secretary Dr. Anup Wadhawan led a delegation to China from 4-6 November 2018 to participate in the First China International Import Expo at Shanghai. During his visit, he also held a bilateral meeting with the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce of China Mr. Wang Shouwen. Commerce Secretary Dr. Anup Wadhawan made another visit to China from 21-22 January 2019 to undertake further bilateral discussions as well as discussion related to RCEP. During these meetings, reiterating its concern on growing trade imbalance, Indian side underlined that areas like agriculture products, pharmaceuticals, information technology services and tourism in which India has proven strengths and significant global presence but minuscule presence in China, need to be encouraged in bilateral trade.

The 5th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue between NITI Aayog and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China was held in Beijing on 14 April 2018. Its five working groups – in the areas of Infrastructure, High-Tech, Energy, Resource Conservation and Policy Coordination, reviewed the progress made so far and had a discussion on areas for further cooperation and collaboration. The 4th Dialogue of the NITI Aayog and the Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council of China was held in Mumbai on 1 November 2018. India and China held a technical meeting on Social Security Agreement in Beijing on 28 & 29 May 2018. The two sides also discussed cooperation in the field of energy during the visit of Dr. M. M. Kuttu, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to China on 29 & 30 October 2018. A delegation led by Principal Advisor at NITI Aayog participated in the 5th EV-100, largest Electrical vehicles forum in China on 11-12 January 2019 in Beijing. 2nd India-China Joint Working Group Meeting on Skill Development was held from 18-22 February 2019 in New Delhi.

An agreement between the Republic of India and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxed entered into force on 30 November 2018 after both sides completed all the relevant procedures.

### Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges

Both sides made joint efforts to enhance people-to-people exchanges and as agreed by the two leaders during their Informal Summit in Wuhan, a High-Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges was set up. The first meeting of this mechanism took place on 21 December 2018 in New Delhi, during which the two sides discussed cooperation in the field of culture exchanges, media exchanges, film and television, museum management, sports, youth exchanges, tourism, state and city level exchanges, traditional medicine and Yoga, and education and academic exchanges. Several side events were also held around the meeting of the High Level Mechanism, which included the 3rd meeting of the India-China Think Tanks Forum (20-21 December 2018), the 3rd India-China High Level Media Forum (21 December

2018), a Film Festival (22-24 December 2018) and a Forum on Museum Management (20 December 2018).

Continuing the tradition of youth exchanges between India and China since 2006, a 200 member Indian youth delegation visited China in July 2018 and a 200 member Chinese youth delegation visited India in November 2018.

In order to attract outbound Chinese tourists to visit India, Minister of State (IC) for Tourism Shri A.K. Alphons visited China in August 2018 and addressed tourism roadshows in Beijing, Wuhan and Shanghai. In 2018, Spice Jet and Indigo started their operations connecting Delhi to Hong Kong and Bengaluru to Hong Kong respectively.

Yoga events were organised by the Indian Embassy and Consulates across China to mark the 4th International Day of Yoga. A large number of Chinese yoga enthusiasts participated in these events. In August 2018, Indian Cultural Centre, Beijing was named as Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in a ceremony organized during the visit of President, ICCR to China.

The activities kick-starting the celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi started with the celebrations of Gandhi Jayanti on 2 October 2018. Other activities organized to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary year included organization of Gandhi-themed events at Chinese schools and universities, distribution of Gandhian literature in Chinese, a photo exhibition on 'Life and Times of Gandhi' and with organizing 'Satya Varta' with scholars well versed in Gandhian thoughts. A video of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite bhajan 'Vaishnav Jan To' sung by a Chinese singer was also released during this period.

The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, in cooperation with State Governments of Uttarakhand and Sikkim and other agencies, from June to September, every year. In 2018, a total of 3,734 persons applied for the Yatra and 1,328 Yatris undertook the Yatra. The Nathu La route, through which the Yatra did not take place in 2017, was reopened for the Yatris in 2018. In 2018, 906 Yatris travelled through the Lipulekh route and 422 through the Nathu La route.

## MALDIVES

India continued its close engagement with the Government and people of Maldives in its desire to see a peaceful, stable and prosperous Maldives. There was an exchange of high-level visits and cooperation in a wide spectrum of areas.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated President-elect Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih telephonically on 24 September 2018, following his victory in the Presidential election held on 23 September 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in a special gesture accepted the invitation of President-elect Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to attend his swearing-in ceremony and visited the Maldives on 17 November 2018. As a special gesture and in a departure from tradition, President Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi immediately after his swearing-in ceremony. This was Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's first visit to Maldives since assuming office in May 2014 and induced fresh momentum into the bilateral relationship. The last Indian Prime Minister's bilateral visit to Maldives was immediately after the SAARC Summit in November 2011.

Prime Minister invited President Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to pay a State visit to India. The President accompanied by the First Lady Fazna Ahmed paid a State visit to India from 16-18 December 2018.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Abdulla Shahid made his first visit to India from 24-27 November 2018, after assuming office, in preparation of President's State visit to India. He was accompanied by the Minister of Finance Mr. Ibrahim Ameer, the Minister of Economic Development Uz Fayyaz Ismail, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ahmed Khaleel, Foreign Secretary Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance.

The Chief of Defence Force Major General Ahmed Shiyam visited India to attend the ceremony held to mark the 10th anniversary of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) organised by Indian Navy from 13-14 November 2018 in Cochin. The 14th edition of the Trilateral Joint Naval Exercise, "Dosti-14" between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives was held on



President, Prime Minister & Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives at Rastrapati Bhawan (December 17, 2018)



25-29 November 2018 in Maldives. The Government of India undertook a short refit of Maldivian Coast Guard Ship Huravee from 1 August – 30 November 2018 at Vishakapatnam. At the request from the Government of Maldives, the refit was completed by 15 November 2018 and the ship returned to Maldives on 23 November 2018 to participate in “Dosti-14” Exercise. The 3rd Joint Staff talks were held in Malé on 26-27 June 2018. Joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Surveillance by Indian Navy Dornier (INDO 222) was undertaken from 18-22 June 2018. INS Sumedha undertook EEZ surveillance with Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) personnel on board from 12-15 May 2018. Exercise Ekatha 2018 between Indian Naval Marine Commandos and MNDF Marines was held from 28 April - 14 May 2018 in Maldives. Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samarth arrived in Maldives from 28 April with 10 Indian Navy Marine Commandos (INMARCOS) for Exercise Ekatha 2018.

Indian private airline, ‘GoAir’ commenced operations to the Maldives with its inaugural flight, an A320 with 80 passengers from Mumbai to Male, on 14 October 2018. Indigo Airlines also commenced operation to the Maldives with its inaugural flight on 15 November 2018. Indigo will connect Cochin, Bangalore and Mumbai to Maldives.



Prime Minister attends the swearing-in ceremony of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih (November 17, 2018)

## MAURITIUS

The year 2018-19 saw the reinforcement of strength and salience in India-Mauritius relations with cultural, linguistic and diaspora reconnect, accelerated economic cooperation, organic developmental partnership and vibrant people-to-people contacts. As an indispensable partner of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) strategy, Mauritius brought enormous value for peace, development and security in the Indian Ocean Region.

As part of intensive bilateral engagements, EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj attended the 11th World Hindi Conference in Port Louis in August 2018. Earlier (Mrs.) Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research visited India for the Governing Council Meeting of WHC in April 2018. On 10 April 2018, the logo and website of the 11th World Hindi Conference (WHC) were launched at the Ministry of External Affairs, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi, jointly

by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research of Mauritius. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj had met the Prime Minister of Mauritius in New York on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2018 and in Port Louis on a transit visit to South Africa for BRICS Foreign Minister’s summit. As an exemplary gesture of solidarity during the demise of former Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Government of Mauritius flew both Indian and Mauritian flags half-mast on all Government buildings in Mauritius. In the memory of the departed leader’s contribution to bilateral relations, Government of Mauritius renamed the Cyber Tower 1 in Ebène Cybercity (constructed with Indian assistance during PM Vajpayee Government) as “Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tower”.

At the invitation of Government of Mauritius, an eleven member delegation from Bihar Legislative Assembly visited Mauritius on an official visit to participate in the 184th



President meets Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth in Varanasi (January 23, 2019)

anniversary of the Apravasi Divas in November 2018. The first Joint Committee on Cooperation on Rural Development was held in Mauritius from 16-19 July 2018 saw participation of inter-ministerial delegation led by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Regular ministerial visits on both sides have expanded cooperation in different functional areas. Some notable visits from Mauritius include the visit of (Acting) President Mr. Paramasivam Pillay Vyapoory for International Gita Mahostav (11-18 December 2018), Speaker Ms. Santi Bai Hanoomanjee for International Conference of Chief Justices (16-20 November 2018), Chairperson, Public Service Commission and Disciplined Forces Service Commission Mr. S. Gunessee for bilateral meetings (15-21 November 2018), Mr. Ivan Leslie Collenda Velloo, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities of the Republic of Mauritius for the First General Assembly of the ISA (2-4 October 2018), Minister of Labour and Employment Mr. S.S. Callichurn for bilateral meeting (27 September-4 October 2018), (Acting) President Mr. Paramasivam Pillay Vyapoory for the 5th Global Tamils Economic Forum (11-15 October 2018), Minister of

Tourism Mr. Anil Gayan (20-23 September 2018), Mrs. Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research to attend the Asian Summit For Education & Skills (ASES) from 2-4 October 2018 and for Governing council meeting of WHC from 2-7 April 2018, Minister of Technology communication and innovation Mr. Yogida Swaminathan from 2-8 August.

On the economic front, Mauritius continued to be one of the major sources of foreign direct investment in India. Several rounds of ongoing negotiations on India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) were held in India and Mauritius. The latest, 7th round was held on 19-23 November 2018 in Mauritius. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Keshav Chandra, Joint Secretary (FT-Africa), Department of Commerce and the Mauritian side was led by Mr. Naraine Boodho, Director of Trade Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regional Integration and International Trade. India-Mauritius Joint Study Report (JSR) on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement was signed during the meeting. The report found economic cooperation in

twenty-five sectors as beneficial. India and Mauritius had initiated the holding talks on Bilateral Investment Treaty in December 2018.

Defence and security cooperation saw regular goodwill visits and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance visits undertaken by Indian ships to Mauritius. During this period, Service Life Extension Refit (SLER) under GoI assistance was extended on a grant basis to the Mauritian Coast Guard ship Guardian. The ship would operate for search and rescue missions as well as surveillance operations over Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Development partnership assistance extended by India to Mauritius in 2018-19 inter alia covered implementation for five major projects namely Metro Express, ENT Hospital, New Supreme Court Building, Social Housing and Digital Tablets for school children committed under the Special Economic

Package of US\$ 353 million. A line of credit of US\$ 500 million for eighteen other priority projects of the Government of Mauritius is also moving on to the implementation phase.

The special carve out in the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) scheme have also gained popularity in Mauritius and is strengthening our people-to-people linkages. Mauritius Prime Minister Mr. Pravind Jugnauth was invited as the Chief Guest of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in January 2019 in Varanasi.

Several Indian cultural troupes had participated in the special cultural celebrations on the yearlong 50th anniversary of Mauritian Independence in 2018. Fourth International Day of Yoga, Commencement of 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi and National Day celebrations were also celebrated enthusiastically with cross-party Mauritian participation.

## MYANMAR

Myanmar shares over 1,600 km of land border with India. It is key to the Act East and Neighborhood First Policy as it is the

only ASEAN country to share a land border with India. India shares a longstanding historical and cultural relationship with



President meets President of Myanmar, U Win Myint in in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
(December 11, 2018)

Myanmar, and people in India's north-eastern region and those from Chin, Kachin and Sagaing in Myanmar share common ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural characteristics. This relationship is further buttressed by our strong development cooperation, defence, trade & commercial ties, high-level visits etc. Following agreements / MoUs were signed during the visit of External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj to Myanmar on 10 & 11 May 2018:

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on "Setting up of Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Center at Monywa, Myanmar" signed on 10 May 2018.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on "Setting up of Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Center at Thaton, Myanmar" signed on 10 May 2018.
- Letter of Exchange signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for five years comprehensive maintenance plan of Industrial Training Center established at Myingyan and handed over in 2013 on 10 May 2018.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the conservation of Earthquake Damaged Pagodas at Bagan signed on 11 May 2018.
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Land Border Crossing signed on 11 May 2018.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Social Affairs (Rakhine State Government) and Embassy of India, Yangon for Supplying Computers and other Associated Peripherals signed on 12 September 2018.
- Myanmar signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance when Union Minister of International Cooperation, U Kyaw Tin visited India on 20 July 2018. It has also ratified the agreement.

On 8 August 2018, the landmark Agreement on Land Border Crossing was brought into effect with the opening of two international land border exit/entry posts at Tamu-Moreh and Rihkhawdar-Zowkhawthar. It will enhance people-to-people contacts enabling them to cross the land border with passport and visa, including for accessing health and education services, pilgrimage and tourism.

Thus far, India has provided assistance amounting to more than US\$ 1.75 billion, of which projects worth nearly US\$ 1 billion are completely grant-funded, and others through concessional financing. In September 2018, an MoU for handing over fifteen tractors, fifteen harvesting machines to Rakhine State Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Mine and forty computers to the University of Computer Studies, Sittwe was also signed.

Gol has committed US\$ 25 million over five years to the Government of Myanmar (GOM) for assisting GoM in addressing issues related to the Rakhine State. It is already in the implementation stages of various projects and constructing 250 prefabricated houses in Rakhine State to meet the needs of displaced persons.

India's flagship Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) is completely grant-funded and the outlay on the entire Project is approximately US\$ 484 million. A positive step in this direction was the signing of the MoU for the appointment of a private Port Operator for the Operation and Maintenance of Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Terminal and associated facilities of this Project, during the visit of the Foreign Secretary of India to Myanmar on 22 October 2018.

The work on the development of the port at Sittwe, the Inland Water Terminal (IWT) in Paletwa and the navigational aids in the Kaladan river channel has already been completed. Six river barges of 300 MT capacity, built as part of the project, have also been handed over to Myanmar authorities.

### Commerce

- At the request of Myanmar Ministry of Labour, Immigration & Population, a workshop was organised by UIDAI on 29 & 30 October 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw on Aadhaar. This was organized at the request of Myanmar

to assist Myanmar in their endeavour to develop an Aadhaar-like Unique Identity Card.

- A road-show was organized by the Ministry of Tourism to promote Buddhist Conclaves in Yangon. Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) organized a road-show on 2 July 2018 in Yangon on gems and jewellery.
- A sixty-member delegation participated in MedEx, an exhibition of pharma and medical equipment in Yangon in August 2018.

### Development Cooperation

- **Ananda Temple:** Conservation and Restoration of Ananda Temple, Bagan work has been completed.
- **Monwya:** Two hundred bed women's hospital has been established at Monwya under Small Development Project for US\$ 2 million.
- **Border Area Development Programme:** Second-year project works undertaken in India-Myanmar Border Area Development Programme worth around US\$ 5 million have been completed. The third-year project worth around US\$ 5 million is under progress and likely to be completed in the financial year 2018-19.
- **Microwave Radio Link on the Rhi-Mindat Route:** Implementation of microwave radio link on the Rhi-Mindat route has been completed by Telecommunications Consultant India Limited (TCIL). This project worth US\$ 6 million was implemented by TCIL under Government of India assisted Line of Credit (LoC).

### Defence

India-Myanmar defence engagement continued to strengthen in 2018. There were substantial high-level visits, military training programmes, capacity building and the established interaction mechanisms functioned vibrantly. While functional level goodwill visits continued regularly, following important visits were undertaken from 1 April 2018 (in chronological order):

- Lt Gen Thein Htay, Chief of Myanmar Defence Industries visited Chennai in April 2018 to witness DEFEXPO

INDIA 2018. He again visited Pune to familiarize with Indian Defence Industry in August 2018.

- In August 2018, Lt Gen Maung Aye, Chief of Myanmar Armed Forces Training visited Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME) and College of Defence Management (CDM) both premier military training institutions of Indian Army.
- Vice-Senior Gen. Soe Win, Deputy C-in-C Myanmar Defence Services and C-in-C (Army) visited India in September 2018 to attend BIMSTEC Army Chief's Conclave and a goodwill visit. During his visit, he met Defence Minister and Service Chiefs, in addition to visiting many training establishments.
- Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VM, ADC, Chief of the Air Staff visited Myanmar on a goodwill visit in September 2018. He interacted with military and civilian leadership of Myanmar.
- A delegation from National Defence College (NDC) visited Myanmar in August 2018 for Strategic Neighbourhood Study Tour.
- Myanmar NDC delegation led by Commandant visited India in November 2018.
- Myanmar COS Navy Vice-Admiral Moe Aung Min visited India at the invite of VCNS on 26-28 November 2018.

### Military Training

- Approximately 120 Myanmar military trainees were dispatched to Indian Military training establishments under ITEC-1.
- Following tailor-made training was carried out for Myanmar military at their request:
- One Combat Team (sixty-five persons) were trained for two weeks in Armoured Corps Centre & School (ACC&S) Ahmadnagar in April 2018.
- One platoon (thirty-five persons) are undergoing four-week training capsule at Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School (CIJW) Vairangte in November-December 2018.

- Aerobatic flying training was imparted to selected persons of Myanmar Air Force (MAF) by Indian Air Force (IAF).

**Joint Exercise:** One platoon of Myanmar Army (thirty-five persons) participated in BIMSTEC MILEX 2018 at Pune in September 2018. This is the first time Myanmar Army participated in a joint or multilateral exercise. A senior observer team from Myanmar Army and Vice Senior Gen. Soe Win witnessed the MILEX.

**UN Peacekeeping Training:** A team of Indian Army conducted 5th UN Peacekeeping Training capsule for Myanmar Army in August 2018. Indian Army continues to assist Myanmar Army in its preparation for UN Peacekeeping operations in terms of training, advisory in kitting and documentation.

### Interaction under Established Mechanisms

- 12th Regional Border Committee (RBC) Meeting between Indian Army and Myanmar Army was held at Kalay, Myanmar in June 2018. Indian Army delegation was led by GOC, 3 Corps and Myanmar Army delegation was led by Commander, North West Command.
- 13th RBC meeting was held in Mantripukhri, Imphal in November 2018.
- 3rd India-Myanmar Staff Talks were held at New Delhi in August 2018.

### Capacity Building and Miscellaneous Assistance

- Four English Language Labs were established by Indian Army at Defence Services Academy, PyinOoLwin and handed over to Myanmar Army in July 2018.
- Myanmar Armed Forces employ CDR7 Wargaming Software for their training which was gifted by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) in 2013. On request of Myanmar

Army, an upgraded version, tailor-made to Myanmar military requirement has been formulated by WARDEC and was gifted to Vice Senior Gen Soe Win by COAS during his visit to India in September 2018.

- An Artificial Limb Fitment camp was organized for amputees of Myanmar Army in August 2018. 102 limbs were fitted by the technical team of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samity (BMVSS).

### Naval Cooperation

2018 was marked by good operational engagement between both navies in terms of coordinated patrols, passage exercises, the participation of Myanmar Navy in MILAN-2018, and regular port calls. There was also an enhanced interaction and cooperation in fields of training, visits, sea-rider programme and hydrography.

**Institutional Mechanisms:** 7th Navy to Navy Staff Talks were held at New Delhi from 10-12 October 2018. The frequency of Coordinated Patrols (CORPAT) between both navies was enhanced to two cycles with effect from 2018 (as compared to one cycle per year). 6th CORPAT was conducted from 14-18 March 2018 and 7th CORPAT from 24-29 September 2018. In addition, 7th CORPAT witnessed maiden participation of Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both sides, which has enhanced swathe of patrol area and also added a new dimension to the on-going mechanism.

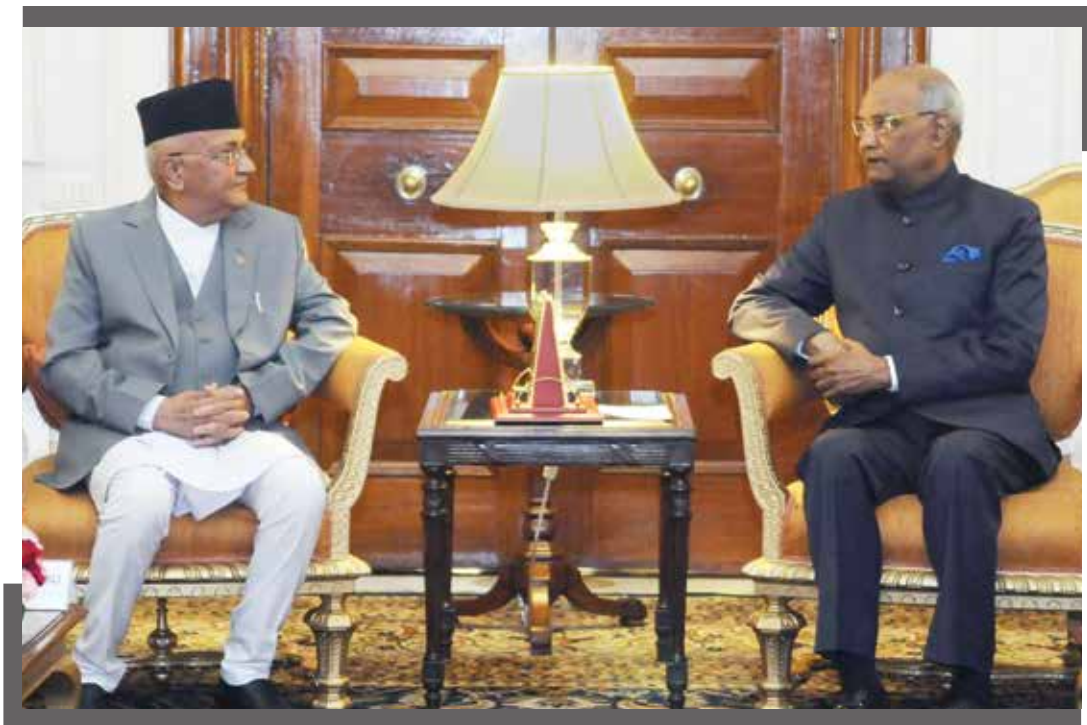
**Assistance Related Projects:** Post signing of Technical Agreement on the supply of Coastal Surveillance System to Myanmar in September 2017, site survey of all remote locations in Myanmar is completed and scope of work has been prepared by M/s Bharat Electronics Ltd., along with Myanmar Navy personnel. The project is fully funded by the GoI and work on it is commence early 2019. This is in keeping with the MoU on Maritime Security Cooperation, which was signed between both the countries in September 2017.

## NEPAL

The intensive bilateral engagement continued in 2018-19 with a series of high-level political exchanges. A number of bilateral mechanisms at a functional level met over the year covering issues such as economic and development

cooperation, water resources, culture, power cooperation, defence and security, and connectivity projects.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of India, Prime Minister



President meets Prime Minister of Nepal, K.P. Sharma Oli in New Delhi (April 07, 2018)

of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli paid a State visit to India from 6-8 April 2018. He was accompanied by his spouse Ms. Radhika Shakya, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav, Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr. Raghubir Mahaseth, Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport. During the visit, the two Prime Ministers inaugurated the Integrated Check Post at Birgunj (Nepal) and witnessed the ground-breaking ceremony of Motihari-Amlekhgunj petroleum products pipeline at Motihari, India. Three separate joint statements namely, (i) India-Nepal: New Partnership in Agriculture; (ii) Expanding Rail Linkages: Connecting Raxaul in India to Kathmandu in Nepal; and (iii) New Connectivity between India and Nepal through Inland Waterways, were issued.

A fourteen-member delegation from Nepal participated in the 5th meeting of the Joint Working Group and Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on cooperation in power sector, which were held in New Delhi on 16 and 17 April 2018, respectively. The JSC was co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Power on the Indian side and by Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation on the Nepalese side.

The 12th meeting of India-Nepal Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management was held in Nepal from 16-20 April 2018. The Sub-Group of India-Nepal Joint Committee on Inundation & Flood Management undertook the joint inspection to areas affected by flood and inundation along the India-Nepal border on 26-30 June 2018.

The India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee and Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meetings on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade were held in Kathmandu on 24-25 April and 26-27 April 2018, respectively. The IGC meeting was co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies on the Nepalese side and by Commerce Secretary on the Indian side.

The 6th Governing Body Meeting of Pancheshwar Development Authority was held in Kathmandu on 26 April 2018. A delegation from India led by Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, participated in the meeting.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of Nepal, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a State visit to Nepal on 11 & 12 May 2018. He visited Janakpur, Kathmandu and Muktinath

in Nepal. The two Prime Ministers jointly laid the foundation stone of 900 MW Arun-III hydro-electric project in Nepal.

A delegation of 300 Nepal Army personnel participated in the XIII edition of the India-Nepal Surya Kiran joint military exercise in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from 30 May-12 June 2018.

The Chief of Army Staff of Nepal, Gen. Rajendra Chhetri visited India from 6-11 June 2018 as reviewing officer of the passing out parade at Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He also visited various military establishments and called on the Defence Minister of India and Chief of Army Staff of India Army during the visit.

Two delegations from Ministry of Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives of Nepal visited Sikkim Organic Mission, Sikkim on 10-13 June 2018, and G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar on 17-18 June 2018.

The inaugural Ministerial meeting of the India-Nepal 'New Partnership in Agriculture' was held between Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh, and the Minister for Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives of Nepal, Mr. Chakra Pani Khanal on 19 June 2018 in New Delhi.

The Airports Authority of India held technical discussion with representatives of Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal in Kathmandu on 14 & 15 June 2018. A delegation from Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal visited India for Joint Technical Team meeting with Airports Authority of India on 11 & 12 October 2018.

The eighth meeting of India-Nepal Survey Officials' Committee was held from 17-19 June 2018 in Kathmandu. The 5th meeting of the India-Nepal Boundary Working Group was held on 19-21 September 2018 in Kathmandu. The Indian delegation was led by Surveyor General of India and the Nepalese delegation was led by Director General, Survey Department of Nepal. The 9th meeting of the India-Nepal Survey Officials' Committee was held on 11-13 October 2018 in Dehradun.

The 3rd meeting of the Joint Committee on operationalisation of India-Nepal cross-border rail links under Phase I met in Kathmandu and undertook site visit to Jayanagar-Kurtha on 19 & 20 June 2018.

The 12th meeting of the India-Nepal Power Exchange Committee was held in New Delhi on 5 July 2018. A delegation from Nepal led by Managing Director, Nepal Electricity Authority visited New Delhi.

The 2nd meeting of India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Tourism Cooperation was held in Kathmandu on 6 July 2018.

The 6th meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 9 July 2018 in Kathmandu. The 3rd meeting of the Joint Working Group on India-Nepal cross border rail links was held on 10 July 2018 in Kathmandu.

The Project Review Meeting to review the progress of projects being undertaken under the Government of India Lines of Credit extended to the Government of Nepal was held on 11 July 2018 in Kathmandu.

The 6th meeting of India-Nepal Oversight Mechanism was held in Kathmandu on 18 July 2018. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador of India to Nepal and Foreign Secretary of Nepal.

The 3rd meeting of the India-Nepal Cross Border Transport Facilitation Joint Working Group was held on 20 July 2018 in New Delhi.

The B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation held its 34th Board Meeting on 21 July 2018 at Gangtok, Sikkim. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador of India to Nepal and Nepalese Chargé d'Affaires.

A delegation from Nepal visited India on 9 August 2018 for the first meeting to comprehensively review the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade. The 3rd coordination meeting between DG, Sashastra Seema Bal and IG, Armed Police Force of Nepal was held in New Delhi from 7-10 August 2018. The 7th India-Nepal Joint Agriculture Working Group meeting was held on 16-17 August 2018 in Kathmandu. Minister of Industry, Commerce & Supplies of Nepal, Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav visited India from 27-30 August 2018 to hold bilateral meetings with the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Commerce & Industry of India.

The Prime Ministers of India and Nepal held a bilateral meeting on 31 August 2018 on the sidelines of the 4th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit in Kathmandu. The MoU



regarding preliminary survey of the rail line between Raxaul (India) and Kathmandu (Nepal) was signed by the two sides during the visit. The two Prime Ministers inaugurated 400-bed Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala in Kathmandu, which was constructed with the assistance of Government of India.

Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Chemicals and Fertilizers paid an official visit to Nepal on 2-5 September 2018 for a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transport of Nepal.

The former Prime Minister of Nepal and Co-Chairman of Nepal Communist Party, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' paid a visit to India from 6-9 September 2018 and delivered the 31st Sapru House Lecture at the Indian Council for World Affairs on 7 September 2018.

The Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar flagged off two inaugural India-Nepal bus services on Bodhgaya-Patna-Kathmandu and Patna-Janakpur routes on 11 September 2018. From the Nepalese side, Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transport flagged off the inaugural bus service on Kathmandu-Patna-Bodhgaya route on 13 September 2018, and Chief Minister of Province 2 of Nepal flagged off the inaugural bus service on Janakpur-Patna route on 16 September 2018.

A technical scoping mission from Nepal visited Varanasi and Kolkata from 17-21 September 2018 to study the Jal Vikas Marg project of the Inland Waterways Authority of India. The Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar visited Kathmandu from 20-21 September 2018. The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, paid an official visit to Nepal on 28-29 September 2018. He held bilateral meeting with Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies of Nepal.

Minister for Water Supply of Nepal, Ms Bina Magar visited New Delhi to participate in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention from 29 September - 2 October 2018. During the visit, the Nepalese Water Supply Minister met Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation.

The 19th India-Nepal DG level talks on customs cooperation

was held on 19-20 November 2018 in Kathmandu. The meeting was co-chaired by Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Government of India and Director General, Department of Customs, Government of Nepal.

The second Joint Inspection of areas along India-Nepal border was undertaken by Sub Group of Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM) from 19-23 November 2018.

The Embassy of India, Kathmandu celebrated ITEC Day and Maulana Azad Day on 22 November 2018. The Minister for Education, Science & Technology Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokharel was the Chief Guest. The event was attended by over 150 ITEC alumni.

The ninth Meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Committee on Kosi Gandak Project was held in Kathmandu on 28 & 29 November 2018. The meeting was co-chaired by Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar and Director General, Department of Irrigation and Water Resources, Government of Nepal.

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath visited Janakpur on 12 December 2018 to participate in the Bibaha Panchami festival. The 13th meeting of India-Nepal Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues was held in Kathmandu on 14 December 2018.

A delegation led by Minister of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal Mr. Lalbabu Pandit paid an official visit to India to understand India's federal system. The Nepalese Minister met with Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Chairman, Union Public Service Commission; and attended a workshop at the Indian Institute of Public Administration.

A delegation from Nepal led by Managing Director, Nepal Electricity Authority visited New Delhi to participate in the 13th meeting of the India-Nepal Power Exchange Committee held on 26 December 2018. The Indian delegation was led by Member (Power System), Central Electricity Authority.

Minister for Youth and Sports of Nepal, Mr. Jagat Bahadur Sunar (Bishwakarma), visited India on 8-11 December 2018.

Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited

New Delhi from 10 & 11 January 2019 to attend the fourth edition of Raisina Dialogue 2019. The Nepalese Foreign Minister met with the External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj during the visit.

Joint Committee on Water Resources at Secretary-level was held on 11 January 2019 in New Delhi. The Joint Standing Technical Committee was held on 9 & 10 January 2019 in New Delhi.

The Chief of Army Staff, Nepal Army will visit India on 11-16 January 2019. He will be conferred the honorary rank of the General of Indian Army by President of India. A meeting to finalize the MoU on supply of fertilizers under G2G arrangement was held in Kathmandu on 14 & 15 January 2019.

The 6th meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and Joint Working Group (JWG) on cooperation in the power sector was held on 23 & 24 January 2019 in Pokhara, Nepal.

The Joint Project Monitoring Committee on reconstruction was held on 28 January 2019 in Kathmandu. The Home Secretary level talks are scheduled for 7-8 March 2019 in Kathmandu.

### Regional Cooperation

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi visited Kathmandu to attend the 4th BIMSTEC Summit on 30 & 31 August 2018. The summit was preceded by the 16th Foreign Ministers meeting on 29 August 2018 attended by Minister of State for External Affairs Smt Sushma Swaraj. Prime Minister met his Nepalese counterpart on the margins of the Summit for bilateral discussion.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health & Population of Nepal, Mr. Upendra Yadav visited India on 11-14 December 2018 to participate in the WHO Partners' Forum 2018.

Director General, Department of Revenue Investigation of Nepal participated in the 5th Regional Customs Enforcement Meeting organized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence of India on 4 & 5 December 2018 in New Delhi.

Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal, Mr. Rabindra Prasad Adhikari will be participating in the Global Aviation Summit organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, GOI in New Delhi on 15 & 16 January 2019.

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## PAKISTAN

India's approach to its relations with Pakistan continued to be guided by the consistent policy to have normal neighbourly relations in an atmosphere free of violence and terror on the basis of Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

Following the general elections in Pakistan which took place on 25 July and in which Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emerged as the single largest party, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called Mr. Imran Khan on 30 July and congratulated him on his victory and conveyed India's commitment towards ensuring peace, security and prosperity in the Indian subcontinent, the desire to make it free from terror and violence and to focus on development. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also wrote to Prime Minister Imran Khan on 18 August congratulating the latter on his assumption of charge as Prime Minister, reiterating India's commitment towards ensuring peace and security and suggesting meaningful and constructive engagement with Pakistan for the benefit of the people of the region. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj wrote to Pakistan

Foreign Minister S.M. Qureshi on 22 August and conveyed similar sentiments.

On 14 September 2018, the Prime Minister of Pakistan wrote a letter to Prime Minister, inter alia, proposing a meeting between the Foreign Minister of the two countries in New York. The letter from the Prime Minister of Pakistan also spoke of bringing a positive change and mutual desire for peace as also readiness to discuss terrorism. This was followed by a letter from the Pakistan Foreign Minister on 17 September 2018 to EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. On 20 September 2018, in response to spirit reflected in the letter from the new Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, India agreed for a meeting between the two Foreign Ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. However, within hours of the announcement, three police personnel of Jammu and Kashmir were kidnapped and brutally killed by Pakistan-based terrorist entities. Another disturbing development was the emergence of the news about glorification of terrorists and terrorism against India through release of postage stamps

issued by the Government of Pakistan. This exposed the evil agenda of Pakistan behind its proposal for talks to make a fresh beginning. It was assessed that any conversation with Pakistan in such an environment would be meaningless. India was left with no choice but to call off the meeting between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan in New York.

Pakistan continued with its agenda to try to malign India in international fora by spreading canards of 'human rights violations' by India in Jammu & Kashmir. As in the past, Pakistan used the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to try to internationalize Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan Foreign Minister S. M. Qureshi also commented on internal matters of India. Pakistan continued to support terrorist activities in India, resulting in the death of several security personnel and innocent civilians. Pakistan continued to interfere in internal matters of India by supporting separatist tendencies in India. As a regular practice, posters supporting the so-called Khalistan movement were seen inside gurudwaras. Anti-India speeches were delivered by Pakistani leaders during visits of Indian Sikh pilgrims in Pakistan. Pakistan, on several occasions, prevented Indian High Commission representatives, including the Indian High Commissioner, from meeting visiting Indian Sikh pilgrims. Internationally recognised terrorists like Hafiz Saeed and Syed Salahuddin operate freely in Pakistan and continue to issue anti-India statements.

Lack of progress in investigation in the Pathankot terror attack case and in the Mumbai terror attack trial in Pakistan continued to be of serious concern. On the 10th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attack on 26 November 2018, a solemn memorial event and wreath laying ceremony was held at the Police Memorial in Mumbai and the Memorial at Taj Hotel, Mumbai. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra along with other state dignitaries and members of the Diplomatic Corps participated in these events. Statements were issued by other countries including the US, Japan, France, Mauritius whose nationals were killed in the Mumbai terror attacks. They all condemned terrorism and sought bringing perpetrators to justice.

Bilateral engagements continued at a functional level during this period. The 115th meeting of India-Pakistan Permanent Indus Commission was held on 29 & 30 August in Lahore. Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) talks over the

telephone took place on 29 May 2018 where it was decided to adhere to the 2003 ceasefire understanding. A meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency was held in Delhi from 27-30 May 2018. The meeting discussed measures to liberalize procedures for release and repatriation of each other's fishermen and work towards coordinating maritime search and rescue operations as well as tackling marine environment pollution.

A delegation led by then Pakistan caretaker Minister of Law and Information Syed Ali Zafar visited Delhi on 17 August 2018 to attend the funeral of late former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Mr Syed Ali Zafar also held a meeting with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj in Delhi.

On 1 January 2019, India handed over list of 249 Pakistan civilian prisoners and ninety-eight fishermen in India's custody to Pakistan. Pakistan shared list of fifty-four civilian prisoners and 483 fishermen in its custody, who are Indians or believed-to-be-Indians. In 2018 itself, 179 Indian prisoners, including 174 fishermen, were released and repatriated by Pakistan whereas fifty-one Pakistan prisoners, including twenty-eight fishermen, were released by India.

On 1 January 2019, India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between India and Pakistan. This is the twenty eighth consecutive exchange of such list between the two countries, the first one having taken place on 1 January 1992.

As part of humanitarian efforts, India released forty-seven Pakistani prisoners and fishermen and Pakistan released thirty two Indian prisoners and fishermen during April - November 2018. The Government of India on 22 November informed the Government of Pakistan of the initiative to build the 'Kartarpur Corridor' on the Indian side and urged Pakistan to create a corridor with suitable facilities in its territory. Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the project in Gurdaspur on 26 November. Prime Minister Imran Khan performed the groundbreaking ceremony of Pakistan's part of the 'Kartarpur Corridor' on 28 November. Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Union Minister for Food Processing Industries) and Shri Hardeep Singh Puri (Union Minister of State, Independent Charge, for Urban

Development) represented India at the event. This was seen as an important measure that would facilitate visits by Sikh pilgrims from India to the revered shrine of Kartarpur Sahib.

### SEYCHELLES

The bilateral engagement with Seychelles has evolved over our historical contacts and continuous support to Seychelles for its security, even as our bilateral trade remains modest. Today, India-Seychelles relations are characterized by a special relationship which is built on the foundation of mutual trust, enormous goodwill and shared values.

The bilateral ties were further deepened by the first State Visit of President of Seychelles Mr. Danny Faure to India from 22-27 June 2018. President Faure held bilateral delegation level talks with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and had a bilateral meeting with President Shri Ramnath Kovind, Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu and EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. President Mr. Danny Faure visited the states of Gujarat, Goa and Uttarakhand apart from the other official engagements in New Delhi. India gifted a second Dornier-228 Aircraft costing US\$ 30 million to Seychelles during the visit and extended a Defence Line of Credit of US\$ 100 million. Seychelles gift of Aldabra tortoises to Hyderabad zoo was well-appreciated.

Six agreements were signed during the State visit which

The bilateral trade for 2017-18 was US\$ 2.41 billion as against US\$ 2.28 billion for 2016-17.

included the white shipping data agreement, an MoU on cybersecurity, an MoU on Small Development Projects, an MoU between the Foreign Service Institute India and the Department of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles, a Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2018-2022 and a Twinning Agreement between the Corporation of the City of Panaji and the City of Victoria of the Republic of Seychelles.

Other notable visits from Seychelles include the visit of Mrs. Macsuzy Mondon, Minister of Home Affairs, Local Government, Youth, Sports, Culture, and Risk & Disaster Management (Designated Minister) to Chennai to attend the DefExpo (11-13 April 2018), visit of Mr. Wallace Cosgrow, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change to attend the General Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in New Delhi (2-4 October 2018) and the visit of Mr. Charles Bastienne, Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture to Telangana to explore opportunities for capacity enhancement in the field of Agriculture in Seychelles (23-25 October 2018).

The 9th Session of the Joint Commission on Scientific,



President of Seychelles Danny Antoine and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House, New Delhi (June 25, 2018)

Technical and Economic Cooperation Meeting (JCM) between India and Seychelles was held on 14 & 15 May 2018 at Mahe co-chaired by the Foreign Secretary of India Shri Vijay Gokhale and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Seychelles Mr. Barry Faure. The Foreign Secretary also held bilateral consultations with the President and Vice-President of Seychelles during this visit.

The first meeting of the India-Seychelles Joint Committee on Hydrography was held in Seychelles on 14 & 15 June 2018. The Indian delegation was led by Chief Hydrographer of India. During this period, the Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for the Coastal Surveillance Radar System under Gol Assistance was signed on 18 May 2018. The following ships paid goodwill visits to Seychelles: ICGS Shoor (16-19 April 2018), INS Mumbai and INS Trikand (21-24 April 2018), INS Tarkash (26-30 June 2018) and INS Mhadei and INS Tarini (26 November – 3 December 2018).

Developmental assistance extended by India to Seychelles in 2018-19 inter alia covered the development of social and physical infrastructure projects, the supply of medical equipment, buses for Seychelles Public Transportation Corporation (SPTC) and ambulances for health care. The foundation stone for India's first construction project in Seychelles, the Magistrates' Court House costing US\$ 3.45 million (SCR 45 million) was formally laid on 28 September 2018.

Several training and capacity building efforts including for policing, health workers, renewable energy, etc were fructified during the year. The recent focus has been on the expeditious implementation of ongoing projects in Seychelles. President Mr. Danny Faure constituted the India-Seychelles Project Steering Committee to ensure swift implementation of all projects financed by India.

## SRI LANKA

India's ties with Sri Lanka remained positive and were further strengthened during the year. The bilateral relationship has been marked by close contacts at the highest political level, increasing trade and investment, cooperation in the field of education, culture, infrastructure development, health, tourism, agriculture, skill development and defence.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in the implementation of people-oriented developmental projects which has helped to enhance the bonds of friendship between the two peoples.

There has been a regular high-level exchange of visits between the two countries. Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr.



Prime Minister meets Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka at Hyderabad House, New Delhi (October 20, 2018)

Ranil Wickremesinghe paid an official visit to India from 18-20 October 2018. Former President Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa visited New Delhi from 10-13 September 2018 to address a private event. Sri Lankan Speaker Mr. Karu Jayasuriya led an all-party Parliamentary delegation to India in September 2018. From India, among others, Speaker of Lok Sabha visited Sri Lanka on 11 & 12 July 2018 for the second South Asian Speakers' Summit on Sustainable Development Goals.

Sri Lanka is among the major recipients of development assistance from the Government of India. India's overall commitment stands close to US\$3 billion, out of which around US\$550 million are purely in grants. The Indian Housing Project, with an initial commitment to build 50,000 houses for the war affected as well as the estate workers in the plantation areas, is Government of India (GoI)'s flagship project of developmental assistance to Sri Lanka. As of today, all the committed 46,000 houses in the Northern and Eastern Provinces have been completed. Out of the remaining 4,000 houses under construction in the Central and Uva Provinces meant for estate workers through an innovative community-driven approach, close to 1000 houses have been completed. The first lot of these houses built in the plantation areas was handed over in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe on 12 August 2018, in which Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi joined through video message. At that time, India and Sri Lanka also signed an agreement to commence construction of 10,000 additional houses which were announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his visit to Sri Lanka in May 2017. With this India's total commitment to build houses in Sri Lanka stands at 60,000.

Besides housing, India continues to assist in a large number of Small Development Projects (SDPs) in areas of education, health, transport connectivity, small and medium enterprise development and training across the country under grant assistance. Completed projects during the year include provision of livelihood assistance to nearly 70,000 people from fishing and farming community in Hambantota, supply of medical equipment to Vavuniya Hospital and 150 Boats and fishing gear for Mullaithivu fishermen. A modern 1500 - seat auditorium named after Shri Rabindranath Tagore in Ruhuna University in Matara, the largest in any University in Sri Lanka, was also handed over in October 2018.

Work on construction of 153 houses in Sobitha Thero Village in Anuradhapura, the upgradation of Saraswathy Central College in Pusselawa, Kandy; construction of 600 houses under Model Village Housing Project in twenty-five districts of Sri Lanka and Gram-Shakti Housing Project to construct 600 houses in Southern Province of Sri Lanka, trilingual school in Polonnaruwa and many other development projects were commenced this year and progressing well. Memoranda of Understandings for new SDPs viz. construction of 3400 toilets in Batticaloa, construction of 300 transit housing units in Mannar, Construction of 5000 MT cold storage in Dambulla, construction of 600 houses each in Northern and Southern Provinces under Model Village Projects were signed during the period of April to November 2018.

The launch of island-wide operations of the 1990 Emergency Ambulance Service in Sri Lanka, financed under Indian grant assistance, was held in Jaffna on 21 July 2018 wherein Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi joined Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe through a live video link from New Delhi. The Service which was initially launched in July 2016 in Western and Southern Provinces of Sri Lanka under an Indian grant assistance of around US\$ 7.56 million (eighty-eight ambulances), is currently being expanded to all provinces in Sri Lanka, under an Indian grant of US\$ 15.02 million and the implementation is already complete in seven out of the nine Provinces. The grant covers procurement of 209 additional ambulances, training costs, as well as operational costs for one year after the launch of services.

Under a US\$ 318 million Indian Line of Credit (LoC) Agreement signed between EXIM bank of India and Government of Sri Lanka in June 2017, a contract agreement for around US\$ 82.64 million for the supply of 160 passenger coaches to Sri Lanka Railways was signed between RITES Limited and Government of Sri Lanka in Colombo on 7 September 2018. India announced a new US\$ 100 million LoC for undertaking solar projects in Sri Lanka during the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance held on 11 March 2018, in which President of Sri Lanka Mr. Maithripala Sirisena participated.

The economic & commercial relations between India and Sri Lanka were further strengthened through continued high-level interactions and progress in development projects. Bilateral trade increased from US\$ 4.4 billion in 2016 to US\$

5.23 billion in 2017, registering a growth of nearly 20%. In 2017, India's exports to Sri Lanka amounted to US\$ 4.54 billion and India's imports from Sri Lanka amounted to US\$ 690 million. For the period January to September 2018, the exports from India to Sri Lanka amounted to US\$ 3.19 billion and imports from Sri Lanka amounted to US\$ 571 million. India was the second largest contributor to Sri Lankan Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with total investment amounting to around US\$ 130 million in 2017. India continued to be the top source market for tourism into Sri Lanka with over 384,000 arrivals in 2017.

Further strengthening the cooperation in the energy sector, a trilateral MoU on setting up of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal in Sri Lanka was signed between companies from India, Japan and Sri Lanka in Colombo on 9 April 2018. Three rounds of negotiation (9th-11th) on the proposed Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) between India and Sri Lanka were held during April- November 2018. The 3rd meeting of the Joint Working Group on Cooperation in Power Sector between India and Sri Lanka was held on 7 July 2018 in Colombo.

Defence engagement with Sri Lanka has continued to receive strong impetus by high level visits from both sides including the visits of Director General of Indian Coast Guard, Chief of Army Staff, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff to Sri Lanka and visit of Commander of the Sri Lankan Army to India. The second Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel built by Goa Shipyard Limited was handed over to the Sri Lanka Navy was commissioned as Sri Lanka Naval Ship Sindurala on 19 April 2018. The hitherto biennial naval exercise called SLINEX was converted into an annual exercise from 2018 onwards and the same was conducted at Trincomalee from 7-13 September 2018. To further strengthen the defence ties, the first ever pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya for Sri Lankan Armed Forces personnel and their families was organised from 24-26 June 2018. A special Indian Air Force C-17 aircraft was deployed to Colombo to transport Sri Lankan Armed Forces personnel and their families to Bodh Gaya and back.

Cultural relations and people to people contact between the countries were further deepened during this period. The sacred relics from Sarnath were brought to Sri Lanka for the Vesak exposition organized from 29 April - 2 May 2018. 4th

International Day of Yoga was celebrated at iconic Independence Square in Colombo on 23 June 2018 with the participation of President of Sri Lanka. The commencement of 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi and 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji were also celebrated.

The education sector also witnessed further strengthening of ties. India now offers around 710 scholarship slots annually to Sri Lankan students, including study in Sri Lanka and in India. In addition, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scheme and the Colombo Plan, India offers 400 slots annually to Sri Lankan nationals for short and medium term training courses in a wide variety of technical and professional disciplines.

## INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION (IORA)

In consonance with Prime Minister's strategic vision of 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 completed 20 years 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 policymakers, academics and researchers in all IORA member states.

At the 18th IORA Council of Ministers Meeting in Durban, various new initiatives were announced paving way for harnessing the soft power and science diplomacy in the region. India being the Lead Coordinator of the IORA Priority area-Disaster Risk Management announced the First meeting of Cluster Group on Disaster Risk Management on 5-6 February 2019 in New Delhi. India is also the Lead Coordinator for Other Priority Area viz, Academic, Science & Technology. As a Cluster Group Member, India participated in the Working Group meetings for finalizing the Work Plan on Maritime Safety Security, Blue Economy and Tourism 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 implementation

of 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 2018, India had successfully implemented twelve of its thirteen announced initiatives concluding with the recent 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting organized by IORA, Government of India, and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi on 2 - 4 October 2018. It was held alongside the 1st International Solar Alliance General Assembly and 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (REINVEST- 2018). The three events were jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the presence of Secretary-General of the United Nations on 2 October 2018 in New Delhi. The three events collectively aimed at creating the alternative of clean energy for a green future. The 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting was attended by 17 IORA Member States and 3 Dialogue Partners.

“IORA Centre of Excellence” is the flagship project announced by Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu at the First Leaders

Summit in March 2017 at Jakarta. This Digital Knowledge Hub is envisaged to serve as a data centre and a resource of expertise, knowledge, data and analysis. This is being developed to collectively pool the knowledge, resources, expertise by and for the Member States. The work is under progress on developing the digital platform.

India hosted a training programme at the IORA-Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT) Coordination Centre after the signing of an MoU between the Centre on Medicinal Plants at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)- Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) and Tehran based IORA-RCSTT in February 2018 at Tehran. The training programme on “Diversity, documentation, Gene banking and Database for Medicinal Plants” was organized for IORA Member Countries and Dialogue Partners from 25 November -1 December 2018 at IORA-RCSTT Coordination Centre on Medicinal Plants at CSIR-CIMAP Campus, Ministry of Science & Technology, Lucknow.





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## SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND ASIA-PACIFIC

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### AUSTRALIA

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Australia is a strategic partner of India. Regular exchange of high-level visits is a testimony to growing India-Australia relations. Australia is emerging as an important partner in different sectors including trade and investment, education and skills, mineral resources, and defence and security. Relations between the two countries reached a new high during the year with the first-ever visit of an Indian President to Australia from 21-24 November 2018. During the visit, President Shri Ramnath Kovind met Governor-General of Australia Sir Peter Cosgrove and Prime Minister Scott Morrison. As part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, President Shri Ramnath Kovind unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parramatta in New South Wales and addressed a large gathering of the Indian diaspora and the local community. Five agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) were signed during the visit, including MoUs on cooperation in disability sector; promotion of bilateral investment; furthering scientific cooperation;

cooperation in agricultural research and education, and develop a Joint PhD programme. During the visit, President Shri Ramnath Kovind also addressed two business events namely India Business Summit 2018 organised by the Australian Financial Review and Australia-India Business Council. His visit to Australia was preceded by the visit of Governor-General of Australia Sir Peter Cosgrove to India in March 2018 to attend the founding conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met former Prime Minister of Australia Mr. Malcolm Turnbull on 19 April 2018 on the sidelines of London Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and Prime Minister of Australia Mr. Scott Morrison on 14 November 2018 on the sidelines of East Asia Summit (EAS) in Singapore. A range of issues were discussed during the meetings which gave significant impetus to the strategic partnership between both the countries.



In July 2018, Australia issued An India Economic Strategy to 2035 emphasizing on the need for Australia to enhance its economic as well as strategic engagement with India. The report was formally endorsed by the Government of Australia during a speech delivered by Prime Minister Morrison at the India Business Summit 2018 organized during the visit of President Shri Ramnath Kovind to Australia in November 2018. Both sides are working to implement the recommendation of the report.

Several ministerial interactions and official visits between the two countries took place in 2018. Minister of Health & Family Welfare Shri J. P. Nadda visited Australia from 18-21 February 2018 to participate in the inaugural meeting of the Global Digital Health Partnership in Canberra and International Digital Health Symposium in Sydney. Col. (Retd.) Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports visited Australia from 12-16 April 2018 to

represent India at the closing ceremony of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Minister of Commerce & Industry, and Civil Aviation, Shri Suresh Prabhu visited Canberra and Sydney from 24-26 June 2018 for the 15th India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), which was held on 25 June 2018 in Canberra. The Ministers discussed ways to increase two-way investment flows between the two countries. In Canberra, the Commerce Minister called on the Australian Prime Minister and also had bilateral meetings with the Treasurer, Agriculture & Water Resources Minister and the Foreign Minister. Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Human Resource Development visited Australia from 28 June-3 July 2018 to participate in the fourth meeting of Australia-India Education Council. During the visit, a number of agreements were signed between Australian and Indian educational institutions, including an agreement between Western Sydney University and India's Centurion University, a joint PhD agreement between Curtin University and Indian



Scott John Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia calls on President in Sydney ( November 22, 2018)

Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, and MoUs between Deakin University and the Central University of Jammu; All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Deakin University; and Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) and Deakin University. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj held a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Australia, Ms. Marise Payne, in New York on 25 September 2018 on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Marise Payne, Foreign Minister of Australia visited New Delhi from 8-9 January 2019 to participate in Raisina Dialogue 2019. She gave a Ministerial address on 9 January 2019. She had meetings with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and National Security Adviser (NSA) Shri Ajit Doval. Australia's Chief of Defence Force, General Angus Campbell AO DSC also participated in the Raisina Dialogue and spoke in the panel titled Indo-Pacific: Ancient Waters and Emerging Geometries. He also met officials in the Ministry of Defence.

Jason Clare MP, Shadow Minister for Trade, Investment, Resources, Northern Australia visited India from 13-20 January 2019.

New South Wales Governor, H.E. David Hurley, Mark Coulton MP, Australian Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment visited India from 16-20 January 2019 to participate in Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2019. During his visit, he had meetings with Chief Ministers and Governors of Maharashtra and Gujarat. On the sidelines of Vibrant Gujarat Summit, he also met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Mark Coulton MP, Australian Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment and Suzanne Ellery MLC, Western Australia's Minister for Education and Training also participated in Vibrant Gujarat Summit.

Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale and Defence Secretary Shri Sanjay Mitra visited Canberra for the second Foreign and Defence Secretaries (2+2) Dialogue on 10 October 2018. The second Indonesia-Australia-India (IAI) Senior Officials' Dialogue was held in Canberra on 21 September 2018. Foreign Ministry officials from India, Australia, Japan and the United States held consultations on the issues of common interest in the Indo-Pacific region in Singapore on 7 June 2018 and on 15 November 2018.



President unveils Mahatma Gandhi Statue at Parramatta in Sydney (November 22, 2018)



Prime Minister meeting the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Malcolm Turnbull, on the sidelines of CHOGM 2018, in London on April 19, 2018.

Defence cooperation between both the countries strengthened during the year with the enhanced level of high-level engagements and ground level participation in defence exercises. For the first time, the Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in the Exercise Pitch Black from 27 July-17 August 2018. The IAF successfully undertook Air-to-Air Refueling with Australian KC-30 aircraft. Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Vaibhav' visited Darwin from 21-25 February 2018. An Australian Naval ship HMAS Larrakia participated in 'MILAN' Naval exercise in India in March 2018. Indian

Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri visited Darwin from 30 August-15 September 2018 to participate in Australia's largest maritime exercise Kakadu. The third edition of Special Forces of Army Joint Exercise AUSTRAHIND was held in September 2018 in India. In October 2018, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM Plus) in Singapore, Defence Ministers of both the countries held a bilateral meeting. Both countries also held usual Army to Army staff talks, Navy to Navy staff talks and Air Force to Air Force staff talks during the year.

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Bilateral relations between India and Brunei continued to be close and friendly and marked by increased interactions in all areas including political, defence, cultural and sports. The year was marked by regular interaction and visits between the two countries. Deputy Minister for Energy and Industry, Mr. Dato Matsutejo Sowkiaw, visited New Delhi on 11 & 12 April 2018 and held talks with Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas. He also visited UIDAI and NASSCOM offices and received briefings on India's e-governance initiatives. Shri Abdul Mutalib, Minister of Communication visited India and attended the tenth edition of the Delhi Dialogue in New Delhi on 19 & 20 July 2018. During his visit, MoU on cooperation in the operation of Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand Station for Satellite and Launch Vehicles and for cooperation in the field of Space Research, Science and Applications was signed. Minister of State (MoS) of External Affairs Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd.) met Foreign Minister of Brunei Mr. Hassanal Bolkiah on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Singapore on 2 August 2018.

The first meeting of the India-Brunei Joint Trade Committee was held in Brunei on 5 September 2018 during which the two sides exchanged views to identify areas with the potential to increase bilateral trade and investment. A three-member team

from the Ministry of Defence of Brunei participated in the tenth Defence Expo held in Chennai from 10-14 April 2018.

In recognition of his contribution to social work, Mr. Malai Haji Abdullah, founder-President of SMARTER Brunei, a foundation devoted to providing life-skills to autistic-spectrum children, received the Padma Shree award from Indian President at a ceremony held in New Delhi on 2 April 2018.

High Commissioner of India to Brunei donated thirty-two pieces of Islamic calligraphy to the University Islam Sharif Ali (UNISSA) in a ceremony held at the University on 27 August 2018. These were photographic reproductions of Islamic calligraphy from the Rampur Raza Library, which had been exhibited earlier at the Exhibition of Islamic Calligraphy held in Brunei from 9-25 November 2017. The exhibition will be permanently displayed in public areas of the university.

Under the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme, two Bruneian journalists visited Kolkata, Guwahati and New Delhi from 14-20 July 2018. The Indian women's rugby team participated in the Asia Rugby Women's Sevens Trophy 2018 held in Brunei on 20 & 21 October 2018. Ten teams participated in the tournament and the Indian team finished in fifth position.

## CAMBODIA

India and Cambodia enjoy warm and cordial relations, which continue to grow in various fields, including trade and commerce, cultural, social and economic development

projects. Several ministerial visits took place which added momentum to India-Cambodia bilateral relations. Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu visited Phnom

Penh on 21 & 22 May 2018 to participate in the fifth India-CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam) Business Conclave. During the visit, he called on Prime Minister of Cambodia and held discussion for further promoting trade relations between the two countries including direct flight connectivity, agriculture, tourism, education and health care. Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Cambodia on 11 June 2018 and discussions were held to enhance cooperation in the defence sector. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Cambodia on 29 & 30 August 2018 and held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia. During the visit, two MOUs were signed which included restoration of UNESCO heritage site in Preah Vihear and cooperation between India's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations of Cambodia. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj also called on Prime Minister Mr. Hun Sen and President of Senate Mr. Samdech Say Chhum. The visit of EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj provided an opportunity to hold in-depth discussions on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues. Development assistance is an important area of cooperation between two countries.

India continues its assistance to Cambodia in the field of water resources development, restoration and conservation of temples and capacity building. The project for supply and installation of 1500 Hand Pumps for augmentation of rural water supply in Cambodia is progressing well.

Quick Impact Project (QIP) Scheme, launched under Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) initiative, has created a distinct and visible impact among the beneficiaries in Cambodia. The Scheme has received overwhelming responses from various line Ministries of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Five projects for the year 2017-18 are nearing completion. Ten

projects with effect from the year 2018-19 are being launched with Indian grant assistance of US\$ 50,000 for each project. The cooperation in the field of education is continuing under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). In 2018-19, three special training courses have been conducted under ITEC, two for the Senate and one for National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) officials. One special course for fifteen NACD officials is scheduled to be conducted in February 2019.

The cultural relations between India and Cambodia continue to strengthen. A six-member Buddhist monks delegation led by His Holiness Supreme Patriarch of Dhammayutta Order of Cambodia visited India to participate in the 6th International Buddhists Conclave held in India in August 2018. An International Conference on "Buddhism in Southeast Asia" was organised by Embassy in association with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Preah Sihanoukraj Buddhist University, Phnom Penh in September 2018.

Yoga events in Cambodia have been very popular particularly among the youth. A yoga event was organized in June 2018 at Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville and Battambang in cooperation with ICCR and Cambodian Ministries. In celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary, several functions were held including lectures on Gandhi by Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Functionary, Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance, New Delhi at University of Cambodia and Pannasastra University in Phnom Penh in October 2018.

Bilateral commercial relations continued to grow during the period. This year also saw several business delegations from Cambodia participating in various events in India such as seventh International Exhibition and Conference on Technical textiles, Advantage Assam India's Expressway to ASEAN in Guwahati and India Tourism Mart 2018.

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## INDONESIA

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India and Indonesia have a long-standing close and cordial relationship, which was further strengthened by the establishment of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the first official visit of PM Shri Narendra Modi to Indonesia on 29-31 May 2018. Fifteen agreements and MoUs

were signed during the visit including, nine Government to Government (G2G) MoUs on defence cooperation, cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes, scientific and technological cooperation, technical cooperation in railways sector, health cooperation,



Prime Minister inspects Guard of Honour during his Ceremonial Reception in Jakarta (May 30, 2018)

on pharmaceutical, biological and cosmetics regulatory functions, on policy dialogue between governments and interaction between think-tanks. A plan of activities to be conducted in India and Indonesia to celebrate seventy years of diplomatic relations between India and Indonesia in the year 2019-20 was also exchanged during the visit.

Maritime cooperation between the two countries got a significant boost during the visit of Prime Minister Modi, when both sides issued 'Shared Vision of India-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific' underlining the importance of stronger connectivity, particularly on sea links, in order to facilitate economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts between two maritime neighbours and comprehensive strategic partners. They welcomed the plan to build connectivity between Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Aceh to unleash the economic potentials of both areas. In line with this vision, a business delegation was led by the Ambassador of India in Jakarta, which included members of Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, officials from Andaman and Nicobar Administration to Banda Aceh in July 2018 and held the first India-Indonesia Investment Forum.

In response to it, a thirty-member delegation consisting of members of Chamber of Commerce of Aceh, state and local enterprises, shipping and logistics companies, academics, media and officials of Foreign Ministries of Indonesia visited Port Blair via Chennai and held India-Indonesia Business Forum on 29 November 2018.

The visit of PM Shri Narendra Modi gave further impetus to the cooperation between the two countries in the area of defence and security. The sixth meeting of Joint Defence Coordination Committee (JDCC) was held in August 2018 where both sides agreed to commence Naval and Air Force bilateral exercises. Defence Minister Smt Nirmla Sitharaman visited Indonesia from 21-24 October 2018 for bilateral talks on defence. This was followed by first bilateral naval exercises between India and Indonesia 'Samudra Shakti' which was held from 13-18 November 2018. The Air Force of both countries held Air Staff Talk in Jakarta from 20-23 November 2018. The head of Indonesian Coast Guard Vice Admiral Shri A. Taufiq R. visited India from 17-19 December 2018 for discussion with his Indian counterpart. Fifth India-Indonesia Foreign Office Consultation was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 21



January 2019. It was co-chaired by Smt. Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (East) and Ambassador Desra Parcaya, Director General, Asia Pacific and African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia.

In the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in Palu and Donggala of Western Sulawesi province of Indonesia on 28 September 2018, 'Operation Samudra Maitri', the operation for humanitarian assistance for the victims of earthquake and tsunami was launched on 3 October 2018 after Indonesia's acceptance for international aid. India sent two IAF aircrafts carrying onboard medical personnel and relief material to the affected area. Three Indian ships also arrived at Jakarta with medical supplies for the affected people.

Indonesia remains India's largest trading partner in the ASEAN region in 2017-18 with total trade of US\$ 20.40 billion. The second CEOs Forum was held on 29 & 30 May 2018 in Jakarta, coinciding with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Jakarta. Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs Mr. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan visited India on 17 & 18 May 2018 and had meetings with EAM, Commerce & Industry Minister, and Minister of State of Civil Aviation and had interaction with members of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to explore further potential of economic cooperation.

The year 2018 saw Garuda Airlines commencing its direct flight between Mumbai and Bali. The Minister of Tourism of Indonesia Mr. Arief Yahya travelled on the inaugural flight on 23 April 2018. To further improve the direct flight connectivity between the two countries, Air Services Talks were conducted between officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation of India and Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Indonesia on 19 & 20 September 2018 in New Delhi.

Pursuant to the Joint Statement issued during the visit of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Jakarta, the 1st India-Indonesia Interfaith Dialogue was held in Yogyakarta in which a seven-member delegation led by the former Minister of State (MoS) of External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar participated from the Indian side, while the Indonesia delegation was led by the Vice Foreign Minister of Indonesia Mr. A.M. Fachir.

18th Asian Games were held in Jakarta and Palembang from 18 August-2 September 2018 and Minister of State of Sports and Youth Affairs, Col (Retd.) Shri Rajyavardan Rathore visited Jakarta from 25-29 August 2018 to attend the games. Para Asian Games 2018 were held in Jakarta from 6-15 October 2018 which was attended by the Minister of State (IC) for Planning and Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Rao Inderjit Singh from 5-14 October 2018.

Meetings under various bilateral and trilateral institutional mechanisms were conducted including 3rd Director General level Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) of India and Indonesian National Anti-Narcotics Agency on 28 & 29 June 2018 in New Delhi; 5th meeting of JWG on Counter Terrorism on 10 & 11 September 2018 in New Delhi; and 2nd India-Australia-Indonesia (IAI) Senior Officials' Dialogue on 21 September 2018 in Canberra.

Indonesian Parliamentary delegation of Commission I visited New Delhi from 27-31 October 2018 and called on Defence Minister Smt. Nirjala Sitharaman, MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), and Chairman of Prasar Bharti Dr. A. Surya Prakash.

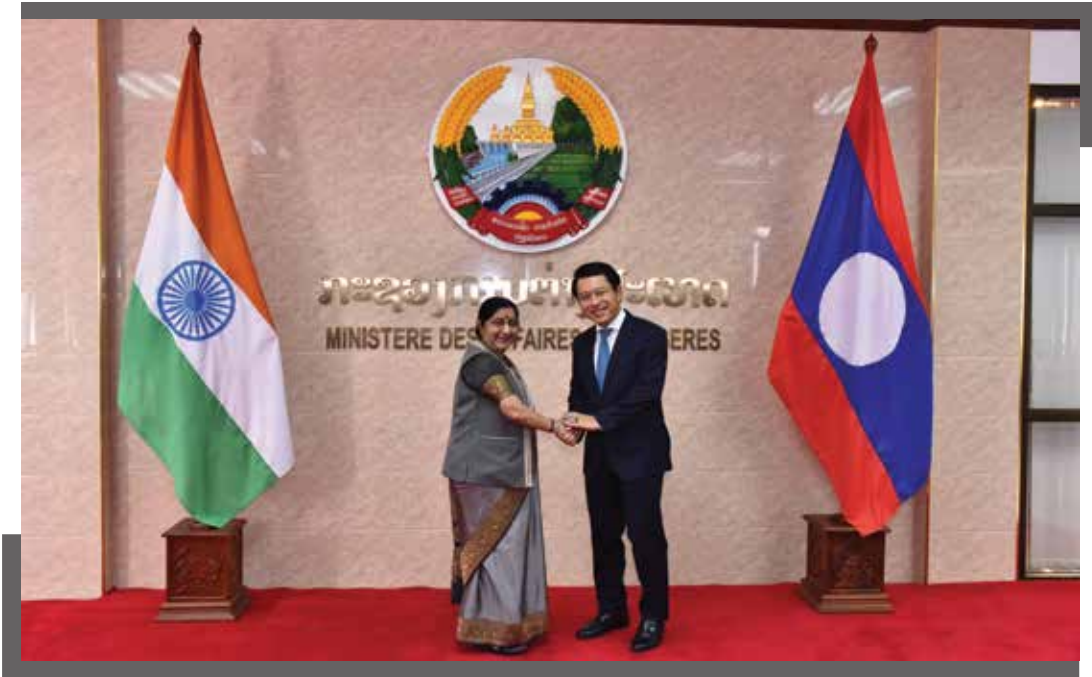
In association with the City Governments and major Universities, India Culture Week was held in Malang in April 2018 and in Surabaya in September 2018.

## LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (PDR)

Relations with Lao PDR continued to witness an upward trend. Mr. Thongphane Savanphet, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs led a five-member delegation from Laos Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attend the 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue in New Delhi on 19 & 20 July 2018. A delegation from Lao PDR attended a Workshop on Blue Economy held on the sidelines of the Delhi Dialogue.

MoS General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) met Foreign Minister of Lao PDR Mr. Prak Sokhonn on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Singapore on 2 August 2018.

Subsequent to MoU signed with the Ministry of Information and Culture in May 2007 for the restoration of the UNESCO world heritage site at Vat Phu, an ancient Shiva Temple, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) completed Phase I of



External Affairs Minister meets Saleumxay Kommasith, Foreign Minister of Lao PDR (November 23, 2018)

the project from 2008 to 2017 on restoration of Northern Quadrangle of Vat Phou premises and started restoration work on Phase II of the project (2018-2028).

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Vientiane on 22 & 23

November 2018 and co-chaired the 9th India-Lao PDR JCM along with her Lao counterpart. During the visit, she called on Prime Minister of Laos Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith and discussed various issues of bilateral cooperation and the future roadmap for enhancing the same. Both countries have agreed to increase



External Affairs Minister calls on Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of Lao PDR in Vientiane (November 23, 2018)

cooperation in the energy and mining sector, transport, trade and investment, human resource development and agriculture among other fields. India has been providing scholarships to Lao students and officials each year to attend long-term and short-term training in India. India has also provided low-interest rate loans to Lao PDR in the fields of agriculture and energy and grants in information communication technology.

The Laos-India Centre of Excellence in Software Development and Training aimed to build high-level human resources capable of developing practical software solutions to boost national socio-economic development, was inaugurated in Vientiane on 26 November 2018 with India's financial and technical support.

## MALAYSIA

India and Malaysia enjoy a robust, multi-faceted relationship spanning a wide range of areas. 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. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Malaysia on 31 May 2018 to congratulate the newly elected Malaysian Prime Minister Mr. Tun Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad. During the visit, both leaders reviewed the existing bilateral relations and agreed on the roadmap for strengthening bilateral cooperation. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also met Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail during the visit.

Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, President of Parti Keadilan

Rakyat visited India from 8-12 January 2019 and gave valedictory address to Raisina Dialogue 2019. During his visit, he called on Prime Minister Modi and EAM. He also visited Bengaluru on 11 January 2011 and met the Chief Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy and IT Minister of Karnataka, Dr. G. Parameshwara and interacted with Indian IT companies.

MoS Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) met the Malaysian Foreign Minister on the sidelines of AMM in Singapore on 2 August 2018. Malaysia's Human Resources Minister Mr. YB M. Kulasegaran paid a maiden working visit to India from 7-12 October 2018. He called on EAM, Finance Minister, IT Minister and Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension to discuss issues of bilateral significance.



Prime Minister meets Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia in Putrajaya, Malaysia (May 31, 2018)



Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia calls on Prime Minister in Kuala Lumpur (May 31, 2018)

Defence cooperation between the two countries received a significant boost this year. The eleventh round of Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Meeting (MIDCOM) was held in Kuala Lumpur from 20-22 November 2018, where Defence Secretary Shri Sanjay Mitra, led a six-member Indian delegation. A key outcome of the MIDCOM was the signing of an MoU on Cooperation in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

The seventh Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks were held in Kuala Lumpur on 4-7 July 2018. Indian Navy has been a regular

participant at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) in Malaysia and Indian Naval Ships and Indian Coast Guard Ships frequently make port calls at Malaysian Ports. INS Kamotra paid a port call at Kota Kinabalu from 13-17 May 2018. The first ever company level Army Field Training Exercise (FTX) was held in Malaysia from 30 April-11 May 2018. Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshall Shri B. S. Dhanoa visited Malaysia from 5-8 September 2018. An IAF contingent comprising 130 all ranks conducted the first ever bilateral air exercise at Subang Air Base in Malaysia from 18-23 August 2018.

## NEW ZEALAND

India's relations with New Zealand are marked by goodwill and friendship as the successive governments in New Zealand have been attaching priority to India-New Zealand relations. There has been a regular exchange of visits. Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya paid a one-day visit to Auckland on 24 April 2018 and interacted with the Indian diaspora. Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Shri Jaswantsinh Bhabhor visited New Zealand on 22 & 23 May 2018. Besides interaction with the community, he visited several places of importance to the

indigenous Maori population of New Zealand. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare visited New Zealand on 1 June 2018. In addition to Ministerial visits, official delegations from the National Defence College, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and a business delegation from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) visited New Zealand for interaction with their counterparts. Track-II dialogue with New Zealand was held in New Delhi on 23-25 April 2018. An Indian delegation led by Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional

Secretary, Ministry of Commerce participated in the RCEP negotiations in Auckland from 18-27 October 2018.

New Zealand Minister of Agriculture, Bio-Security, Food Safety, Rural Communities and Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth Mr. Damien O'Connor met Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu on the sidelines

of the EAS in Singapore on 14 November 2018. Mr. Ben King, Deputy Secretary, Asia and Americas Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade visited India from 3-5 February 2019. During the visit, he co-chaired the Foreign Office Consultation with Smt Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (East) on 5 February 2019.

## THE PHILIPPINES

The year 2018 marked the 70 years of diplomatic relations and saw a renewed vigour in the India-Philippines partnership. The activities of ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held in India provided added impetus as various Filipino delegations from political, defence, economic, culture, youth, media, think tanks and universities visited India. In November 2018, celebrations for 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between both the countries began and to commemorate this, the Festival of India is scheduled to be held in 2019.

Philippines' Mr. Jose Ma Joey Concepcion was awarded the Padma Shri by President of India for his contribution in the field of Trade and Industry at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in March 2018.

MoS Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) met with Foreign Affairs Secretary of Philippines, Mr. Alan Peter Cayetano in Singapore on the sidelines of 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and related meetings in August 2018. The JWG in the field of Health and Agriculture was concluded in Manila in April and May 2018 respectively. Also, the Air Services Talks between both countries were held on 11 & 12 July 2018 that resulted in an Air Services Agreement after thirteen years.

The visit of Secretary National Defense of the Philippines in March 2018 has opened new vistas of cooperation especially with regard to defence exports. A Joint Defence Industry and Logistics Committee (JDILC) delegation visited India, an IN aircraft P81 carried out an aerial exercise in the Sulu area and in Benham Rise area, and India has offered a line of credit of US\$ 100 million to the Philippines. Besides, the Indian Navy multi-role missile Destroyer INS RANA was on a goodwill

visit to the Philippines from 23- 26 October 2018.

Commercial ties have been strengthened. Despite a global downturn, there has been a substantial increase in two-way trade. The GMR Mega wide conglomerate successfully completed a new terminal at Cebu-Mactan International Airport, which was inaugurated by President Mr. Rodrigo Duterte on 7 June 2018. GMR has also won a project for Clark International Airport expansion. Philippine investment to India is also growing and a Philippine company AG&P is reportedly investing over US\$ 400 million in LNG projects in South India.

The Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC), for the first time held its flagship Technology Expo INDEE 2018 in Manila in August 2018 in which around 75 Indian companies participated. EEPC also signed an MoU with Philippines-India Business Council (PIBC) on mutual cooperation for furthering business relations between both the countries.

Ambassador of India to the Philippines handed over a cheque from Government of India amounting to US\$ 200,000 (a grant announced in November 2017 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his visit to the Philippines) to Mahaveer Philippine Foundation Inc. (MPFI) to provide free prosthetic limbs developed in India (Jaipur foot) to the needy Filipino amputees on 27 April 2018.

There has been growing cultural contacts, not only in terms of performing and visual arts but also through exchanges and seminars. Twenty-five students from the Philippines were in

India under the ASEAN-India Student Exchange Programme in May 2018. In addition, two Filipino journalists also participated in the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme in July 2018. A student of the University of Philippines in

Manila is currently studying Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan in Agra, under the scholarship scheme.

## SINGAPORE

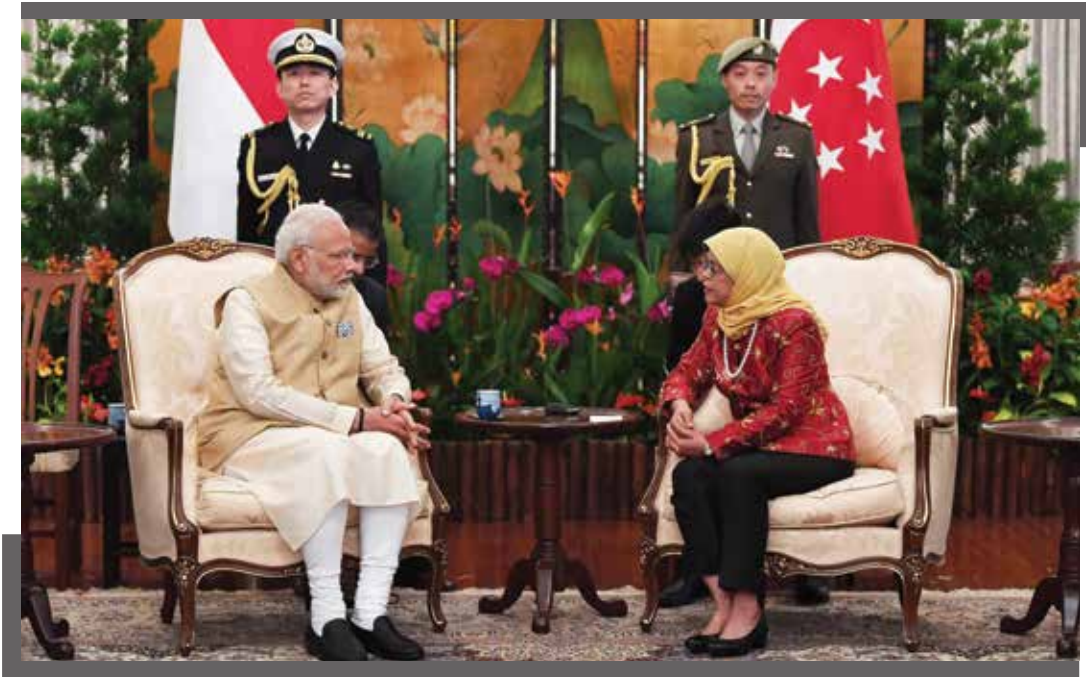
India and Singapore added new momentum and direction in their strategic partnership, anchored in the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Singapore from 31 May-2 June 2018 for an official bilateral visit and to deliver the keynote address at the 17th Shangri-La Dialogue and his second visit on 14 & 15 November 2018 for attending the ASEAN-India, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and EAS. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was the first Indian Prime Minister to deliver the keynote address at Shangri-La Dialogue. His visit in May-June 2018 witnessed over thirty-five concrete outcomes in the forms of MoUs, agreements and new initiatives including the Mutual Coordination of Logistics and Services Support Agreement, which will further boost bilateral naval cooperation. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also made a historic visit to Changi Naval Base, where he boarded Singapore & Indian naval ships and interacted with naval personnel. The two sides also renewed agreements on cybersecurity cooperation. On the economic side, the two sides completed the second review of the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), pending since 2010, commenced the third review

and signed the associated Mutual Recognition Agreement on Nursing. There were several MoUs in areas such as skill development, including one for collaboration in setting up the first Indian Institute of Skills; public administration and governance; urban planning and development, including in waste management and water recycling; trade and investment promotion; and, logistics and infrastructure. Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman visited New Delhi from 8-10 January 2019 to participate in Raisina Dialogue. He had a meeting with MoS General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd) on 8 January 2019.

Science and technology and innovation, start-ups and fintech emerged as a new and key area of bilateral engagement. The two governments signed an agreement to set up a JWG on Fintech. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi witnessed the first international launch of India's financial products-RuPay Card, BHIM-UPI App and UPI-based cross-border remittance App. NITI Aayog and professional Indian diaspora associations (including alumni associations of IITs and IIMs) signed an



Prime Minister and Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore at the India-Singapore Enterprise & Innovation Exhibition (May 31, 2018)



Prime Minister calls on President of Singapore Halimah Yacob (June 1, 2018)

MoU to support digitalisation and innovation in India. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also witnessed several agreements between Nanyang Technological University and leading Indian institutions for cooperation in areas like new technologies (Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blockchain), academic research and space technology. As an innovative mechanism for promoting Indian handicrafts abroad and support the rural livelihood, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a platform at the Indian Heritage Centre to bring Indian artisans to Singapore on a regular basis. Ahead of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a plaque at the site of the immersion of a portion of Mahatma Gandhi's ashes in Singapore in March 1948.

Cooperation in innovation and digital technology received another boost during the Prime Minister's November visit. The two sides completed an India-Singapore Hackathon for university students, which Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had proposed during his earlier visit. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also became the first Head of Government to deliver the keynote address at the Singapore Fintech Festival, the world's largest event in this area with nearly 40,000 participants, where he projected India's success in financial

inclusion and digitalisation as a means for economic progress and empowerment. He also launched a global digital platform, APIX, to connect fintech companies and banks, starting with India and ASEAN.

There was a regular exchange of high-level bilateral visits as a result of deepening cooperation across the full spectrum of the relationship and Singapore's role as Chair of ASEAN this year. High level visits from India included visits by Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu; Minister for Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari; Defence Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman; MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.); MoS for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar; MoS for Youth Affairs and Sports Col. (Retd.) Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore; Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Chandrababu Naidu; Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat; and state delegations from Gujarat, Punjab, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Apart from these, more than 150 delegations comprising Member of Parliaments, Secretaries and senior officials from India visited Singapore.

From Singapore side, Minister for Finance, Mr. Heng Swee Keat; Minister of Communications and Information and

Trade Relations, Mr. S. Iswaran; Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan; Defence Minister, Dr. Ng Eng Hen; National Development, Minister Mr. Lawrence Wong; Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development, Mr. Desmond Lee; and Senior Minister of State for Transport and Health, Dr. Lam Pin Min visited to attend various events in Delhi as well as meetings in states. Minister Mr. S. Iswaran was the only foreign minister to attend the inaugural 'Destination Uttarakhand: Investors Summit in Dehradun in October 2018.

The year also saw the successful launch by High Commission of India in Singapore of a start-up engagement platform, India-Singapore Entrepreneurship Bridge (InSprenur), which had two well-attended conferences in January 2018 and June 2018. The 2nd edition of InSprenur featured an exhibition of 31 start-ups from India and Singapore, which also had the opportunity to interact with the two Prime Ministers. A Private Initiative, "New India Innovation hub" that offers 50,000 sqft free rental space in Singapore for Indian start-ups looking to enter Singapore and ASEAN was announced in the visit.

Singapore is a major economic partner for India. It is a leading source and destination for India's investments. Connectivity between Singapore and India further improved this year. While Guwahati was connected by a Druk Air Flight in August, Pune and Vijayawada were connected in December 2018 by Indian carriers. Singapore is now directly connected with eighteen cities through 576 weekly flights in both directions operated by nine airlines.

The highlight of the year was the 25th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), held over two weeks in November 2018 in the Bay of Bengal/ Andaman Sea area, with more than twenty ships, aircraft and submarines from both sides participating in the exercise. Singapore Army held their annual joint training exercise with India in November 2018. This year eleven Indian Navy and Coast Guard ships visited Singapore.

The two sides maintained the momentum of institutional exchanges. Defence Minister of Singapore Dr. Ng Eng Hen attended SIMBEX and co-chaired Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD) in November 2018. The Annual Secretary-level Defence Policy Dialogue and Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks

were held in April 2018, the Defence Technology Steering Committee Meet (DTSC) in August 2018, the Defence Working Group (DWG) meeting in September 2018, and Bilateral Intelligence Exchange in October 2018. The Bilateral Agreement for Conduct of Joint Training and Exercises in India was renewed in DMD.

Cultural exchanges, including in performing arts, theatre, museum exchanges, art, and languages continued to grow. Singapore's large Indian diaspora and Singapore's official support, including through the Indian Heritage Centre, sustained a high level of cultural activity in Singapore, supported by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Mission. During his visit in May-June 2018, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited three places of worship of three different faiths with links to India, located on the same street, to highlight India's ancient connection with the region, and released a book "India-Singapore: Ancient Route, New Journey" brought out by the High Commission of India.

The inaugural edition of the Hindustan Times (HT)-MINT Asia Leadership Summit was held in Singapore in April 2018. India- Singapore Strategic Dialogue, a track II initiative was held in August 2018. It was organised by CII, Ananta-Aspen Centre and National University of Singapore (NUS). The fourth International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated through 173 yoga sessions in 117 centres in collaboration with 30 organisations, and attended by approximately 8000 people, while the hashtag #IDYSG2018 created more than 76 million impressions.

Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations were launched with a projection of Gandhiji's video on the world's largest high definition video screen at Suntec Convention Centre and an inter-school quiz competition. Smt Ila Gandhi, the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, visited Singapore for a series of talks and seminars on Mahatma Gandhi. The Mission marked the 125th year of the historic speech by Swami Vivekananda at the Parliament of World's Religions and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary by organizing well-attended seminars. The Mission also celebrated Hindi Divas with Centre for Language Studies of the National University of Singapore in September, Mission and ICCR supported the eighth Edition of Dance India Asia Pacific (DIAP) in August-September 2018.



## TIMOR LESTE

MoS for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar visited Dili, Timor Leste from 7-10 April 2018 as Special Envoy of the Government of India. The visit was aimed at strengthening the bonds of friendship between India and Timor Leste. During the visit, an MoU in the field of health care and public health was signed between the two countries which would open new avenues of cooperation in the extension of affordable health care to people of Timor Leste. MoS General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) met Foreign Minister of Timor Leste on the sidelines of the AMM in Singapore in August 2018.

Ambassador of India to Timor Leste Shri Pradeep Kumar Rawat led a six-member Indian business delegation representing education, health, energy and transportation sectors to Dili on 20-22 August 2018. The delegation called on Mr. Francisco Guterres Lu Olo, President of Timor Leste and Mr. Taur Matan Ruak, Prime Minister of Timor Leste and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations with a view to explore possibilities of enhanced cooperation in the developmental goals of Timor Leste. The delegation also had detailed discussions at Timor Leste Chamber of Commerce (CCI), National University of Timor Leste and at the UN house.

## THAILAND

India's relations with Thailand continued to strengthen during the year. Thailand is the country-coordinator for India-ASEAN strategic Partnership since August 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Thai Prime Minister Mr. Prayut Chan-o-cha on the sidelines of the fourth BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu on 31 August 2018 and also on sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and related meetings in Singapore on 14 November 2018 during which both leaders discussed the bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

Defence Minister Smt. Nirjala Sitharaman visited Thailand from 26-29 August 2018, during which she called on Thai Prime Minister and held delegation-level talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Gen. Prawit Wongsuwan. She also visited HTMS Chakri Naruebet, the aircraft carrier and Naval Special Warfare Command of Royal Thai Navy. Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, led a delegation to Thailand on 17 & 18 April 2018. He spearheaded two events "Forum on Investment Opportunities in Food Processing" and "Forum on Investment Opportunities in Luxury/Wellness Tourism" in Bangkok. He paid a working visit to Nava Nakorn Industrial Estate. A "Uttarakhand Tourism Roadshow" was organised on 17 April 2018 in Bangkok. A seminar on "India: Your Destiny, Your New Destination" with a focus on Uttarakhand was organised jointly by the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand and Embassy on 18 April 2018.

From Thai side, Energy Minister Mr. Siri Jirapongphan visited Delhi for participation in the International Energy Forum on 11 & 12 April 2018. On 19 July 2018, Mr. Chaisiri Anamarn, Advisor to Foreign Minister visited New Delhi to attend the Delhi Dialogue as Special Envoy of Thai Foreign Minister. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited India from 26-29 November 2018. Her India visit included visits to Delhi, Tripura and Manipur. Thai Foreign Minister Mr. Don Pramudwinai met EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi during his visit to India on 30 November 2018.

The 2nd India-Thailand Army to Army Staff Talks were held from 11-13 July 2018 in Thailand. The 10th Indian Navy-Royal Thai Navy Staff Talks were held from 16-18 July 2018 in Delhi. The 8th Indian Air Force-Royal Thai Air Force Staff Talks were held from 6-10 August 2018 in Delhi.

Adm Luechai Ruddit Commander-in-Chief Royal Thai Navy visited India from 18-20 December 2018. During the visit, he called on Raksha Mantri, held discussion with Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba and visited INS Kolkata and INS Sindhuvijay at Western Naval Command at Mumbai. Technical Agreement on White Shipping Information Exchange between India and Thailand was signed on 19 December 2018.

Ms Pornpimol Kanchanalak, Advisor to Thai Foreign Minister visited India for Raisina Dialogue from 8-10 January 2019.



Prime Minister meets Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand on the sidelines of BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu (August 31, 2018)

During her visit, she had a meeting with Smt Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (East) on 9 January 2019.

The cultural cooperation between the two sides continued to progress. An MoU was signed between ICCR and Chiang Mai University (CMU) for the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies on 28 May 2018 making it the first ICCR Chair outside Bangkok.

The 4th IDY was celebrated in Bangkok on 17 June 2018 by Embassy with support from local partners and community. Separate yoga events were organised in Hai Yai (Songkhla province), Chiang Mai, Rayong and Khon Kaen on 10 June, 17 June, 23 June and 24 June 2018 respectively.

Former Indian Ambassador to Thailand Shri Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi had an audience with His Holiness Somdet Phra Ariyawongsakhottayan, Supreme Patriarch of Thailand on 27 June 2018 and handed over the Padma Shri Award and decoration.

The India Corner, a joint initiative of Indian Embassy and Thammasat University was inaugurated at Pridi Banomyong International College on 20 August 2018. The aim of the India Corner is to provide books and periodical magazines to the students of

Thammasat University in general and also be the centre of learning for Indian Studies Program and Indian Studies Centre.

Embassy in collaboration with UNESCAP observed International Day of Non-Violence and the commencement of the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October 2018 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok.

MoU for ICCR Hindi Chair between Thammasat University, Bangkok and ICCR were renewed for three years on 12 October 2018. Thammasat University Rector Assistant Professor Gasinee Witoonchart and Charge d'affaires Shri Abbagani Ramu signed the MoU in the presence of around 50 persons from University faculty, Indian Embassy and Community.

Admiral Luechai Ruddit Commander-in-Chief Royal Thai Navy visited India from 18-20 Dec 2018. During the visit he called on Raksha Mantri, held discussion with Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba and visited INS Kolkata and INS Sindhuvijay at Western Naval Command at Mumbai. Technical Agreement on White Shipping Information Exchange between India and Thailand was signed on 19 December 2018.

Ms Pornpimol Kanchanalak, Advisor to Thai Foreign Minister visited India for Raisina Dialogue from 8-10 January 2019. During her visit she had a meeting with Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (East) on 9 January 2019.

In 2019, upcoming events are the 5th India-Thailand Foreign Office Consultations, the 7th Annual Defence Dialogue and the 1st North East India Festival from 8-10 February 2019.

## VIETNAM

India-Vietnam relations have witnessed a remarkable level of engagement in 2018 beginning with the official visit of Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and as a Guest of Honour at the Republic Day. The momentum was carried forward with the State Visit of former President of Vietnam (Late) Mr. Tran Dai Quang to India from 2-4 March 2018. President Shri Ramnath Kovind undertook a three-day State Visit to Vietnam, his first to Southeast Asia, from 18-20 November 2018 accompanied by MoS for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Anant Kumar Hegde and Members of Parliament Dr. Heena Gavit and Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa. During this visit, four agreements were signed including MoU between the Ministry of Information and Communications of Vietnam and Ministry of Communications of India; MoU between the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and Jawaharlal Nehru University

and a Cooperation Agreement between the CII and Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI).

Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman undertook an official visit to Vietnam from 12-15 June 2018. During the visit, she held talks with the Minister of National Defence of Vietnam and called on the President of Vietnam and the fourth India-Vietnam Defence Industry Business Meet was held in Hanoi. She laid the foundation stone for the Army Software Park in Nha Trang for which Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced a US\$ 5 million grant during his visit in 2016.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Hanoi from 26-28 August 2018 to co-chair the 16th Joint Commission Meeting and to inaugurate the 3rd Indian Ocean Conference. During the visit, seven MoUs were signed with the People's Committee



President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Tran Dai Quang, the President, and the Prime Minister at the Ceremonial Reception, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on March 03, 2018.

of Ninh Thuan province for implementation of grants-in-aid social infrastructure projects for the benefit of the Cham community in the province to the tune of US\$ 1.5 million. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Chancery premises during the visit.

Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Shri Giriraj Singh undertook a study visit to Vietnam from 4-6 September 2018 to explore opportunities for enhancing cooperation in the MSME sector. Former MoS Shri M. J. Akbar visited Hanoi from 10-13 September 2018 to attend the World Economic Forum on ASEAN.

Under the Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP), a delegation from Assam led by Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal including Members of the Legislative Assembly and farmers visited Vietnam in May 2018. Similarly, a delegation from the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) led by Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Quang, Secretary of the Party Committee of Quang Nam province visited India from 16-20 October 2018.

The 10th round of the Foreign Office Consultations and the seventh Strategic Dialogue were held in New Delhi on 9 April 2018. The Indian side was led by former Secretary East Smt Preeti Saran and the Vietnamese side by Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Dang Dinh Quy. Led by Defence Secretary and Vice Minister of National Defence of Vietnam Sr. Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chi Vinh, Annual Security Dialogue at Defence Secretary level was held on 1 August 2018 in New Delhi. Following the signing of an MoU between the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam and National Security Council Secretariat of India in November 2016, the first Deputy Ministerial level Security Dialogue was held in July 2018 in Hanoi between Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) and Vice Minister of Ministry of Public Security.

The bilateral economic engagement has witnessed a remarkable spurt with a trade of US\$ 12.83 billion for 2017-18. During the first nine months of 2018, bilateral trade reached US\$ 10.76 billion, registering an increase of 25.21% vis-à-vis the corresponding period of 2017. To maintain the high growth momentum, exchange of business delegations between the two countries has facilitated efforts to explore opportunities for trade and investment. A road-show to

promote the second Source India 2018 was organised in Hanoi by the Synthetic Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) on 16 July 2018. A two-member Telecommunications Consultants India delegation, visited Vietnam from 20-23 August 2018 to work with concerned authorities in Vietnam related to the implementation of Smart Digital Village project in Vietnam. On 27 & 28 September 2018, the second India-ASEAN ICT Expo, 2018 under the theme "Digital Connectivity in the Industrial Revolution 4.0", was held in Hanoi, Vietnam and the Indian delegation was led by Shri Ravi Kant, Member (Services), Telecom Commission. A delegation from Navayuga Group visited Vietnam from 23-27 October 2018 to explore the possibility of cooperation in the high-tech agricultural sector. During the President's visit to Vietnam on 19 November 2018, Vietnam-India Business Forum was organised that saw the participation of 400 Vietnamese and Indian businessmen including over sixty from India led by CII in coordination with FICCI, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) and IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Fourth India-Vietnam Joint Sub-Commission on Trade was held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 22-23 January 2019.

A six-member delegation led by Mr. Hoang Quoc Vuong, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade visited India to participate in the 16th International Energy Forum Minister Meeting from 9-14 April 2018. A thirteen-member delegation led by Mr. Cao Quoc Hung, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade participated in fifth India CLMV Business Conclave organised by the CII in association with the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 21 & 22 May 2018.

Ongoing development partnership projects between India and Vietnam continued and new projects have been initiated. Vietnam has been a large recipient of training programmes under the ITEC programme. Presently, 130 ITEC slots are being offered to Vietnam every year along with twenty scholarships under the General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS); four scholarships announced during PM Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Vietnam in September 2016 for Buddhist and Sanskrit studies for Vietnam Buddhist Sangha, fourteen scholarships under the Educational Exchange Programme (EEP) and ten scholarships under the MGC Scholarship

Scheme. Five projects under the Quick Impact Projects scheme are currently being processed for implementation in various provinces of Vietnam.

Defence Cooperation has been a significant pillar of India's Comprehensive 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 continue to be a significant component in this relationship. India currently offers sixty-seventy ITEC slots every year to Vietnamese defence personnel. Indian training teams from the Army, Navy and Air Force are located in Vietnam providing various language, technical and operational training to personnel of the Vietnamese armed forces.

High-level exchanges between the two armed forces continued during the year. These included visits by the Commander-in-Chief of Vietnam People's Air Force to India in October 2018, Chief of the Indian Army Staff to Vietnam in November 2018, and Commander-in-Chief of Vietnam People's Navy in December 2018. The Annual Young Officers' exchange between the two Armies and Air Forces and the Youth Exchange between National Cadet Corps (NCC) of India and Youth Federation of Vietnam is ongoing. Second Army-to-Army Staff Talks were conducted in Vietnam in October 2018. The 3rd Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks are scheduled to be held in Vietnam in December 2018 and 2nd Air Force-to-Air Force Staff Talks scheduled in the first quarter of 2019 in Vietnam.

Indian ships regularly make friendly port calls to Vietnam. Three INS Sahyadri, Kamorta and Shakti undertook goodwill visits to Da Nang in May 2018. In September 2018, INS Rana made a port call to Ho Chi Minh City. For the first time, a Vietnam Coast Guard ship CSB 8001 sailed outside Vietnam's immediate neighbourhood to Chennai, India in October 2018.

The contract between M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd. and Vietnam Border Guards for the procurement of twelve offshore patrol vessels as part of the US\$ 100 million Line of Credit extended by India is under implementation.

Cultural engagement between the two countries has been robust and there is a huge interest in Indian culture among the Vietnamese people. The fourth IDY celebrations witnessed participation of thousands of Vietnamese people across various cities with passion and enthusiasm. Yoga, Veda and Sanskrit classes and a number of events have been organised at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in Hanoi. The SVCC celebrated Ganesh, Dussehra and Diwali festivals in 2018.

The ASI started a five-year project of conservation and restoration of the UNESCO World Heritage Site at My Son in central Vietnam in end-February 2017. The second working season for ASI team ended in June 2018. The Jaipur Foot artificial limb fitment camp was organised in collaboration with Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayta Samiti (BMVSS) in July 2018 in Phu Tho and Vinh Phuc provinces of Vietnam benefitting over 500 Vietnamese citizens and helping them to lead fulfilling and dignified lives.

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## **PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES**

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### **COOK ISLAND**

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IDY 2018 was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the Cook Islands on 16 June 2018. The event was graced as Chief Guest by Mr. Anthony Turua, Secretary of Culture, Government of

Cook Islands and saw the participation of over eighty Yoga enthusiasts.

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### **FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (FSM)**

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Bilateral relations between the two countries are cordial though minimal. The relations have seen intensification since

the initiation of the Forum of India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). In multilateral fora, FSM has been supporting India's

candidature to international bodies, such as International Court of Justice (ICJ) and International Maritime Organization (IMO). India has ongoing developmental cooperation with FSM

in the spirit of South-South cooperation and is committed to share our developmental experience with them. As of 2018, there are thirty-seven Indian nationals in FSM.

### FIJI

India's relations with Fiji are strengthening. Bilateral interaction was more extensive and diversified, which included bilateral visits, development partnership, ITEC, cooperation in education and health sectors, and cultural exchanges.

Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS for Health and Family Welfare visited Fiji in May 2018. During the visit, the Minister called on the Speaker of the Fijian Parliament Dr. Jiko Luveni and met with the Fijian Minister of Health Ms. Rosy Akbar. The Minister re-inaugurated the Indian Cultural Centre, Suva as Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Suva in the presence of the Attorney General of Fiji Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum. During the occasion, Minister handed over a cheque of FJ\$ 1,704,586.80 (eq. US\$ 840,000) to the Attorney General of Fiji towards Government of India's continued assistance to the Government of Fiji's SME sector.

MoS for Road Transport, Highways, Shipping, Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya visited Tonga on 25 & 26 April 2018. On his return during a stop-over in Nadi, Fiji, Minister addressed a gathering of the members of the Indian community and diaspora associations at Girit Centre in Lautoka on 26 April 2018. During the event, Minister presented Grant cheques to diaspora associations and mementos to the members of the community in recognition of their contribution to the successful organisation of Namaste Pacifika Festival by High Commission of India, Suva.

Mr. Yogesh Karan, Permanent Secretary to the Office of Prime Minister of Fiji with Ms. Amelia Kotobalavu Katoa Komaisavai, Chief Assistance Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister of Fiji attended the first General Assembly of the ISA in New Delhi on 2-5 October 2018.

On the sidelines of UNGA on 27 September 2018, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met Rear Admiral (Retd.) Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji (who is also the Foreign Minister). Fiji Prime Minister Mr. Bainimarama acknowledged India's many contributions to Fiji's development, culture and

people-to-people exchanges. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had announced support of US\$ 5 million to Fiji's Small and Medium Enterprises and US\$ 2.2 million has already been disbursed, while the remaining US\$ 2.8 million is being disbursed in phases during 2018-19.

INS Sahyadri made a goodwill port of call at Suva on 13-16 August 2018 after returning from multinational biennial naval exercise Rim of Pacific (RIMPAC) in Hawaii. During the port of call, INS Sahyadri undertook several joint activities with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF). On 15 August 2018, a National Day Reception was organised on-board; Prime Minister of Fiji was the Chief Guest. The ship crew also organised a free medical screening camp in Suva during the visit.

India, along with Australia and Indonesia, co-chaired the Multinational Observers Group (MOG) for Fiji General Election 2018. A two-member delegation from Election Commission of India led by Shri Mukesh Chandra Sahu, Chief Election Officer, Assam took part in the MOG. The Government of India also supported the Fijian Elections Office by gifting five Mahindra SUV vehicles and 6000 bottles of indelible ink.

In pursuance of Ministry's programme of events being organised to mark 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the High Commission organised LED projection of slides on Gandhiji's life and teachings at India House on 2 October 2018.

In collaboration with PHD Chamber of Commerce, the High Commission organised a "Best of India Show" at Suva from 19-21 October 2018 showcasing Indian businesses. Over forty Indian companies participated in the Show and held B2B meetings with Fijian buyers. High Commission of India jointly with Nadi Chamber of Commerce and Industry held the second meeting of the India-Fiji Business Forum in Nadi on 4 August 2018 focusing on India-Fiji trade relations.

IDY 2018 was celebrated as Yoga Week through 16-24

June 2018 at a large scale in Fiji. There were three events in cities of Fiji namely, Labasa, Suva and Lautoka. ICCR sponsored 10-member Tapasya, a contemporary dance group performed in the Reception of 72nd Independence Day, which

was celebrated on-board INS Sahyadri on 15 August 2018, Hibiscus Festival, Suva on 14 August 2018, Friendly North Festival, Labasa on 23 August 2018 and Lautoka Girit Centre on 24 August 2018 during their tour on 16-22 August 2018.

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## KIRIBATI

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Kiribati ratified the Framework Agreement of the ISA and became the full member this year. Mr. Ruateki Tekaiara, Minister for Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy along with Mr. Albert Brechtefeld, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Development of Kiribati attended the first General Assembly of the ISA in New Delhi

on 2-5 October 2018.

IDY 2018 was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Kiribati on 20 June 2018 at Betio Sports Complex, Tarawa, Kiribati. President Mr. Taneti Maamau graced the event as the Chief Guest and also performed Yoga asanas.

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## NAURU

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President of Nauru Baron Mr. Divavesi Waqa sang the famous hymn "Vaishnav Jan" as part of the celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed a personal message of thank you President Waqa for his gesture.

3-6 September 2018 and presented India's Statement at the Dialogue Partners Forum. On the sidelines of the event, High Commissioner handed over twenty two Mahindra SUVs to President of Nauru as Government of India's support to Nauru for hosting the Forum. The vehicles were used during the Forum by the visiting Heads of States and made a tremendous impact of 'Made in India' vehicles in Nauru.

MoS Defence Dr. Shri Subhash Bhamre, visited Nauru on 16-18 May 2018. This was the first-ever ministerial visit to Nauru from India. The visit was also historic as Nauru celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Constitution Day on 17 May 2018 and the Minister attended the celebrations as the Chief Guest. Minister met with all the dignitaries of the Nauruan Government, including the President of Nauru and the entire Cabinet of the Nauru Government.

Mr. Berilyn Jeremiah, Secretary of Commerce, Industry and Environment along with Ms. Rosie Eredette Harris, Consul General of Nauru to Australia attended the first General Assembly of the ISA in New Delhi on 2-5 October 2018.

High Commissioner Shri Vishvas Sapkal represented India at the 49th Pacific Islands Forum Summit held in Nauru on

IDY 2018 was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 22 June 2018 in Nauru. President Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa graced the event as the Chief Guest and also performed yoga asanas.

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## NIUE

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Niue is a beneficiary of India's development assistance. The first phase of the fourth Telecom Project funded by the Government of India is nearing completion. Niue has

requested further assistance to extend the coverage of this project. Work is progressing on setting up of Centre of Excellence in IT in Niue.

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## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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India-Papua New Guinea (PNG) relations are warm and friendly. There has been increased overall bilateral activity between India and PNG in the year 2018. MoS General

(Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) met Foreign Minister of PNG Mr. Rimbink Pato on the sidelines of the AMM in Singapore in August 2018. A three-member Indian delegation, comprising

representatives of the EXIM Bank of India and the MEA visited PNG from 25-29 November 2018 and met the local authorities to finalise the Agreement on LoC of US\$ 100 million between the Export-Import Bank of India for the purpose of financing infrastructure related projects (US\$ 60 million for Bayer-Madang road project and US\$ 40 million for Hoskins-Kimbe road project) in PNG. The delegation also visited the site of Hoskins-Kimbe road project.

Mr. Sam Basil, Minister for ICT and Energy visited India to attend the Founding Conference of the ISA held in New Delhi on 11 March 2018. Chief Electoral Commissioner Mr. Patilias Gamato led a three-member PNG Election Commission delegation to Bengaluru from 10-16 May 2018 to witness Karnataka Assembly elections and interacted with BEL officials regarding the purchase of EVMs/VVPATs for Local Level Government elections in PNG. A two-member delegation consisting of Manager, Electricity-Energy Division, Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology & Energy and First Secretary to the Minister of Communication visited New Delhi to attend the first General Assembly of ISA in October 2018.

The Government of India announced a grant of US\$ 1 million for the earthquake relief in PNG. The refurbishment work at the premises for the India-PNG Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) at the University of PNG is expected to be completed by December 2018 with the financial assistance from the Government of India under

the South-South Cooperation. The Government of India has provided hardware, software and course material and training of master trainers for the CEIT.

M/s KEC International Ltd. signed a Rs. 489 Crore (Kina 227 million) contract funded by JICA Japan for Ramu Transmission Systems Reinforcement Project with PNG Power Limited on 13 September 2018. Essar Projects (PNG) Limited, an Indian Company, won a new project in PNG for the Madang Airport upgrade worth Kina 77.5 million (US\$26 million). A contract to this effect was signed on 14 November 2018 in Port Moresby with National Airports Corporation, HBS (PNG) Limited, and NAC Board. It is an ADB-funded project to build a new terminal building to replace the existing one. India's development assistance to PNG is worth-noting. Four PNG students have undergone ITEC training in India.

The fourth IDY was celebrated in conjunction with the University of PNG on 21 June 2018. Around 150 yoga enthusiasts participated in the Yoga. Teacher of Indian Culture (TIC) conducted yoga sessions. Mr. Sasindran Muthvel, Governor, West New Britain Province, who is also Pravasi Bharatiya Sammaan Awardee was Chief Guest on the occasion. An MoU between ICCR and the PNG University of Technology, Lae, was signed on 17 August 2018 by the High Commissioner Shri Vijai Kumar, on behalf of ICCR, for the establishment of a long-term ICCR Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Technology.

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## REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS (RMI)

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The year 2018 is historic, as it saw the first Ministerial visit from India to RMI. MoS Human Resource Development Shri Upendra Kushwaha paid an official visit to RMI on 10 & 11 July 2018. During the visit, MoS Shri Upendra Kushwaha called on Dr. Hilda Heine, President of the RMI and held wide-ranging discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. John M. Silk and several Cabinet members of the RMI. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations and reaffirmed commitment to further advance ties in a host of areas such as the blue

economy, adaptation-mitigation practices for climate change, disaster preparedness, health, education, renewable energy among others.

On a request from the RMI side, India committed to extending a grant of US\$ 300,000 for a Water and Sanitation Project Proposal of Aur Atoll Local Government. A sum of US\$ 150,000 for the project has been extended as the first tranche to RMI.

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## REPUBLIC OF PALAU

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India's developmental partnership has been expanding with Palau and Government of India has executed several projects

in Palau under the US\$ 200,000 annual PIF grant. The year 2017 and 2018 was declared the 'Year of Family' and 'Year of



Health' respectively by the Government of Palau, for which annual grants have been provided by India. Two participants from Palau received training as Solar Mammals at the Barefoot College in Jaipur. India's Ambassador to Palau participated in the celebration of the 24th Anniversary of the Republic

of Palau's Independence on 1 October 2018. On 2 October 2018, the President of Palau Mr. Tommy E. Remegasau Jr. and Ambassador jointly hosted Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations in Palau. The President of Palau led the celebrations of IDY on 21 June 2018.

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## **SAMOA**

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India's developmental cooperation with Samoa continued to expand. MoS Tribal Affairs, Shri Jaswantsinh Bhabhor, visited Samoa from 20-23 May 2018 as Special Envoy. This was the first ever ministerial visit from India to Samoa. During his visit, he interacted with the Deputy Prime Minister as well as other Ministers. The discussion covered various aspects of bilateral cooperation.

Samoa concluded an agreement with Apollo hospitals in India to send critically ill patients at government expenditure for treatment to India. The agreement also covers visits by doctors from India to conduct training programmes for Samoan doctors. Work is progressing on setting up of Centre of Excellence in IT in Samoa.

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## **SOLOMON ISLANDS**

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Solomon Islands-India relations have been friendly. This year two Solomon Islands nationals attended the ITEC training courses. Fourth IDY was celebrated with great fervour.

Mr. Jonathan Auna, a Solomon Islands national, sung and produced the poem "Vaishnav Jan To" as a part of celebrations of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

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## **TONGA**

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MoS for Road Transport, Highways, Shipping, Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya visited Tonga on 25 & 26 April 2018. During the visit, Minister called on the Prime Minister of Tonga Mr. Akilisi Pohiva and handed over the immediate relief assistance of US\$ 500,000 out of the US\$ 1 million assistance announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Gita. During the visit, the Minister also met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Finance and National Planning as well as the Minister of Agriculture of Tonga.

Tonga ratified the Framework Agreement of the ISA and became a full-fledged member of the ISA. Mr. Poasi Mataele Tei, Minister for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster management, Environment, Climate Change and Communication along with Mr. Ofa Kiolahau Sefana, Energy Specialist attended the first General Assembly of the ISA in New Delhi from 2-5 October 2018. IDY 2018 was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Tonga on 16 June 2018. Ofcina, Chief Executive Officer from Ministry of Health, Government of Tonga inaugurated the event.

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## **TUVALU**

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MoS for Health and Family Welfare Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey visited Tuvalu from 29-31 May 2018 on a first-ever ministerial visit from India to Tuvalu. During the visit, Minister met with all the important dignitaries of the country, including the Head of State, Head of Government and several Ministers of the Tuvalu Cabinet.

Mr. Mackenzie Kiritome, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs along with Mr. Fakavae Taomia, Chief Executive Officer, Foreign Affairs attended the first General Assembly of the ISA in New Delhi from 2-5 October 2018. IDY 2018 was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Tuvalu on 20 June 2018. The event was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu Mr. Enele Sopoaga.

### VANUATU

High Commissioner handed over a cheque of US\$ 200,000 to the Prime Minister of Vanuatu Mr. Charlot Salwai on 25 July 2018 in Suva towards Government of India's grant assistance to the Government of Vanuatu for evacuation and rehabilitation of populations from Ambae islands in the wake of volcanic eruptions on the islands. Prime Minister Mr. Charlot Salwai appreciated this timely assistance and thanked the Government of India and called it "a friend in need is a friend indeed". Vanuatu ratified the Framework Agreement of ISA and became the full-fledged member of the ISA. Mr. Gary Erick, Principal Scientific Officer, Rural Electrification attended the first General Assembly of the ISA in New

Delhi from 2-5 October 2018. IDY 2018 was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The event was inaugurated by the Acting Director of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Vanuatu Mr. Mike Masauvakalo.

Under the 'Climate Early Warning Systems' project funded through India-United Nations (UN) Development Partnership fund and implemented by UNDP, Suva, seventeen officials from Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federative States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Solomon Islands & Tonga departed for one-month hydrology training at National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, India on 19 June 2018.

### ASEAN

#### ASEAN-India Film Festival

Ministry organized the 1st India-ASEAN Film Festival in New Delhi from 25-30 May 2018 in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Thirty-three classical and contemporary films from the ASEAN Member States, including three films from India, were screened during the six-day long festival. In parallel, panel discussions were arranged on the subjects of filmmaking and editing, cooperation in joint production of films and marketing, etc.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation

The MEA in partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and ASEAN-India Centre at RIS organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation in Bhubaneswar on 8 & 9 June 2018. The event, attended by high ranking officials from thirteen EAS countries, was inaugurated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The Conference discussed issues relating to Maritime Cooperation, Maritime Security, Maritime Safety, Good Order at Sea, Blue Economy and Sustainable use of Ocean Resources.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> India-ASEAN Workshop on Blue Economy

Blue Economy is increasingly seen as a driver of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. In ASEAN and India, Blue Economy is identified as a new pillar of economic activity in the coastal areas and linked hinterlands through sustainable tapping of oceanic resources. With a view to promoting the development of Blue Economy in the region and enhancing India-ASEAN cooperation in Blue Economy, the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-ASEAN Workshop on Blue Economy was organized at New Delhi on 18 July 2018. The participants of the Workshop adopted ten policy recommendations, which were handed over to the EAM at the Inaugural Plenary of the Delhi Dialogue X, held in New Delhi on 19 & 20 July 2018.

#### Delhi Dialogue X

Delhi Dialogue is an annual Track 1.5 forum for discussing politico-security, economic and socio-cultural issues between ASEAN and India. The 10th anniversary edition of Delhi Dialogue (DDX), held on 19 & 20 July 2018 in New Delhi on the theme "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation", was attended by three Cabinet Ministers, four Ministers of State, one Senior Official from ASEAN Member States (AMS) apart from the Deputy Secretary-General from the ASEAN Secretariat. Over 400 delegates, featuring political leaders, policy makers, senior officials, diplomats,



Prime Minister with leaders of RCEP member states at 2<sup>nd</sup> RCEP Summit 2018, Singapore (November 14, 2018)

business leaders, think tanks and academicians from India and AMS also participated in the event. In her address, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj emphasized on a forward looking agenda that seeks to recapture our common maritime heritage. Some of the areas she identified where ASEAN and India could cooperate and work together were Blue Economy, Maritime Safety and Security to include Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), countering terrorism and piracy at sea, and countering transnational crime.

### Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting

The Mekong Ganga Cooperation is the first and the oldest Mekong initiatives and is a significant part of India's 'Act East Policy'. The 9th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting was held in Singapore on 2 August 2018. MoS Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) led the Indian Delegation. India and MGC countries decided to expand cooperation in different sectors including tourism, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Micro, Small and Medium



Leaders of East Asia Summit member nations at 13<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit Plenary Session in Singapore (November 15, 2018)

Enterprises (MSME), education, disaster management, water, health, and agriculture etc.

## ASEM Summit

Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu led the Indian Delegation to the 12th ASEM Summit which was held in Brussels, Belgium from 18 & 19 October 2018. At the Summit, the Vice President joined other global leaders in unanimously stressing the role of ASEM as a main platform for Europe and Asia to strengthen dialogue, foster cooperation and tackle global challenges, such as climate change, terrorism, global peace and security, maritime governance, preserving and strengthening rule-based multilateral trading system, and working towards 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. During his interventions, the Vice President called on the international community to take concerted action against terrorism, including cross-border terrorism that threatens peace and stability and early conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. He drew the leaders' attention to the challenges arising out of criminal misappropriation of public assets by economic offenders and asked the ASEM partners to work together for denying shelter and for the expeditious and timely exchange of financial information.

## ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM+)

The fifth ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+) was held in Singapore on 20 October 2018. Defense Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian Delegation. The ministers discussed global issues like the situation in the Korean peninsula, South China Sea, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and cyber threats. Specific joint statements on Preventing and Countering the Threat of Terrorism and Practical Confidence Building Measures to ensure the safety of air routes and sea lanes was issued at the meeting.

## ASEAN-India Informal Breakfast Summit

PM Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore on 14 & 15 November 2018 was primarily to attend ASEAN-related Summits and provide further momentum to the rapidly growing relationship with the ASEAN region, especially since the enunciation of the 'Act East Policy' by India in 2014. The year 2018 saw two India-ASEAN Summits being held viz. India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on 25 January 2018 and India-ASEAN Informal Breakfast Summit held in Singapore on 15 November 2018, which highlighted the growing importance of India-ASEAN relationship. During the India-ASEAN Informal



Prime Minister with leaders of ASEAN countries at ASEAN-India Informal Breakfast Summit 2018, Singapore (November 15, 2018)

Breakfast Summit in Singapore, attended by the leaders of all the ten ASEAN Member State, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasized on the salience of ASEAN's unity and centrality in India's 'Act-East Policy'. He commended the consensus-driven approach of ASEAN and advocated for an open and inclusive Regional Security Architecture based on ASEAN Centrality. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed support for deepening trade and investment relations with ASEAN and emphasized the importance of improving regional connectivity with ASEAN, including land, sea and digital connectivity. Referring to his Shangri-La Dialogue addressed at Singapore on 1 June 2018, PM Shri Narendra Modi observed that the principles outlined by him on the Indo-Pacific have found wider resonance and acceptance within the region.

### East Asia Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also attended the 13th East Asia Summit, a premier Leaders-led forum in the Indo-Pacific Region, in Singapore on 15 November 2018. The leaders discussed issues of global concern, including terrorism, cyber-security, non-proliferation, the Korean peninsula, South China Sea etc. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke of India's vision of Indo-Pacific and expressed the need for closer cooperation between EAS and other ASEAN-led security mechanisms such as the ADMM+. He underlined the centrality of trade and investment in enhancing prosperity and security of the Indo-Pacific. He joined EAS Leaders in the adoption of five EAS Statements on topical issues such viz. Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Returnees; Marine Plastic Debris; Smart Cities; Safe and Secure use of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials; ICT and Digital Economy. In particular, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi commended EAS for the adoption of EAS Statement on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Returnees and hoped that the cooperation between the member states will move beyond statements and towards more practical cooperation.

### Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement

RCEP is a proposed comprehensive Free Trade Agreement which is being negotiated between ten ASEAN Member States and their six FTA partners namely India, Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand. The RCEP is intended to deepen economic engagement comprehensively amongst the participating countries. Two Leaders' Summit Meetings, 12 Ministers' Meetings and 24 rounds at the experts' level have taken place so far. In the RCEP Summit held in Singapore on 14 November 2018 to review the ongoing negotiations, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi underlined that the early conclusion of the RCEP could spur economic growth and support job creation. He expressed satisfaction at the substantial progress made in the negotiations thus far and emphasized India's commitment to conclude an effective and comprehensive, agreement that is balanced, satisfactory and mutually beneficial.

### The India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit, 29 & 30 November 2018

The India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit was organized by the Department of Science and Technology in partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 29 & 30 November 2018 on the theme "Accelerating towards Innovative Development". The objective of the summit was to showcase game-changing Technologies and Innovative products from India and the ASEAN region for possible business engagements and tie-ups. The summit, attended by over 300 delegates and forty exhibitors, was an interactive and integrated event that provided a platform for all stakeholders from innovation ecosystem to interact including an exhibition from innovators to promote their product ideas and facilities to conduct Business to Business (B2B) and Business to Government (B2G) meetings.

# 3

## EAST ASIA

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### JAPAN

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The India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, forged during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan in 2014, continued making significant strides in 2018 and remained a cornerstone of India's Act East Policy.

The highlight of the bilateral relationship in 2018 was the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan on 28 & 29 October 2018 which showcased the increasing convergence of our interests and values as two important democracies and opened new avenues for our partnership. During the visit, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan made a special gesture by hosting Prime Minister Modi for a tête-à-tête at his ancestral home at Yamanashi prefecture on 28 October 2017, the first instance of a Japanese Prime Minister extending such hospitality to any foreign dignitary.

The Annual Summit was an important opportunity to review the recent progress in the multi-faceted relationship.

Phrase deleted. The Summit also witnessed word deleted new milestones in India-Japan bilateral cooperation as highlighted by several announcements, such as Japan joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA), launching of an Annual Space Dialogue for enhancing bilateral cooperation in outer space etc. and signing of agreements in diverse areas such as economic partnership, digital and new technologies, healthcare, postal services, science & technology, academic exchanges, environment, and sports. Government-to-Business (G2B) and Business-to-Business (B2B) agreements and Exchange of Notes of Loan Agreements for Official Development Assistance (ODA) by Japan in areas like infrastructure, forest management etc. were also signed during the Summit. India and Japan also identified specific connectivity/infrastructure projects and areas of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, including Africa and expressed willingness to expand their cooperation in the region with like-minded nations.



Bilateral defence engagements are an important component of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership for achieving shared strategic objectives. Decisions taken during the Prime Minister's visit to Japan in October 2018 to institute the Foreign and Defence Ministerial '2+2' Dialogue, commence the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement negotiations between the armed forces of the two countries, and sign the Implementation Arrangement for Deeper Cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force reflected the growing convergence in strategic interests and mutual understanding between the two sides. Apart from the Malabar trilateral naval exercise with US off the coast of Guam in June 2018, India and Japan also engaged each other in bilateral exercises between the three components of their armed forces: Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) in Vishakhapatnam in October 2018, Dharma Guardian Army Exercise in Mizoram in November 2018 and SHINYUU Maitri Air Exercise in Agra

in December 2018, with the latter two exercises being held for the first time. The Coast Guards of the two countries also held a bilateral exercise in January 2018.

Subsequent to the Annual Summit, the two Prime Ministers participated in the first ever India-Japan-US trilateral Summit Meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Argentina in November 2018.

Prior to the Annual Summit in October 2018, the momentum in the bilateral relationship was sustained throughout the year by successful and regular high-level exchanges between the two countries. Important visits to Japan from India included the visit of the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj for the 9th Strategic Dialogue in March 2018, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar in April 2018 for the 7th Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR), and the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh in July 2018 for the



Prime Minister in tete-a-tete with Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan at his Villa in Yamanashi (October 28, 2018)

Symposium on Shared Values and Democracy in Asia (under Samvad framework); and Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kirin Rijju in October 2018. State delegations from Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh also visited various cities in Japan to build provincial-level partnerships and held road shows and meetings for attracting investments from Japan.

Notable visits from Japan to India in the year 2018-19 included visit of: Foreign Minister Taro Kono in January 2019 for the 10th India-Japan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi; Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) Mr. Hiroshige Seko in May 2018 for participating in the 9th Energy Dialogue and inaugurating the India-Japan Startup Hub in Bengaluru, Japanese Defence Minister Mr. Itsunori Onodera for the Annual Defence Ministers Meeting in August 2018, Minister for Justice, Mr. Takashi Yamashita, in January 2019, Minister in charge for Economic Revitalization, Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi in January 2019, National Security Advisor to Prime Minister Abe, Mr. Shotaro Yachi, for the 4th round of National Security Advisor-level Dialogue in October 2018, Special Advisor to Prime Minister Abe, Dr. Hiroto Izumi for the 8th JCM on MAHSR in September 2018, State Minister for METI, Mr. Yoshihiko Isozaki for Vibrant Gujarat Summit in January 2019, and State Minister of Environment, Mr. Tadahiko Ito, to attend the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) in September-October

2018, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism, Mr. Masatoshi Akimoto in May 2018 for the MAHSR project.

Some of the other important high-level interactions that were held in the run-up to the Annual Summit in October 2018 were: 6th edition of the DPD (Defence Policy Dialogue) and 5th edition of the Vice-Ministerial level 2+2 Dialogue in New Delhi in June 2018, 7th round of Consultations on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and Export Control, 4th round of Maritime Affairs Dialogue and the 7th Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi in July 2018, 2nd meeting of the JWG on Nuclear Energy Cooperation in Mumbai in September 2018, 5th round of JWG on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in New Delhi in August 2018, 6th round of the JWG on IT and Electronics in Tokyo in September 2018, word deleted 2nd meeting of the Act East Forum in New Delhi in October 2018, 3rd India-Japan Tourism Council Meeting, and 4th India-Japan Shipping Policy Forum in New Delhi in January 2019.

Interactions between parliamentarians of the two countries continued with a delegation of five Japanese parliamentarians led by Mr. Shinjiro Koizumi visiting India in August 2018. President of Japan's House of Councillors, Mr. Chuichi Date, also led a 4 member Parliamentary delegation to India in January 2019.



Japan continued to be an important partner for India's economic transformation. Japanese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for FY 2017-18 was US\$ 1.6 billion and currently, Japan ranks third among the major investors in terms of cumulative investments since 2000. Indian investment in Japan in the first quarter of 2018 was US\$ 384.8 million with total investment crossing US\$ 1 billion. There are 1,441 Japanese companies (as of October 2018) registered in India, an increase of 5% as compared to the previous year. Japan is also one of the largest bilateral partners in India's efforts for accelerated economic development particularly in priority areas like power, transportation, environment, and projects related to basic human needs. In 2017-18, Japan committed Japanese Yen 389.62 billion under its Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) programme in India.

Japan continued its contribution to advance skill development in India in 2018 with establishment of 3 more Japan-India

Institute for Manufacturing (JIM) in Haryana, Gujarat and Kerala, bringing the total number of JIMs to 8.

People-to-people exchanges are at the core of the India-Japan partnership and both sides continued to focus on expanding cultural, educational, parliamentary, academic, and Track 1.5 engagements in 2018. Links between States in India and Prefectures in Japan and Sister Cities of the two countries were further strengthened with New Delhi and Fukuoka (January 2018) and Karnataka and Mie (March 2018) renewing their partnership agreement. Currently, seven Indian states and three cities/regions in India have partnered with the prefectures and cities of Japan through MoUs to cooperate in diverse sectors. To further the bilateral exchanges, a Japanese Language Teachers' Training Center was set up in New Delhi with the initiation of the first Teachers' Training Course for Japanese Language (July 2018) for the promotion of Japanese language in India.

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## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK)

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Since the inception of diplomatic relations in December 1973, relations between India and the DPRK have been cordial. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) paid an official visit to DPRK on 15 & 16 May 2018 at the invitation of the DPRK government. During the visit, the MoS held discussions with Mr. Kim Yong Dae, Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, Mr. Ri Yong Ho, Foreign Minister, Mr. Pak Chun Nam, Minister of Culture and Mr. Choe Hui Chol, Vice Foreign Minister of DPRK on a range of issues covering political, regional,

economic, educational, and cultural cooperation between the two countries. India welcomed the inter-Korean Summit meetings held in Panmunjom (27 April 2018) and Pyongyang (18-20 September 2018) and the USA-DPRK Summit Meeting (12 June 2018) held in Singapore, expressing hope that such engagements will help in reducing tensions and pave the way for lasting peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. India underscored its desire that the resolution of inter-Korean issues also include addressing proliferation-related concerns.

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## REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK)

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India-ROK bilateral relationship, elevated to the level of Special Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to ROK in 2015, gathered further momentum with the state visit of ROK's President Mr. Moon Jae-in to India from 08-11 July 2018. During the visit, both countries discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional, and global issues and issued a vision statement outlining a shared vision for people, prosperity, peace and future. Reiterating their support to conclude the ongoing upgradation of a comprehensive economic partnership agreement signed in 2010, both leaders welcomed the conclusion of the Early

Harvest Agreement and committed to achieving US\$ 50 billion in trade volume by 2030. In addition, both leaders discussed possible synergies between India's Act East Policy and South Korea's New Southern Policy, cooperation in the defence industry and future technologies. Both countries concluded eleven MoUs/Agreements in wide-ranging areas spanning from cultural cooperation to Information Communications Technology (ICT) & biotechnology. Both leaders attended the inauguration of a Samsung mobile plant in Noida, which is going to be a major 'Make in India' initiative with an investment of nearly US\$ 750 million.



Prime Minister and Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea traveling together in Delhi Metro en route to Noida for inaugurating manufacturing unit of Samsung Electronics (July 9, 2018)



External Affairs Minister calls on Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea in New Delhi (July 09, 2018)

Mrs. Kim Jung-sook, First Lady of the Republic of Korea visited India from 4-7 November 2018 at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to participate in the Deepotsav event organised by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. She also led the ground-breaking ceremony for the new memorial of Queen Suriratna (Huh Hwang-ok) in Ayodhya on 6 November 2018. During her visit, she also

met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj.

Other important events in 2018 include the visit of the Speaker of ROK's National Assembly Mr. Chung Sye-kyun to India from 7-10 March 2018 and the visit of ROK Defence Minister Mr. Young Moo-song on 9 & 10 August 2018.

## MONGOLIA

India's traditionally friendly and cordial relations with Mongolia have steadily improved over the years, following Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's historic visit to Mongolia in May 2015 when bilateral relations were upgraded to Strategic Partnership. A number of high-level visits took place in 2018 between the two countries. Mr. N. Enkhbold, Minister of Defence of Mongolia visited India in March 2018 and held bilateral talks with India's Defence Minister, the National Security Advisor (NSA) and the Chief of Army Staff.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj, paid an official visit to Mongolia on 25 & 26 April 2018 at the invitation of Mr. Damdin Tsogtbaatar, Foreign Minister of Mongolia. This was the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to Mongolia in forty-two years. During her visit, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj held talks with her Mongolian counterpart and also called on the President of Mongolia, Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga, Prime Minister, Mr. Ukhnaagiin

Khurelsukh and Speaker of the Great Khural (Mongolian Parliament), Mr. Mиеyegombo Enkhbold.



External Affairs Minister calls on U. Khurelsukh, Prime Minister of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar (April 25, 2018)

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj also co-chaired the 6th India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation Meeting (IMJCC) along with Foreign Minister Mr. Tsogtbaatar on 25 April 2018. During the IMJCC, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and the Mongolian Foreign Minister discussed issues related to political, strategic, trade & economic, cultural, and educational cooperation. They also reviewed the progress on various projects announced during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Mongolia in May 2015.

The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, paid an official visit to Mongolia from 21-24 June 2018. During the visit, the Home Minister called on the President of Mongolia, Mr. K. Battulga and held talks with Prime Minister, Mr. U. Khurelsukh, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. U. Enkhtuvshin, and the Minister

of Justice and Home Affairs, Mr. T. S. Nyamdorj on wide-ranging issues of bilateral interest, including cooperation between India and Mongolia on disaster risk reduction, border management, and capacity building programmes in the security domain.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju visited Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, from 03-06 July 2018 to take part in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR). During this visit, the MoS (Home Affairs) presented India's country statement at AMCDRR and had separate meetings with Prime Minister, Mr. U. Khurelsukh and Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. U. Enkhtuvshin.

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## EURASIA

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### RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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The year-long celebrations marking the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of India-Russia diplomatic relations were concluded with a gala cultural evening hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on 13 April 2018 in New Delhi. The two countries continued the tradition of regular exchanges and interactions at all levels. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin held their first informal Summit in Sochi, Russia on 21 May 2018. The Summit provided an occasion for both leaders for an in-depth exchange of views on international and regional issues. The Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin visited New Delhi on 4 & 5 October 2018 for the 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit. He held official talks with the Prime Minister and also met the President of India. On the margins of the Summit, both leaders jointly addressed the first India-Russia Business Summit and interacted with a select group of talented children from India and Russia. During the course of the year, the two leaders also interacted on the sidelines of

the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) Summit in Johannesburg in July 2018 and at the Russia-India-China (RIC) Informal Summit held on the margins of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 30 November 2018.

Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Russia from 3-5 April 2018 to attend the 7th Moscow Conference on International Security. The Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) Shri Suresh Prabhu visited Vladivostok on 11 & 12 September 2018 to represent India at the 4th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF). CIM also met the Governors/Vice Governors and representatives of Russian regions and Russian Far-Eastern regions - Primorye, Yakutia, Sakhalin, Amur, Magadan, Kamchatka, Khabarovsk, and Tatarstan on the sidelines to discuss possibilities of bilateral cooperation in sectors like mining and geological exploration, agriculture, water cooperation, and tourism.



Prime Minister meets Vladimir Putin, President of Russia in Sochi  
(May 21, 2018)

The External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Moscow on 14 & 15 September 2018 to co-chair the 23rd session of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Yuri Borisov. She also met Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during the visit.

The Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Mr. Nikolai Patrushev visited India on 6 & 7 December 2018. He met National Security Advisor Mr. Ajit Doval and called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Parliamentary relations with Russia were further strengthened with the visit of a delegation led by the Speaker of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Mr. Vyacheslav Volodin on 9 & 10 December 2018. Mr. Volodin met Speaker of the Lok Sabha Smt Sumitra Mahajan. He also called on Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Shri Narendra



External Affairs Minister meets Sergey Lavrov, External Affairs Minister of the Russian Federation (September 13, 2018)

Modi during the visit. The 5th meeting of the India-Russia Parliamentary Commission took place during the visit.

Russian Defence Minister Mr. Sergei Shoigu visited New Delhi on 12 & 13 December 2018 to co-chair the 18th India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) with Defence Ministry Smt Nirmala Sitharaman.

MEA's Secretary (East) led a composite seven-member delegation to Moscow for the 10th meeting of the India-Russia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism (July 2018). Foreign Office consultations on multilateral issues were held at the level of Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Sergei Ryabkov in Moscow in August 2018.

General Shri Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, visited Russia from 1-6 October 2018 on an official bilateral visit. The Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Shri Sunil Lanba visited Russia from 26-29 November 2018. He held discussions with the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy and spoke in the Valdai Club on "Maritime Security of India".

Bilateral trade showed a growth of more than 21% in 2017-18 over 2016-17. In 2017-18, bilateral trade was US\$ 10.69 billion. Both sides undertook important initiatives with the

aim of achieving the trade target of US\$ 30 billion set for 2025. The first India-Russia Business Summit was held on 5 October 2018 on the margins of the India-Russia Annual Summit. Pursuant to the decision taken during the 19th bilateral summit, the 1st India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held in St. Petersburg on 26 November 2018, led by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog and Mr. Maxim Oreshkin, the Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation. The Strategic Economic Dialogue focused on five core areas - transport infrastructure, agriculture and agro-processing sector, small & medium business support, digital transformation & frontier technologies, and industrial & trade cooperation - in order to identify areas where both the sides could work together to further improve their cooperation.

Bilateral cultural ties between the two countries received a boost with the visit of the President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Shri Vinay Prabhakar Sahasrabudhe to Moscow and St. Petersburg for the International Indological Conference from 24-26 April 2018. The ongoing Festival of India had a grand inauguration on 6 September 2018 at the Kremlin Palace and continues till 31 March 2019 with performances of ten troupes representing different facets of Indian culture scheduled to be held across twenty-two Russian cities.

## ARMENIA

India and Armenia have warm and friendly relations. An India-Armenia joint postage stamp was released in Yerevan on 29 August 2018 by the Deputy Minister of Transport, Communication, and Information Technologies Mr. Armen Arzmyanyan. It depicts the Armenian "Hov Areq" folk dance and Indian Manipuri dance. A joint philately exhibition was also held on the occasion. The 150th Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated on 2 October 2018 with the launch of seven postage stamps issued by Department of Posts, Government of India.

The Deputy Minister of Education and Science Mr. Hovhannes Hovhannisyan led a four-member delegation to participate in

the 14th FICCI Higher Education Summit in New Delhi from 30 October - 1 November 2018.

India's assistance in the treatment of children afflicted with thalassemia was appreciated by Armenia. Government of India donated thalassemia medication to the chemotherapy clinic of the Muratsan Children Hospital of the Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU). The donated medicines will be sufficient for a two-year course of the patients. The same medicines were earlier also donated to the YSMU in 2013 and 2016.

## AZERBAIJAN

The highlight of the India-Azerbaijan bilateral relations in 2018-19 was the visit of the EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj to Baku (4-6 April 2018) to attend the mid-term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). This was the first-ever visit of the External Affairs Minister of India to Azerbaijan since the latter's independence in 1991. The EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj called on President Ms. Lham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and held a bilateral meeting with her counterpart Foreign Minister Mrs. Elmar Mammadyarov. The two foreign ministers signed a bilateral agreement on visa exemption for diplomats, officials, and service passport holders which came into effect from 6 September 2018.

The 5th meeting of the India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation was held on 11 & 12 October 2018 in New Delhi. It was co-chaired from the Indian side by the Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu and by the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Mr. Mukhtar Babayev of Azerbaijan. The two sides reviewed the current status of their bilateral trade and investment cooperation during the IGC meeting.

A three-member Indian parliamentary delegation comprising Smt K. H. Muniyappa (Lok Sabha), Shri Chintamani Malviya



External Affairs Minister meets Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijan in Baku (April 04, 2018)

(Lok Sabha) and Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy (Rajya Sabha) visited Baku from 19-22 September 2018 to participate in the Solemn Meeting of the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Parliament of Azerbaijan.

India's cooperation in human resource development (HRD) and capacity building was much appreciated in Azerbaijan. The Ministry of External Affairs provided financial support of US\$ 16,000 for visit of Indian experts to Azerbaijan for supporting a project by the Azerbaijan Rural Investment Project (AzRIP) of the Ministry of Agriculture for economic empowerment of women in Azerbaijan. The project aims to transfer knowledge and experience of Indian experts in

setting up self-help groups and micro-finance to project participants selected by AzRIP from three different regions of Azerbaijan.

India-Azerbaijan bilateral trade continued to show strong growth and stood at US\$ 626 million for the year 2017-18. Indian delegations participated in various business fairs held in Azerbaijan, including the Azerbaijan Tourism & Hospitality Fair, Baku (5-7 April 2018), World Food Azerbaijan 2018 exhibition (16-18 May 2018), Caspian Oil & Gas 2018 exhibition (29 May to 1 June 2018) and Azerbaijan International Defence Exhibition (ADEX) (25-27 September 2018).

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## BELARUS

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India and Belarus relations witnessed a qualitative forward movement with the visit of a parliamentary delegation led by the Lok Sabha Speaker Smt Sumitra Mahajan to Minsk from 10-13 June 2018. During the visit, an agreement for cooperation between the Lok Sabha and the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus was signed.

The 9th meeting of the India-Belarus Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation was held in Minsk on 25 September 2018. It was co-chaired by the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri C. R. Choudhary. The

Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus Mr. Andrei Dapkiunas visited New Delhi for the India-Belarus Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi on 16 October 2018. He also called on the EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj.

Bilateral trade with Belarus in the year 2017-18 increased to reach US\$ 455 million from US\$ 402 million in the year 2016-17. A Work Plan between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy (BSAA) for the years 2018-2020 and an Agreement on Creation of the Joint Technology Demonstration Centre (JTDC) in India were signed between India and Belarus.

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## GEORGIA

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India-Georgia relations are warm and friendly. The period of an exhibition of relics of Georgian St. Queen Ketevan, which were loaned by the Government of India to Georgia in September 2017 for a period of six months, was extended for another six months i.e. till September 2018. St. Queen

Ketevan is held in great esteem by the people of Georgia.

Ambassador of India represented Government of India at the inauguration ceremony of Ms. Salome Zurabishvili as the President of Georgia in Tbilisi on 16 December 2018.

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## KAZAKHSTAN

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Several bilateral exchanges through the year maintained the momentum of India's friendly and warm relations with Kazakhstan. The EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj paid an official visit to Kazakhstan on 2 & 3 August 2018 where she held bilateral discussions with Foreign Minister Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov and called on Prime Minister Mr. Bakhytzhhan Sagintayev.

Mr. Askar Zhumagaliyev, the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) of Kazakhstan visited India from 19-22 September 2018 to study Digital India projects for possible cooperation in the 'Digital Kazakhstan' initiative taken by the Government of Kazakhstan during the year. He had a bilateral meeting with Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology Shri





External Affairs Minister and Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan hold India-Kazakhstan Bilateral Meet in Astana (July 3, 2018)

Ravi Shankar Prasad. He also met with the representatives of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and other major IT companies. A three-member delegation headed by Shri Deepak Chandra Mishra, Deputy Director General, National Informatics Centre (NIC), the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, visited Kazakhstan from 2-5 November 2018 as a follow up to the visit of the Kazakh DPM.

Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Astana from 2-4 October 2018 for bilateral talks on defence and military-technical cooperation with the Defence Minister Mr. Nurlan Yermekbayev and the Defence and Aerospace Industry Minister Mr. Beibut Atamkulov. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman and her Kazakh counterpart jointly presided over the flag-off ceremony for the Kazakh Peacekeeping Company which joined the Indian battalion at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) later that month. India and Kazakhstan, earlier on 21 August, had concluded an MoU on the joint deployment of a Kazakh Peacekeeping Company under the Indian Peacekeeping Battalion in the UNIFIL Mission.

Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Minister of State (HRD), led a four-member delegation to Kazakhstan from 15-18 October 2018 to participate in the 7th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Education Ministers Meet in Astana. He also had a bilateral meeting with his counterparts from Kazakhstan for

cooperation in the education sector. Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda the led a three-member delegation to Kazakhstan to attend the International Conference on Primary Health Care towards Universal Health Coverage & Sustainable Development Goals held on 25 & 26 October 2018 in Astana.

The 6th JWG meeting on Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Kazakhstan was held in Astana in July 2018. The total bilateral trade between India and Kazakhstan in 2017-2018 amounted to US\$ 981 million.

The 5th JWG meeting on Defence Cooperation was held in Astana from 30 May-2 June 2018. A joint protocol was signed upon the successful culmination of the JWG.

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in Astana continued its regular activities and conducted daily classes of Kathak and Bollywood dance, Indian music, and yoga. In addition, classes on 'Hindi for Beginners' were also started in July 2018. During the period, the SVCC also re-started Indian dance, music, and yoga classes at the Centre for Indian Music and Dance, Nazarbayev University, Astana. As part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, an exhibition of traditional Indian textiles, 'Vastram: The Splendid World Of Indian Textiles' was organised by the SVCC at the National Museum of Kazakhstan, Astana from 16 to 28 October 2018.

## KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

India and the Kyrgyz Republic have traditionally cordial and close relations. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the Kyrgyz President Mr. Sooronbai Jeenbekov in Qingdao, China on 11 June 2018, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated President Mr. Jeenbekov for assuming the Chairmanship of the SCO.

On 23 April 2018, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan Mr. Erlan Abdyldaev on the sidelines of the SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting and discussed cooperation in trade and investment, information technology, defence, films, human resource development, culture, and other areas.

The EAM paid a visit to Kyrgyzstan on 3 & 4 August 2018. She met with the Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Mr. Abdyldaev and also called on the President Mr. Jeenbekov.

The 9th meeting of the Kyrgyz-India Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technological cooperation was held in New Delhi on 15 & 16 November 2018. The IGC was led by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on the Indian side. The Minister of Health of Kyrgyzstan led the Kyrgyz delegation. Bilateral trade between India and Kyrgyzstan in 2017-18 amounted to US\$ 59.53 million, with India's exports to Kyrgyzstan standing at US\$ 28.59 million and imports from Kyrgyzstan at US\$ 30.94 million.



External Affairs Minister meets Erlan Abdyldaev, Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic in Biskek (July 03, 2018)

## TAJIKISTAN

India-Tajikistan bilateral relations received a fillip with the visit of the President of India Shri Ramnath Kovind to Tajikistan from 7-9 October 2018. He held bilateral meetings with the Tajik President Mr. Emomali Rahmon. President Shri Ramnath Kovind addressed students and scholars at the Tajik National University and the Indian community. Eight MoUs were signed during the visit. On 9 June 2018, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with the Tajik

President Mr. Emomali Rahmon on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Qingdao, China. Issues such as connectivity, trade and investment, and Afghanistan, amongst others, were discussed.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation at the 17th SCO Heads of Government meeting which was held in Dushanbe on 11 & 12 October 2018. On the margins of the



President meets Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan in Dushanbe (October 08, 2018)

meeting, she called on visiting Afghan Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and had a meeting with the Tajik Foreign Minister Mr. Sirojiddin Muhriddin. The EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj also addressed the local Indian community.

Former Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar visited Tajikistan from 1-5 May 2018 to attend an international conference on terrorism. He called on the President, Foreign Minister, Defence Minister and Secretary of the Tajik National Security Council.

Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, led the Indian delegation to the high-level conference on 'International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028' held from 20-22 June 2018 in Dushanbe.

Defence Secretary Shri Sanjay Mitra led the Indian delegation to Dushanbe for the 7th JWG meeting on Indo-Tajik Defence Cooperation which was held on 26 June 2018.

## TURKMENISTAN

India-Turkmenistan relations are warm and friendly. The two countries have ongoing cooperation in various spheres including hydrocarbons which is a major area of focus for both sides.

The EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Mr. Rashid Meredov met twice on 2 August 2018 and 13 September 2018 during the former's transit visits to Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan.

Mr. Mammetmyrat Geldinyazov, Turkmen Minister of Education, participated in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) in New Delhi on 30 September 2018.

Director-General of Doordarshan Ms. Supriya Sahu chaired the meetings of the 55th Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) General Assembly in Ashgabat from 30 September to 5 October 2018.

There were several exchanges between business delegations on both sides. A five-member Turkmen automobile sector delegation visited New Delhi and Pune from 8-12 July 2018. Fifteen Indian pharmaceutical companies participated in the International Health Expo 2018 from 20-23 July 2018 held in Ashgabat. A twenty-six member Pharmexcil delegation visited Ashgabat from 24-28 November 2018 to further explore business opportunities in the pharmaceuticals sector. A GAIL delegation visited Ashgabat on 20 November to participate

in the 23rd International Conference and Exhibition on 'Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan -2018'.

India-Turkmenistan bilateral trade for the year 2017-18 stood at approximately US\$ 80 million.

Cultural ties with Turkmenistan were further strengthened with the visit of a three-member Tabla group participating in the festival 'Ancient Cradle of Musical Arts' organized by the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan in April in Ashgabat. Yoga continues to be one of the most powerful links for boosting

India's bilateral relations with Turkmenistan. The Yoga and Traditional Medicine Centre established during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit on 11 July 2015 has been very popular with over 2,800 registered yoga practitioners, of which around 2,100 are practicing yoga on a weekly basis. The two-credit course of 'Yoga Therapy' continues to be held at the State Medical University with the help of Indian yoga teachers.

Medical tourism from Turkmenistan to India continues to be on the rise with the issue of 11,735 visas till November 2018 as against 2,047 visas in 2013.

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## UKRAINE

Bilateral relations between India and Ukraine in all spheres continued to be cordial. There was a visible reinvigoration in people-to-people contacts following the launch of direct flights by Ukraine International Airline (UIA) on the Kyiv-Delhi sector in May 2018. The popularity of Ukrainian medical universities amongst the Indian students remained high, placing India in the top position in terms of the number of foreign students in Ukraine.

First Deputy Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Mr. Oleh Hladkovskiy led a delegation to India to take part in the DefExpo 2018 held in Chennai from 11-14 April. Mr. Oleh had a meeting with the Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman on the margins of the DefExpo. The first-ever JWG meeting on defence cooperation between India and Ukraine was held in Kyiv from 4-6 June 2018.

A twelve-member Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) delegation in the field of Ayurveda products and services

sector visited Ukraine from 9-11 April 2018. In a related development, a Ukrainian Association of Ayurveda-Yoga was formed in September 2018 aiming to draw the attention of policy-makers in Ukraine to accept Ayurveda as an alternative medical practice. A multi-sectoral CII business delegation visited Ukraine on the 7 & 8 June 2018 to participate in an India-Ukraine Business Forum held at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce & Industry to explore business opportunities in Ukraine.

The International Day of Yoga celebrations held every year in June since 2015 have become a milestone for spreading yoga, peace, friendship, and Indian culture amongst the people of Ukraine. The 18th annual All-Ukrainian Indian Dance Festival named "Rhythms of Joy" took place in Kyiv on 27 & 28 October 2018 with over 250 participants from different cities of Ukraine. This annual event plays an important role in strengthening the cultural ties between the two countries.

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## UZBEKISTAN

India-Uzbekistan relations were further strengthened this year with the state visit of the President of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev to India on 30 September & 1 October 2018. It was President Mr. Mirziyoyev's first ever visit to India. During the visit, seventeen agreements/MoUs were signed in the fields of law, tourism, military education, agriculture, science and technology, commerce and industry, pharmaceutical, national security, and illicit trafficking, amongst others. India also announced a Line of Credit of US\$

200 million for Uzbekistan's various projects in the social sector with the further possibility of providing US\$ 800 million of Line of Credit and Buyer's Credit.

Other bilateral visits during the year included the following:

Foreign Minister Mr. Kamilov visited India in February 2018. Mr. Kamilov and the EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj had a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the SCO Foreign Ministers meeting in Beijing in April 2018. The EAM Smt



Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan inspects the Guard of Honour during his Ceremonial Reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan (October 01, 2018)

Sushma Swaraj paid an official visit to Uzbekistan on 4 & 5 August 2018. The EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met Mr. Kamilov, called on President Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister Mr. Abdulla Aripov and Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of Uzbekistan Mr. Nurdinjon Ismailov. She held an interaction with the Indian community of Tashkent, Uzbek Indologists, Hindi scholars, Indian Council on Cultural Relations (ICCR) alumni and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) students.

The 11th Session of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation was held on 16 August 2018 in Tashkent with Commerce & Industries Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu and Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sukhrob Kholmuradov co-chairing the session. India and Uzbekistan had a bilateral trade turnover of US\$ 324 million in 2017-18. Pharmaceuticals sector is a major arena of both trade and investment by India. Medical tourism to India has increased sharply in the recent past.

The Former Minister of State (MoS) Shri M. J. Akbar visited

Uzbekistan for the 5th India-Central Asia Dialogue on 14 & 15 September 2018 in Samarkand, jointly organized by the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies, Tashkent. He also participated in the Seminar on India-Uzbekistan Relations from Ancient to Modern Times on 14 September 2018 in Tashkent.

In the field of defence cooperation, exchanges took place in the area of military medicine, high-altitude warfare, and training. Defence Minister of Uzbekistan Major General Abdusalom Azizov visited India from 4-7 September 2018.

India-Uzbek cultural ties continued to grow during the year. Uzbekistan was represented at the 11th World Hindi Conference in Mauritius held on 18-20 August 2018 by Dr. Ulfat Mukhibova, Head of the Department of South Asian Languages and Director, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Indological Studies, Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies. Ms. Zilola Sobirova, an alumna of the of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, was selected by the MEA for the “Mantra Uchcharan” at the conference.

## SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

India participated at various high-level meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) from April to November 2018 including the Heads of State meeting and the Heads of Government meeting.

The EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, attended the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting held in Beijing (23 & 24 April 2018). A Defence Minister-led delegation attended the SCO Defence Ministers meeting in Beijing (24 & 25 April 2018).



Group photo of External Affairs Minister with the Foreign Ministers of SCO Nations in Beijing (April 24, 2018)

A Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism-led delegation attended the SCO Tourism Ministers meeting in Wuhan, China (7-11 May 2018) and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture visited Sanya, China for the 15th SCO Culture Ministers meeting from 15-18 May 2018. Additional Solicitor General Ms. Pinki Anand, Ministry of Law and Justice attended the sixteenth SCO Prosecutors General meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan (20 September 2018).

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the official delegation to the Summit of Heads of State of SCO in Qingdao, China on 9 & 10 June 2018. The meeting was chaired by the President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Emomali Rahmon, and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev participated.

The Summit meeting was also attended by the Heads of State of Observer countries, viz. the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Mr. Ashraf Ghani, the President of the Republic of Belarus Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Hassan Rouhani and the President of Mongolia Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga.

At the Summit, a total of twenty-two outcome documents were signed including the Joint Communique and 'Appeal to Youth' against radicalization. Other documents signed pertained to Prevention of Narcotics Abuse, Environmental Protection, Fight Against the Threat of Epidemics, Trade Facilitation, Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs), and Customs and Tourism. Plan of Action for SCO Treaty on Long-term Good Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation for 2018-2022 and the Protocol on the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group were also signed.

The EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj attended the SCO Heads of Government (SCO-HoG) meetings on 11 & 12 October 2018. A Memorandum on Technical Cooperation in the field of Joint Prevention and Control of Trans-boundary and Epizootic Diseases was signed.

The Secretary-General of the SCO Mr. Rashid Kutbiddinovich Alimov visited India on 7 & 8 May 2018. Mr. Alimov called on the EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, the Minister of Road Transport and Highways, the Minister of Commerce & Industry, and the Minister for Culture (Independent Charge) during the visit.

India hosted the Preparatory Experts meeting for the SCO Joint Urban Earthquake Rescue Exercise in New Delhi on 1 & 2 November 2018, a precursor to the SCO Joint Urban Earthquake Rescue Exercise as well as the next meeting of the SCO Ministers of Emergency Situations to be held in India in 2019.



Rashid Alimov, SCO Secretary-General calls on Prime Minister in Qingdao, China (9th June, 2018)

India will be hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Joint Earthquake Response Rescue Exercises from 21-24 February, 2019 and the Preparatory Expert Meeting of concerned ministries/agencies of SCO Member States on 24 February 2019. The expert meeting will be followed by Meeting of Heads of Ministries of SCO Member States

responsible for prevention and elimination of emergency situations on 25 February 2018 in New Delhi. The above events will be organised by National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs.

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## THE GULF AND WEST ASIA

### BAHRAIN

India continues to enjoy excellent, deep-rooted, and historic ties with Bahrain, and the presence of a sizeable Indian community in Bahrain remains the cornerstone of India's bilateral relations with Bahrain. Bilateral trade recorded a 30% increase for the year 2017-18 increasing from US\$ 761.7 million in 2016-17 to US\$ 987.94 million in 2017-18.

The External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Bahrain to co-chair the Second High Joint Commission (HJC) Meeting between India and Bahrain held on 14 & 15 July 2018. The two sides discussed ways and means to expand cooperation in various fields, such as education, health, renewable energy, space cooperation, tourism, oil and gas, petrochemicals, security, defence, exchange of experts in the fields of food security, cyberspace and energy etc. Both sides signed (i) MoU on Cooperation in the field of healthcare (ii) MoU on Cooperation in the field of renewable energy and Agreement on Exemption from Visa requirement for holders



External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister of Bahrain Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmad bin Khalifa Jointly Inaugurated the Embassy of India Complex in Manama (July 14, 2018)





of Diplomatic & Special/Official Passports. During the visit, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the New Chancery Complex of the Indian Embassy.

The year witnessed deepened cooperation in the field of space as both countries agreed on the draft MoU in Space Cooperation. A three-member delegation led by Dr. Mohamed Al Aseeri, CEO of National Space Science Agency (NSSA) of Bahrain participated in the 'Bengaluru Space Expo' and held discussions with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

to identify possible areas of cooperation.

The Bahraini Oil Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa participated in the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi from 10-12 April 2018. A three-member Bahraini delegation on cyber security visited India on 23 & 24 April 2018 to discuss the way forward in strengthening cybersecurity cooperation between the two countries.

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## IRAN

The main highlight of India-Iran bilateral relations in 2018-19 was the visit of Iranian President Dr. Hassan Rouhani to India from 14-18 February 2018. Nine MoUs/Agreements were signed between India and Iran. The visit provided the required impetus to take forward bilateral relations after the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Iran in May 2016. The year 2018 witnessed enhanced bilateral and commercial exchanges at all levels.

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### High Level Visits

President Dr. Hassan Rouhani of Iran paid his first state visit to India from 14-18 February 2018 at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. President Rouhani was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Mr. Javad Zarif, Minister of Roads & Transport Dr. Abbas Akhoundi, Petroleum Minister Mr. Bijan Zangeneh,



Prime Minister, President and President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Hassan Rouhani at the Ceremonial Reception, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on February 17, 2018.

Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Mr. Masoud Karbasian and others. At the conclusion of the visit, a Joint Statement titled "Towards prosperity through greater connectivity" was released.

Dr. Abbas Akhoundi, Iran's Minister of Roads & Urban Development, visited India from 9-12 January 2018. He met Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, and Water Resources, Shri Nitin Gadkari and the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu and discussed bilateral issues of interest, including the development of the Chabahar port.

Mr. Bijan Zangeneh, Iran's Minister for Petroleum, visited India on 11 April 2018, to attend the 16th International Energy Forum in New Delhi. During the visit, Zangeneh held a meeting with Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and discussed bilateral cooperation, especially in the energy sector.

Foreign Minister Mr. Javad Zarif visited India on 28 May 2018 and held bilateral discussions with External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. The two sides positively assessed the implementation of decisions taken during the visit of President Rouhani to India. These included bilateral cooperation in the areas of connectivity, energy, trade, and promotion of people to people contacts.

Iranian Minister for Roads & Urban Development Dr. Abbas Akhoundi travelled to India for a two-day visit from 6 September 2018. During the visit, Mr. Akhoundi held a meeting with his Indian counterpart Shri Nitin Gadkari, wherein the two sides discussed, amongst others, issues related to the implementation of agreements signed on the development of Chabahar Port.

The first trilateral meeting between India, Afghanistan, and Iran on the Coordination Council of the Chabahar Agreement took place on 23 October 2018 in Tehran. The Indian delegation was led by Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations). The Afghan and Iranian delegations were led by respective Deputy Ministers of Transport. Detailed discussions were held between the three sides on full operationalisation of the trilateral agreement for international transit and transport through Chabahar Port. All sides shared the view that full operationalisation of the trilateral Chabahar initiative will promote connectivity and economic development of Afghanistan and the region as a whole. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Coordination Council in the first half of 2019 in India.

### Foreign Office Consultations

Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Dr. Abbas Araghchi visited New Delhi on 16 July 2018 for the 15th

round of Foreign Office Consultations with Indian counterpart Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale. Both sides reviewed and positively assessed the progress in implementation of decisions taken during the state visit of the President of Iran to India in February 2018, especially for enhancing connectivity and strengthening cooperation in trade and economic issues and in the promotion of people-to-people exchanges. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including the efforts being made by various parties to address issues that have arisen over the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

### Parliamentary Exchanges

The Iran-India Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Iranian Majlis led by its Chairman Mr. Nazar Afsali accompanied by Members of Majlis visited India in February 2018. During the visit, they called on the External Affairs Minister and held discussions with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy. On the sidelines of the visit, the Iranian delegation visited the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa Campus in New Delhi for an interactive session.

### Bilateral trade

The India-Iran bilateral trade during the fiscal year 2017-18 was US\$ 13.76 billion compared to US\$ 12.89 billion

in 2016-17. Bilateral trade witnessed an increase of 6.8% as compared to 2016-17. During 2017-18, Indian exports increased by 11.4% and accounted for US\$ 2.7 billion, whereas imports from Iran increased by 5.8% and amounted to US\$ 11.11 billion.

### Culture

India participated in the 'World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development 2018', organized by the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office on 15 May 2018, with Indian Book Exhibition, Indian music performance, Indian food-snacks distribution. The 4th International Day for Yoga was celebrated on 21 June 2018 in Tehran with performances from the Yoga class of Indian Culture Center (SVCC) and Kendriya Vidyalaya School, and associated Yoga Societies.

### Consular Relations

Joint Consular Committee talks between India and Iran were held in Tehran on 16 January 2018. Joint Secretary (CPV) led the Indian delegation for the India-Iran Consular talks. Issues relating to grant of visa-on-arrival, E-visas and visa-waiver facility for diplomatic passport holders were discussed in the meeting. These initiatives have since been implemented.



External Affairs Minister meets Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of Iran in New Delhi (May 28, 2018)

### IRAQ

Iraq shares long historical and civilisational ties with India and has remained an important partner for India's energy security. It emerged as the largest supplier of crude oil for India during the last financial year and is poised to retain this status during the year of the report. India's bilateral trade was US\$ 19.07 billion during 2017-18, including oil import of US\$ 17.61 billion.

Following Iraq's victory over the ISIS, Government of India sanctioned undertaking of several humanitarian and developmental projects in Iraq, including restoration of waterworks in the war-affected Sinjar region, the supply of equipment to the Martyrs' Foundation of Iraq, the supply of engineering books to the University of Mosul. Starting from 24 November 2018, a forty-day camp was organized in Karbala with the support of a Jaipur-based organization to fit artificial limbs for 500 war victims in Iraq.

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq Dr. Abdul Razzaq Al-Issa attended DIDAC India-Asian Summit on Education and Skills & Exhibition in New Delhi from 3-6 October 2018. Dr. Fouad Qassim Mohamed, Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research of Iraq, participated in the 14th Higher Education Summit held in New Delhi from 30 October-1 November 2018. He also attended a business

meeting organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

About forty Indian companies led by Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) participated in the Baghdad International Trade Fair held from 10-19 November 2018. An 'India Pavilion' was established at the fair ground for this purpose.

A business delegation led by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) visited Iraq (Baghdad, Karbala, Najaf & Erbil) from 26-30 November 2018. It comprised about twenty-five business-persons representing companies in the sectors of food and agriculture. Another team of Indian businessmen from the Confederation of Indian Industries visited Baghdad and Erbil from 16-20 December 2018 for exploring business options and undertaking developmental projects. There has been a growing interest in investments in the oil and steel sector in Iraq.

India remained a preferred destination for Iraqis to undergo medical treatment and higher education for the people of Iraq. The 4th International Day of Yoga was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm in Baghdad on 21 June 2018. More than 250 Iraqi youths participated in the event.

### ISRAEL

Following the 25th anniversary celebrations of India-Israel relations last year (which included mutual visits of the Heads of Governments of both countries), the year 2018 saw the trend continue with several important visits at Ministerial/Chief Minister levels. Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, along with Agriculture Ministers from Uttarakhand and Maharashtra and a senior official delegation from Punjab, attended the triennial conference on latest agricultural technologies - AGRITECH in Tel Aviv. Dr. Harshvardhan, Minister of Science and Technology, visited Israel to participate in the first International Conference of Science Ministers from 27-29 May 2018 during which he met his Israeli counterpart, Ofer Akunis. Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijay Rupani, led a large delegation of officials to Israel from 26 June-1 July 2018. Sixteen MoUs with several Israeli companies in sectors such as agriculture, water, security, and

infrastructure were also signed during the visit. The Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Amarinder Singh led a delegation of senior officials from Punjab to Israel from 21-25 October 2018. Four MoUs were signed during the visit in the areas of educational cooperation and water resource management.

Keeping the tradition of the last four years, in July-August 2018, the entire batch of Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers of the 2016 batch from the Sardar Patel National Police Academy (SVNPA) Hyderabad underwent their week-long foreign exposure training in Israel. In September 2018, a delegation of sixteen officials from eight state governments, led by Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy (DIPP) and coordinated by Invest India, visited Israel to participate in the annual Tel Aviv Innovation Festival 2018. The 4th meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Border Management

between India and Israel took place from 25-29 November 2018 in Israel.

In continuation of the regular exchanges between the armed forces of the two countries, Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Shri B. S. Dhanoa participated in the second edition of the International Air Force Commanders' Convention from 21-24 May 2018. Director-General of the Coast Guard Shri Rajendra Singh visited Israel from 9-11 July 2018 to explore the potential for cooperation in the areas of coastal security and maritime law enforcement. The 14th meeting of the India-Israel JWG on Defence Cooperation, led by the Defence Secretary, was held in New Delhi on 3 July 2018. A nineteen-member delegation from the Indian National Defence College led by Commandant, Vice Admiral Srikant, visited Israel for a strategic neighbourhood study tour in the last week of August 2018, while twenty-one officers from the College of Defence Management came in October as part of their international strategic management tour. The centenary

of the Battle of Haifa was marked by the Indian Embassy in Israel with a special ceremony in collaboration with the municipality of Haifa, which was also attended by an official delegation from the Indian Army led by Maj. Gen. Shri Dogra and officers and ranks of the 61st Cavalry. Lastly, as part of its seven-month overseas voyage, Indian Navy's training sail ship, INS Tarangini, made a port call at Haifa from 27-30 September 2018.

The 4th International Day of Yoga (21 June 2018) was celebrated as a public event in Tel Aviv port in collaboration with the Tel Aviv Municipality with the participation of more than a thousand people. Celebrations for the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi were launched on 2 October 2018 with an event at the Embassy, which included the release of commemorative postage stamps issued by India on the occasion. Israel was the Country of Focus for the 49th IFFI in Goa in November 2018 where ten Israeli films were showcased during the festival.

## JORDAN

Following the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Amman on 9 & 10 February 2018, and the state visit of King Abdullah to India from 27 February - 1 March 2018, the bilateral relations between India and Jordan continued to be warm and cordial.

Jordanian Energy Minister Mr. Saleh Kharabsheh led a delegation to the International Energy Forum on 12 April 2018 in New Delhi. Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Shri Asif Ibrahim attended Aqaba process meeting on South-East Asia-II held in April 2018 in Aqaba, Jordan. An eight-member



The President and the Prime Minister with the King of Jordan His Majesty Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein, at the Ceremonial Reception, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on March 01, 2018

National Security Guard (NSG) team participated in the 10th annual international Warrior Competition held at the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Centre, Amman from 30 April-7 May 2018 which featured forty teams from twenty-five friendly countries. An Indian Air Force (IAF) Vintage aircraft Dakota tail numbered 905 transited Aqaba, Jordan from 20-22 April 2018 on the way from Coventry (England) to the Indian air base.

Thirty-one Indian companies under the umbrella of the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC INDIA) participated in the Jordan International Machinery and Electro-Mechanical Exhibition (JIMEX-2018) from 9-12

April 2018 in Amman. Embassy organised a trade promotion seminar, "India-Surging Ahead 2018" in association with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority in Aqaba on 14 October 2018 and a state facilitation fund activity, "Goa - A Perfect Holiday Destination" on 14 October 2018 in Aqaba. A high-level Indian Film Industry delegation visited Jordan at the invitation of the Jordan Tourism Board on 11 September 2018 and representatives of Goa Tourism visited Jordan and held a Road Show with Tourism industry stakeholders in Amman on 10 October 2018.

Embassy of India commemorated Gandhi@150 celebrations, on 2 October 2018, in a befitting manner.

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## 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. The strength of the Indian workforce continued to grow making the Indian community in Kuwait the largest expatriate community at approximately 9.5 lakh. There was good progress on the issues pertaining to concerns of the Indian community in Kuwait during the year.

Trade, especially oil trade, has historically formed an important component in Indo-Kuwaiti relations. Keeping up with that, Kuwait continued to be a reliable source towards ensuring India's energy security. Bilateral trade, largely in Kuwait's favour, was US\$ 8.53 billion in 2017-18. During 2017-18, Kuwait was the ninth largest oil supplier to India and it met about 4.63% of India's energy needs supplying quantity of 12.85 million barrels amounting to US\$ 5.28 billion. Non-oil bilateral trade too continued to grow. Total non-oil bilateral trade between India and Kuwait grew to US\$ 2,405.40 million in 2017-18 with India's non-oil exports to Kuwait being US\$ 1,361.06 million in 2017-18.

The 6th meeting of the India-Kuwait Joint Working Group on Labour, Employment, and Manpower Development was held in Kuwait on 25 & 26 April 2018. Shri Manish Gupta, Joint Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs Division-I, Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Sami Abdul Aziz Al-Hamad, Assistant Foreign Minister for Consulate Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State of Kuwait co-chaired the meeting. The meeting focused on strengthening

cooperation and coordination in the field of Labour, Employment and Manpower Development. The issue of Indian engineers, nurses, and the recruitment of domestic workers were taken up extensively and discussed in detail.

The 4th Foreign Office Consultations took place in Kuwait on 1 & 2 August 2018. The Indian side was led by Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad, Joint Secretary (Gulf) in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Kuwaiti delegation was led by Mr. Ali Sulaiman Al-Saeed, Assistant Foreign Minister (AFM) for Asian Affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs, State of Kuwait. During the meeting, both sides discussed issues of bilateral, regional, and international importance of mutual interest.

Ms. Hend Bakar Al Subaih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour of Kuwait visited India on 26 October 2018 and held discussions with Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.). During the meeting, issues regarding outstanding matters were discussed, especially related to Indian workers of Kharafi nationality, Indian engineers, recruitment of eighty Indian nurses and the MoU on Indian domestic workers, to safeguard their interests.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj paid an official visit to Kuwait on 30 & 31 October 2018. This was her first visit to Kuwait and the first high-level bilateral visit since the visit of Kuwaiti Prime Minister to India in November 2013. During the visit, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj called on Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of

Kuwait and the Kuwaiti Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj later held wide-ranging discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait. The two Ministers reviewed the bilateral cooperation including in areas of Trade & Investment, Defence and Labour issues. Both sides agreed on the need to move beyond oil trade as also explore avenues for trade and investment. The visit witnessed the conclusion of two important agreements including the Agreement on

the exemption of visa for holders of Diplomatic, Official and Special Passports and the Agreement on the recruitment of Domestic Workers.

Defence and security cooperation too continued to grow between the two countries. India approved the opening of the office of Defence Attache in the Kuwait Embassy, Delhi. The draft MoU on defence cooperation exchanged between the two sides.

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## LEBANON

Parliamentary elections were held in Lebanon after nine years on 6 May 2018. Mr. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister and leader of the Future Movement, was re-designated as the Prime Minister by President Mr. Michel Aoun. Mr. Nabih Berri was re-elected as the Speaker of the Parliament. The formation of a new Cabinet is yet to be finalized.

There were some notable developments in the historically friendly relations and multi-dimensional cooperation between India and Lebanon, including the reconstitution of Lebanese Parliamentary Friendship Group for India after the elections in May 2018; visit of a forty-eight member multi-sectoral business delegation led by Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO), Confederation for Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and Engineering Export Promotion Council (EPEC) to Beirut from 12-14 September 2018; signing of an Agency Agreement between Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass) and Exceptional Operations Classification-Sal (XOClass) in a joint effort to develop Lebanese market for

management, surveys and classification of ships; participation of ten Indian companies in a major trade exhibition in Beirut; further increase in the number of professionals and businessmen visiting between India and Lebanon. India continued to provide training to civilian and defence officials from Lebanon. The number of civilian Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) slots were increased from sixty to seventy-five for 2018-19.

Public celebrations were organized by the Embassy in cooperation with local partners on important occasions including 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi; fourth International Day of Yoga and 'India Days' was held at various universities and schools to showcase India's rich cultural diversity and strides made in different spheres. Video of bhajan "Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye Je" rendered by famous Lebanese singer Abeer Nehme, was released by the Ambassador at the headquarters of the Indian battalion in UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in South Lebanon.

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## OMAN

During the year, India and Oman continued the bilateral engagements. Both countries have traditionally enjoyed friendly relations, which can be ascribed to historical maritime trade linkages. About eight lakh Indians form the largest expatriate group in Oman.

Bilateral trade during 2017-18 was US\$ 4 billion of which India's export accounted for US\$ 2.7 billion while import was US \$ 1.3 billion. Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation of India, visited Oman from

15-18 July 2018 to co-chair the 8th session of India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) and the 9th session of Joint Business Council (JBC). A group of thirty-one young business leaders from Oman, led by Pankaj Khimji, Omani co-chair of India-Oman Joint Business Council, visited India and called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 16 May 2018. A team led by Dr. V. K. Saraswat, Member of NITI Aayog, visited Oman on 8 & 9 April 2018 to explore cooperation in the mining sector between India and Oman.

Omani side expressed interest to join International Solar Alliance. Mr. Mohammed bin Salim al Toobi, Minister of Environment and Climate Affairs of Oman, visited New Delhi from 1-5 October 2018 for participating in the 2nd Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and 1st General Assembly of International Solar Alliance.

In defence cooperation, Mr. Sayyid Badr bin Saud bin Harib al-Busaidi, Minister Responsible for Defence Affairs of Oman, visited India from 25-27 September 2018. Shri Sanjay Mitra, Defence Secretary, visited Oman from 27-29 November 2018 to co-chair the 10th meeting of India-Oman Joint

Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC). A 14-member NDC delegation from India visited Oman from 26-29 August 2018. A delegation of twenty officers from College of Defence Management (CDM) visited Oman for 'International Strategic Management Tour' from 21-26 October 2018.

Security cooperation between India and Oman was further strengthened by the visit of Shri Rajinder Khanna, Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) to Oman on 11 & 12 April 2018 for co-chairing the fifth round of India-Oman Strategic Dialogue.

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## PALESTINE

Steps were initiated for implementation of various projects worth US\$ 42.1 million, announced during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's first ever historic visit to Palestine on 10 February 2018.

The 1st Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between India and Palestine on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine was held in Ramallah, Palestine, on 16 & 17 July 2018; and a fifty-member Palestinian youth delegation visited India from 1-7 October 2018.

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## QATAR

India shares deep-rooted historical and cultural ties with Qatar. The multifaceted engagement with Qatar has been growing under the excellent framework provided by the recent high-level engagement between the leaders of the two countries. The Indian expatriate population in Qatar stands at 6,91,539 as in February 2018 and forms the largest expatriate community in Qatar. The Indian community is engaged in various sectors of the Qatari economy and is making immense contributions to the overall growth and development of the country.

In another step towards boosting people to people contact, India extended e-Visa facility to Qatari nationals. Indian exports to Qatar increased significantly during 2017-18, registering a growth of 87%. The total trade during 2017-18 was US\$ 9.8 billion, registering an increase of 17% over the previous year.

The former Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar visited Qatar on 15-17 April 2018 to represent India at the official opening of Qatar National Library. He also held a meeting with his Qatari counterpart Soltan bin Saad Al Muraikhi and discussed bilateral issues, particularly in the

fields of community welfare, trade and investment, culture and people-to-people interactions.

Dr. Ahmad Hassan Al Hamadi, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited India to hold political consultations on 20 April 2018. The 3rd round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Qatar was held in Doha on 23 September 2018 where Indian side was led by Shri T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER). The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations.

The External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Qatar from 28-30 October 2018 on an official visit. This was the first ever visit by an Indian EAM to Qatar. She called on Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and discussed issues of mutual interest. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj held delegation-level talks with Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. The two sides signed a Joint Declaration to establish a Joint Commission at the level of External/Foreign Affairs Minister. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj invited Qatari companies to invest in various sectors including petrochemicals, infrastructure, agriculture and food processing.



## SAUDI ARABIA

The close and friendly relations between India-Saudi Arabia have in recent years transformed into a strong and mutually beneficial partnership. Host to over 2.7 million Indian expatriates, the Kingdom is a vital partner in the region. Continuing from last year's growing engagements which included India's presence as the Guest of Honour Country in the prestigious Janadriyah Festival and the visit of Finance Minister to co-chair the 12th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), bilateral relations between India and Saudi Arabia have witnessed an upward trajectory during the year 2018-19.

The meeting of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Buenos Aires on 29 November 2018, was very fruitful as both the leaders agreed to deepen & diversify the bilateral engagements. Saudi Crown Prince positively responded to join International Solar Alliance, to finalize the Public Investment Fund (PIF)'s investments in India's National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and participate in strategic petroleum reserves.

With regards growing economic ties, Saudi Arabia today is now our 4th largest trade partner (after China, USA and UAE) and is a major source of energy as we import around 19% of India's crude oil requirement from the Kingdom. During

the year 2017-18, our bilateral trade registered an increase of 9.57 % by reaching US\$ 27.48 compared to US\$ 25.07 billion (2016-17).

Saudi Centre for International Strategic Partnerships (SCISP) under the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman identified eight countries including India to improve its trade and investment ties. The first kick-off meeting between SCISP and NITI Aayog was held on 26 July 2018 in New Delhi.

The Saudi Minister for Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources Mr. Khaled Al Falih visited India twice to attend the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting on 10 & 11 April 2018 and the 2nd India Energy Forum from 14-16 October 2018 in New Delhi. On the sidelines of the 16th IEF Ministerial Meeting, Saudi Aramco signed an agreement with the Indian Consortium (IOC, BPCL & HPCL) to develop the US\$ 44 billion worth Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemical Limited, Ratnagiri, and Maharashtra. (Later, UAE's ADNOC signed an agreement with Aramco in June 2018, to participate in the development of the said project.)

Odisha Minister of Industries Shri Ananta Das visited Saudi Arabia to promote the 'Make in Odisha' Summit in November 2018. Similarly, a delegation from Gujarat visited Saudi Arabia



Prime Minister meets Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia on sidelines of G20 Summit in Buenos Aires (November 29, 2018)

for promoting the 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019'. In addition, there were business delegations from Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), Phramexcil and APEDA etc. visited Riyadh to promote trade.

Ten Saudi cadets (five cadets in December 2017 and five cadets in June 2018) joined at the National Defence Academy (NDA), Pune and six-member defence delegation participated in the DEFEXPO 2018. INS Tarangini made a

port of call in Jeddah from 4-6 May 2018. An Indian artillery delegation visited the Institute of Artillery, Royal Saudi Land Forces, Khamis Musayt from 22 -25 October 2018.

Yoga was officially recognized as a 'Sports activity' in November 2017. The Embassy of India celebrated the 4th International Day of Yoga by organizing a Session titled 'Yoga for Health and Well Being' on 21 June 2018, the first outdoor yoga event in Kingdom.

## SYRIA

India continued to maintain its position that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Syria and called for a comprehensive and peaceful resolution of the crisis, bringing all parties to the conflict to the negotiating table; the political solution has to be through a Syrian-led process, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the people of Syria. India supported various initiatives, including the Geneva and Astana process, to resolve the crisis.

India delivered humanitarian aid of over Rs. ₹15 crores in the form of food items and medicines to Syria in April 2018.

In addition to ITEC and Indian Council on Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships, India extended technical assistance

to 400 Syrian students to study in India under the "Study in India" programme for a four year period starting from the academic year 2018-19. Syrian students have enrolled at various universities, identified by Human Resources Development (HRD) Ministry, under the programme.

A multi-product business delegation of Indian companies led by FIEO, CII, FICCI and EEPC visited Syria from 7-11 September 2018. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed an MoU with Federation of Syrian Chamber of Commerce for the exchange of information and training of manpower. An agreement was signed between M/s. Sonalika Tractor Company and M/s.Syrian Modern Tractor Company to set up a tractor plant in Syria.

## UAE

The momentum gained in bilateral ties with regular exchange of visits at the highest level and elevation of relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was maintained during the year.

High-level visits from India to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) included the visit by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan from 11-15 May 2018 when he also flagged off ship carrying first UAE consignment of oil for Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) cavern in Mangalore. Shri Pradhan again visited the UAE from 12-15 November 2018 to attend International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) in Abu Dhabi when the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of the UAE signed another agreement with ISPRL for filling crude oil in its Padur cavern.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Abu Dhabi from 3-5 December 2018 for co-chairing the 12th session of the India-UAE JCM on Economic & Technical Cooperation, she also called on the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and with the Foreign Minister of the UAE, jointly launched a digital museum on Mahatma Gandhi and Sheikh Zayed. During the visit, the two sides signed Agreement for Currency Swap and MoU for jointly undertaking developmental projects in Africa.

From the UAE, Minister of Energy Security, Transition, Technology, and Investment, Mr. Suhail Mohammed Al Mazrouei visited India to attend 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting from 10-12 April 2018. Foreign Minister of the UAE, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited from 24-30 June 2018 when he met EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and called on Prime Minister Shri



External Affairs Minister and Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of UAE jointly launch the Gandhi-Zayed Digital Museum in Abu Dhabi (December 04, 2018)

Narendra Modi. During the visit, the two sides signed MoU for cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Emirati Diplomatic Academy, and also Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of the UAE, along with Aramco of Saudi Arabia, signed an agreement with Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for investment in the Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals. He also visited Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Bengaluru during this visit. Chairman of the Royal Court of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), Sheikh Hamed led the UAE delegation to India from 14-15 October 2018 to co-chair the 6th meeting of High Level Joint Task Force on Investments (HLTFI) held on 15 October in Mumbai. Dr. Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber, MoS in the UAE Cabinet and Group CEO of ADNOC visited India to participate in the Prime Minister's annual international meeting with the Global Oil & Gas leaders on 15 October 2018. MoS for Defence Affairs of the UAE, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al Bowardi visited India from 14-18 October 2018 on the invitation of the Defence Minister. A sixteen-member team from the National Defence College of the UAE visited India for a training programme from 17-23 November 2018. An eight-member delegation from the Ministry of State for Federal National Council of the UAE led by its

Undersecretary visited India from 12 - 14 December 2018 for studying the best practices in the field of Parliamentary work and coordination between the executive and legislative authorities.

Emirate of Sharjah participated as a Guest Country in the New Delhi World Book Fair held in January 2019. The visiting Ruler of Sharjah inaugurated the Sharjah Pavilion at the Book Fair. National Book Trust would also be participating in the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair during April 2019.

In July 2018, the UAE's request for establishing another Consulate General in Hyderabad was approved. The third session of the India-UAE Joint Consular Committee was held in New Delhi on 29 October 2018. There has been greater cooperation in security matters between the two countries. During the year, UAE announced liberalized visa scheme for the Indian nationals holding US visas or Green Cards and also for those having EU or UK visas. UAE announced amnesty scheme for illegal expatriates for the period from August to December 2018 during which a large number of Indian nationals were issued emergency certificates for a return to India. In some deserving cases, they were also issued with return air tickets from the Indian Community Welfare Fund.

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## YEMEN

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India and Yemen enjoy a long history of close and historical people-to-people contacts. Due to the deterioration of the 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.

Mr. Abdullah Mohsen Al-Akwa, Minister of Electricity and Energy of Yemen, visited India twice, once during March

2018 for the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit and thereafter in October 2018 for the First Ministerial Meeting of ISA.

India continued to provide medical assistance to Yemen and announced a medical aid of US\$ 1 Million in December 2017. 7,000 cholera vaccines were delivered by airlifting them in April 2018 whereas the balance medicines were delivered in two lots by ship at Aden in May and July 2018.



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## AFRICA

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### ANGOLA

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During the year, there was a regular exchange of ministerial and official level visits. From the Angolan side, their Secretary of State for Geology and Mines visited India from 26 March-3 April 2018 and the Minister of Health visited from 5-10 July 2018. From the Indian side, an 8-member delegation from NABARD and NABCONS led by the Chairman visited Angola

from 19-23 November 2018 to identify potential areas of cooperation. India has become 3rd largest trading partner of Angola (around 10% of Angola's external trade) mainly on account of bulk crude oil purchases. Indian Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu is likely to visit Angola from 29-30 January 2019.

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### BENIN

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This year saw the participation of Benin at the level of their Minister of Energy in the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Solar Summit that was held in New Delhi on 11 March 2018 and also the First Assembly of the ISA held in New Delhi on 2 October 2018. Benin also participated at senior official level in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) that was held in New Delhi from 3-5 October 2018. These visits helped in forging strong partnership between the two

countries during the year. India also emerged as the largest trading partner of Benin with bilateral trade touching US\$ 703 million, accounting for about 17% of Benin's global trade in 2017-18. In addition to LoC projects already under implementation, this year, India offered a concessional loan of US\$ 150 million through EBID [Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Bank for Investment and Development] for solar related projects. India also extended a grant assistance of US\$ 300,000 to Benin under the India-



UNDP Development Partnership Fund for Promoting youth and women employment through agricultural diversification. On Cultural front, the rendition of “Vaishnav Jan Toh” bhajan penned by Narsinh Mehta by Ms. Zeynab Habib, a very popular Beninese singer was well received by the Beninese people. The Beninese Minister of Health is likely to visit

India to attend the Fourth Summit of Global Digital Health Partnership to be held in New Delhi from 25-26 February 2019 (in collaboration with the World Health Organisation) and the International Digital Health Symposium on 27 February 2019.

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## BOTSWANA

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At the invitation of the Vice President of Botswana Mr. Slumber Tsogwane, Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu paid an official visit to Botswana from 31 October - 2 November 2018. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising of Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, two Members of Parliament, Shri K. Suresh and Shri V. Muraleedharan and senior government officers. During the visit, Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 13th Annual Global Expo Botswana

and addressed the India-Botswana CEOs' Roundtable. He called on the President of Botswana, Dr. Masisi and lead the Indian delegation for delegation level talks. An Agreement on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports and a Joint Communique for bilateral cooperation were also signed. Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu's visit was able to achieve the key objective of taking forward the relationship to a new height with specific respect to the following areas of mutual concern: Deployment of Indian

Army Training Team (IATT) to train Botswana Defence Force personnel under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC); Botswana's accession to International Solar Alliance; a Chancery construction project; proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Judicial Cooperation, capacity building training for Botswana diplomats; visa and work permit issues to boost trade and people-to-people contacts; trade

and investment cooperation in the areas of SMEs, logistics, pharmaceutical, mining, agriculture, retail and connectivity; cooperation in the fields of medical tourism, medicines, traditional medicines, generic medicines, Ayurveda/Yoga and establishment of India Africa Diamond Institute (IADI) in Botswana as soon as possible.



Vice President and Slumber Tsogwane, Vice President of Botswana co-inaugurate 13th Global Expo in Botswana (Oct 31, 2018)

Assistant Minister of Lands and Management, Water and Sanitation Services of Botswana Mr. Itumeleng Moipisi visited India to participate in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention held in New Delhi from 29 September-2 October 2018. This was at the invitation of Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation Smt Uma Bharti on behalf of the Swachh Bharat Mission. Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at US\$ 1.75 billion with an impressive growth of more than 26% in the year 2017-18 (mainly diamond imports by India). India's assistance in capacity building has been an important element of our bilateral relations. So far, 160 scholarship slots have been utilized by Botswana in the training year 2018-19 under ITEC/ India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)/ Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and other schemes. The Mission organized the events such as the International Day of Yoga and Commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Apart from the huge participation of local

dignitaries and members of the Indian community, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana Ms. Gladys K.T. Kokorwe participated in these events. On 8th October 2018, Mission organized a business-cum-cultural event, 'Symposium on Gujarat' that was addressed by Mr. Eric Molale, Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security Minister of Botswana. The Mission, in association with various Indian associations, organized more than 10 events including cultural performances and food festivals to promote Indian culture and people-to-people contacts.

For the first time from Botswana President Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi attended the 10th BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg in July 2018. He emphasized BRICS' relevance to Africa in its quest for inclusive development.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers attended the India-South Africa Business Summit held on 29 & 30 April 2018 in Johannesburg. On the



sidelines, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Civil Aviation Shri Suresh Prabhu held discussions with Investment, Trade and Industry Minister of Botswana Ms. Bogolo Kenewendo

on 30 April 2018 and agreed on further initiatives to intensify bilateral economic engagement.

## BURKINA FASO

Warm and cordial relations between India and Burkina Faso were strengthened by the visit of the Burkinabé President Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré to attend the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit held in New Delhi on 11 March 2018. Former Minister of State of External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar, visited Burkina Faso from 11-13 July 2018 to co-chair the 4th India-Burkina Faso Joint Commission Meeting held at Ouagadougou. The Burkinabé Minister of Water, Water Systems and Sanitation accompanied by a high-level delegation visited India to attend the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention held at New Delhi from 29 September-2 October 2018. The

Director General for Industrial Development, accompanied by Economic Advisor in Directorate General of Trade of Burkina Faso attended the CII-EXIM Bank India-West Africa Regional Conclave held at Abuja, Nigeria on 8-9 October 2018. Bilateral trade between India and Burkina Faso has been increasing and amounted to US\$ 780.92 million in 2017-18 from US\$ 371.36 million in 2016-17. A delegation from National Building Corporation India Ltd. (NBCC) visited Burkina Faso twice in connection with the Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre to be set up with India's grant assistance. The 4th International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great fervour in Burkina Faso on 23 June in 2018.



PM's Bilateral Meeting with H.E. Mr Rock Marc Christian Kabore, President of Burkina Faso on sidelines of the #ISA in New Delhi, (March 11, 2018)

## BURUNDI

Burundi was allotted ten ICCR slots for 2018-19. 30 ITEC slots were also allotted to Burundi out of which eighteen slots have been utilized to date. Four IAFS training slots have

so far been utilized by Burundi. The International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations were held in Bujumbura on 24 June 2018.

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## CAMEROON

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Cameroon signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in 2018, and also initiated the process for its ratification. Cameroon was represented at senior official level in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) which was held in New Delhi from 29 September-2 October 2018. With marginal recovery of the Cameroonian economy, bilateral trade between India and Cameroon touched US\$ 350 million during the first six months of this year compared to US\$ 406 million for entire

last year. On cultural front, a 12-member Haryana Folk Dance Troupe visited Cameroon and performed in Douala in November 2018. People-to-people contacts have grown with the organization of the Symposium on Health and Well-Being in April 2018 and International Day of Yoga in June 2018. The rendition of "Vaishnav Jan Toh" bhajan penned by Narsinh Mehta, by a popular chorus group led by Mr. Massoma Joseph was well received by the Cameroonians.

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## CAPE VERDE

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The Cape Verdean Minister of Industry, Trade and Energy participated in the First ISA Assembly and 2nd Re-Invest in Greater Noida from 3-5 November 2018. The Deputy Minister for Regional Integration of Cape Verde participated in the CII-EXIM Bank India-West Africa Regional Conclave held in Abuja on 8 & 9 October 2018. The annual bilateral

trade in the FY 2017-18 stood at US\$ 4.30 million registering a jump of about 36% as compared to previous year. The Indian Embassy, Dakar celebrated the 4th International Day of Yoga in Praia, Cape Verde on 22 June 2018. The event was well attended and dignitaries the Mayor of Praia and Adviser to Prime Minister.

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## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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Interaction with the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) during the year was limited, largely owing to the political uncertainty in CAR. Minister of Energy led the Central African Republic delegation to New Delhi for the

Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention, from 29 September-2 October 2018. CAR has supported India's candidature in all international/UN bodies.

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## CHAD

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India's bilateral relations with Chad have sustained the momentum during the year. Prime Minister of Chad Mr. Pahimi Padacke Albert attended the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Solar Summit on 11 March 2018 in New Delhi. Chad participated at the level of Minister of Environment, Water Resources and Fisheries in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) that was held in New Delhi from 29 September-2 October 2018. Chad also took part at senior official level in the First General Assembly of ISA that took place on 2 October 2018 in New Delhi. These Ministerial visits have cemented the bilateral ties. Chad is also emerging as a supplier of crude oil to India, with the imports touching US\$

290 million this year till September 2018 alone compared to US\$ 141 million worth imports last year. Subsequent to the Founding Conference of ISA, GoI offered a LoC of US\$ 27.45 million for the establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic module manufacturing plant in N'Djamena. On the cultural front, the rendition of "Vaishnava Jana To" bhajan by the members of Yaarana Association, a Chadian NGO promoting cultural ties between India and Chad, was well received by the Chadians. The Chadian Minister for Mines, Industrial Promotion, Trade & Promotion of Private Sector is likely to visit India from 18-20 January 2019 to attend the "Vibrant Gujarat Africa Day" in Ahmedabad.

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Relations with Côte d'Ivoire were further strengthened during the year. Their Vice President Daniel Kablan Duncan represented Côte d'Ivoire at the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA) on 11 March 2018 in New Delhi. The Ivorian Minister of Petroleum, Energy and

Renewable Energy participated in the First General Assembly of ISA in New Delhi in October 2018. Bilateral trade between India and Côte d'Ivoire amounted to US\$ 953.45 million in 2017-18 with exports accounting for US\$ 511.75 million and imports of US\$ 441.70 million.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Relations with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remained cordial during the year. DRC Foreign Minister represented the country at the International Solar Alliance Founding Conference held in Delhi on 11 March 2018. The Minister of Energy and Hydraulic Resources visited New Delhi from 1- 6 Oct 2018 for the First General Assembly of ISA. India continues to provide capacity building support to the country, notably under India-Africa Forum Summit

(IAFS) and ITEC capacity building programmes. During the year, there has been full utilization of the seventy-five ITEC slots and the ten ICCR scholarships offered to DRC. During the year, work on the Government of India (GoI) supported LoC project worth US\$ 42 million for the 9.3 MW Kakobola Hydro-Electric Power Project in the Bandundu Province, was completed in October 2018.

## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

A major milestone in bilateral relations took place with the first-ever visit by President Shri Ramnath Kovind to Equatorial Guinea (EG) from 7-9 April 2018. During the visit, two MoUs on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Medicinal Plants and an Action Plan on cooperation in Information and Communication Technology

(ICT) were signed. President was conferred highest civilian honour of Equatorial Guinea, the medal of the Gran Collar de la Independencia by the Equatorial Guinean President. Keeping up the momentum of visits, Former Minister of State (MoS) Shri M.J. Akbar visited EG from 11-13 October 2018 to attend the 50th anniversary of the country's independence.



President inspects the Guard of Honour during his Ceremonial Welcome on arrival in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea (April 07, 2018)

## ETHIOPIA

2nd Joint Commission Meeting between Ethiopia and India was held on 9 May 2018 in New Delhi. The Ethiopian delegation was led by Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, and the Indian delegation led by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj. The Embassy celebrated the 4th International Day of Yoga on 16 June 2018 in Addis Ababa. Government of Ethiopia was represented by Prof. Afework Kassu, State Minister for Foreign Affairs as Chief Guest. The State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mrs. Heirut Zemene, Members of Parliament, several Ambassadors and diplomats participated in International Day of Yoga. Legendary Ethiopian runner and youth icon Mr. Haile Gebreselassie participated and delivered his message on the occasion. On 19 July 2018, a handing over ceremony of 1000 metric tonnes of rice, announced as a donation during the visit of President Shri Ramnath Kovind to the Government of Ethiopia was organized. Mr. Damene Daruta, Deputy Commissioner, National Disaster and Risk Management Commission symbolically received the consignment on behalf of the Government of Ethiopia.

Embassy of India participated in Asia Pacific Film Festival, organized by a group of 12 Missions from Asia Pacific countries at Italian Cultural Centre, Addis Ababa from 15-23

September 2018 with Hindi movie "Poorna: Courage has no limit". Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat visited Addis Ababa from 4-6 September 2018. The visit was in the context of existing agricultural cooperation between the two countries as well as to look at possibilities for further cooperation. MoS Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat held meeting with the delegation led by Dr. Gebreyohannes, State Minister for Livestock and Fisheries. MoS for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat also attended India Business Forum. On 2 October 2018, the Mission celebrated the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in the Chancery premises. Video of bhajan 'Vaishava Jana To' sung by famous Ethiopian singer Betty G. who has received six nominations for AFRIMA-2018 was released along with another video by Artists of Studio of Production RTD, Djibouti singing 'Vaishava Jana To'. Commemorative postage stamps, sent by the Department of Posts, Government of India, on Mahatma Gandhi were released. LED projection of a special film on Gandhiji was also made. On 31 October 2018, the Mission celebrated the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. A short film on the life of Sardar Patel and a short video clipping on the Statue of Unity was also screened.



External Affairs Minister meets Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia in JNB, New Delhi (May 9, 2018)

## GABON

Bilateral relations, both political and economic, were further strengthened with Gabon during the year. Gabonese Foreign Minister Mr Regis Immogault visited New Delhi from 24-30 November 2018 and had wide-ranging discussions with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. A delegation visited Gabon in July 2018 to explore possibilities of investments in the manganese ore sector, followed by a visit from the Ministry of Steel, Government of India in November 2018 to take the process forward. The Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers is, on the other hand, exploring the possibility of acquiring a stake in the Gabon Fertilizer Plant Project (Urea Plant). In the last few years, more than twenty five Indian companies have been granted licence to set up units in Gabon's Special Economic Zones (SEZ). A majority of the Indian companies are working in the area of veneer manufacturing. Oil India Limited, a Government of India Enterprise and the operator of an onshore exploration block in Gabon continued oil exploration activity.



External Affairs Minister meets Immogault Jean Eudes Regis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon in New Delhi (November 30, 2018)

## THE GAMBIA

The Gambian Minister of Petroleum & Energy participated in the Founding Conference of ISA on 11 March 2018 in New Delhi. The Gambian Minister of Health and Social Welfare participated in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) from 29 September-2 October 2018. Minister of Petroleum and Energy again visited New Delhi to participate in the First ISA Assembly and 2nd Re-Invest in New Delhi from 3-5 October 2018. The annual bilateral trade

in the FY 2017-18 stood at US\$ 178.90 million registering a jump of about 70% as compared to previous year. An Indian company 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. Twenty Gambian Diplomats successfully completed the tailor-made course for Foreign Diplomats by Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi from 20 June-20 July 2018.

## GHANA

During the year, the traditionally warm and cordial relations between India and Ghana were strengthened by several significant visits including that of Ghanaian President Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, leading a high-level delegation to participate in the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance held at New Delhi on 11 March 2018. Ghanaian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration again (she had earlier accompanied their President in March) paid an official visit to India from 16-18 July 2018 and held a bilateral meeting with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. During

the visit, the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the period 2018-2022 and the MoU between Bureau of Indian Standards and Ghana Standards Authority were signed. The Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources led the Ghanaian delegation to the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention held at New Delhi from 29 September-2 October 2018. The Deputy Minister of Energy led a two-member delegation to the 1st General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance held at New Delhi from 2-5 October 2018. The Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry, participated in the

CII-EXIM Bank India-West Africa Regional Conclave held at Abuja, Nigeria from 8-9 October 2018.

Bilateral trade between the two countries has shown an upward trend and increased from US\$ 2620.82 million in 2016-17 to US\$ 3345.83 million in 2017-18. A seven-member delegation from Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. visited Ghana from 24-27 April 2018 at the invitation of National Petroleum Authority of Ghana. Another two-member delegation from Oil India Corporation Ltd. visited Ghana from 25-26 May 2018 to explore opportunities in the downstream oil sector in Ghana. Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) organized an "India Pavilion" at WAMPEX 2018, the 14th West African Mining & Power Exhibition from 30 May-1 June 2018 at Accra with the participation of 38 Indian companies. Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) supported the participation of 55 Indian companies at the 3rd Edition of POWERELEC, Auto Parts and Construct Ghana from 6-8 September 2018 at Ghana International Trade Fair Centre, Accra. The announcement made during President Shri Ramnath Kovind's first-ever State visit to Ghana in June 2016 of grant assistance of US\$ 1 million to the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE) was implemented and the grant was released to the Centre in the

presence of the Speaker of Parliament and Deputy Minister of Communication on 2 October 2018, launching the two-year long celebrations to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. A water tank along with Over the Counter drugs was gifted to the "Gandhi Ward" maternity wing of 37 Military Hospital, Accra. Former President Mr. John Kufuor delivered an address on the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and released the commemorative stamps on Mahatma Gandhi issued by the Department of Posts, Gol at an event organized at India House. Ghanaian Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources led a two-member delegation to the 3rd India Water Impact Summit held in New Delhi from 5-7 December 2018. ITEC training programmes are popular and sought after in Ghana. During the period 2017-18, Ghana utilized 110 ITEC slots, thirty-nine slots under IAFS decision and eleven out of twenty slots allotted to it under ICCR scholarships. Five Ghanaian scientists were awarded the CV Raman Research Fellowship during 2017-18. During the period April-October 2018, forty-six ITEC Slots have been utilized. Defence Cooperation with Ghana has been an important element of our bilateral relations and twenty-seven training slots have been allocated for Ghanaian Armed Forces officers under the ITEC for the period 2018-19.

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## GUINEA

The relations between India and Guinea are cordial and friendly. Guinean Foreign Minister Mr. Mamadi Toure represented Guinea at the Founding Members Conference of ISA in March 2018 in New Delhi. Minister of State in charge of Investment Dr. Ibrahim Kassory Fafona visited India in March 2018 to participate in the 13th CII-EXIM Bank's India-Africa Business Conclave held in New Delhi. Minister

of Energy and Hydraulics of Guinea participated in the 1st General Assembly of ISA in New Delhi in October 2018. Bilateral trade between India and Guinea amounted to US\$ 892.57 million in 2017-18 with exports accounting for US\$ 377.94 million and imports of US\$ 514.63 million. India is reopening its diplomatic mission in Conakry shortly.

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## GUINEA BISSAU

The Guinea Bissau Minister of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources participated in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention from 29 September-2 October 2018 in New Delhi. The Chief of Cabinet of Minister of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources participated in the CII-

EXIM Bank Regional Conclave on India-West Africa Project Partnership in Abuja from 8-9 October 2018. The annual bilateral trade in the FY 2017-18 stood at US\$ 266.89 million registering a jump of about 12.5% as compared to the previous year. Cashew crop accounts for more than 90%

of export earnings of Guinea-Bissau and almost the entire cashew crop (around 98%) is exported to India for processing.

India also supplied 1000 tons of rice as emergency food aid to Guinea Bissau.

## KENYA

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22<sup>nd</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Shri Suresh Prabhu and Mr. Peter Munya, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Industry, Trade and

Cooperatives, Government of Kenya. A meeting of India-Kenya Joint Business Council was held on the sidelines of the Joint Trade Committee meeting. The Commerce Minister also interacted with the members of the Indian diaspora.

## LESOTHO

Mr Samonyane Ezekiel Ntsekele, the Minister of Water Affairs accompanied by Mr Mokake Mojakisane, Commissioner of Water, Government of Lesotho visited India to attend the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGSIC) in New Delhi from 29 September- 2 October 2018.

Mr Nkaku Kabi, Minister of Health, Lesotho visited India from 30 June-6 July 2018 and Ms Manthabiseng Arcylia Pholeli,

the Deputy Minister of Health, Government of Lesotho visited India on 2 September 2018 to follow-up on the MoU signed between Apollo Hospital, India and the Ministry of Health, Government of Lesotho. Ms. Matebatso Doti, Minister of Social Development visited India during the second week of October 2018 to discuss the areas of cooperation in the field of support for the vulnerable older persons and support for the children and people with disability.

## LIBERIA

During the year, bilateral relations were marked by regular visits. Minister of State (MoS) visited Liberia from 1-2 March 2018. During the visit, India offered grant assistance for the health sector and transport vehicles and fire engines. Foreign Minister of Liberia participated in the Founding Conference

of International Solar Alliance in March 2018 in New Delhi. Bilateral trade between India and Liberia amounted to US\$ 294.22 million in 2017-18 with exports accounting for US\$ 257.46 million and imports of US\$36.76 million.

## MALAWI

Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu paid a visit to Malawi from 4-5 November 2018. Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu was accompanied by MoS for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar and two Members of Parliament. Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu called on Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of Malawi and launched the 'India for Humanity' programme in Malawi, the first country out of the 18 countries identified for this programme. Three MoUs were signed during the visit viz.,(i) Exemption from Visa for Diplomatic & Official Passport Holders; (ii)Extradition Treaty

and (iii) MoU for capacity building in regulating the mining of Radio-active/Atomic Minerals and Rare Earth materials. The grants announced during the visit includes: gifting of a Bhabhatron Cancer treatment equipment; medicines, ten Ambulances, 1,00,000 NCERT books, US\$ 10,000 to "Beautify Malawi", a Trust run by the First Lady of Malawi. New Lines of Credit worth US\$ 215.68 million towards water projects was also announced.

Mr. Atupule Muluzi, Minister of Health & Population visited India to attend Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation



Vice President calls on Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of Malawi in Lilongwe (November 05, 2018)

Convention from 29 September-2 October 2018 and Minister of Industry, Trade & Tourism Mr. Henry Mussa visited to attend the 1st General Assembly of International

Solar Alliance (ISA) from 2-6 October 2018. The 1st Joint Working Group in Health Sector between India and Malawi was held on 21 August 2018 in New Delhi.

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## MALI

The President of Mali Ibrahim Boucacar Keita, accompanied by a high-level delegation, visited India to participate in the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance held in New Delhi in March 2018. With a view of exploring the shared historical links between the two countries, an exhibition of

ancient manuscripts of Timbuktu, Mali - "Taj Mahal meets Timbuktu" was organized in India at the National Museum from 14 May-6 June 2018. Bilateral trade during 2017-18 was US\$ 237.74 million, up by about 15% since 2016-17.

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## MAURITANIA

No high-level official visits took place during 2018. Five ITEC slots and three ICCR scholarships have been offered to Mauritania during 2018-19. Total bilateral trade was US\$

88.61 million in 2017-2018, up from US\$ 76.93 million in 2016-2017.

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## NAMIBIA

An Indian company KGK Diamonds, opened a diamond cutting and polishing facility in Windhoek which was inaugurated by Minister of Mines and Energy Mr. Tom Alweendo on 13 April 2018. The Mission facilitated the participation of 19 Namibian companies in India-South Africa Business Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 30 April 2018. A three member delegation from the Federation of Indian Granite

and Stone Industry (FIGSI) visited Namibia from 9-11 July 2018. The delegation met the Mining Commissioner in the Ministry of Mines and Energy and visited Damara Granite quarry as well as a stone cutting and polishing plant in Walvis Bay. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia in collaboration with the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) of India organised a 2-day African Nations Experience



Sharing Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations in Windhoek on 6 August 2018. It was inaugurated by Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr. Pohamba Shifeta and was attended by senior government officials and policy-makers from 14 African countries. Four Namibian master trainers visited India on 21 August 2018 for six months training at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Pune for the under-construction Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in Namibia. The Centre is India's commitment and is expected to be made operational in 2019.

The Mission organized a Business Networking Event on 29 August 2018 which was attended by representatives of India-Namibia Chamber of Commerce & Industry (INCCI) and Indian and Namibian companies based here. An MoU between Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) concerning Technical Cooperation in the Area of Capacity Building of Public Officials was signed in Windhoek on 4 September 2018. Namibia deposited

its accession document for the Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance on 25 June 2018 and became a full member of the International Solar Alliance on 25 July 2018. A yoga demonstration-cum-practice session was organized by the Mission on 21 April 2018. Ms. Margaret Mensah Williams, Chairperson of the National Council of Namibia and Member of Parliament from the Khomasdal constituency attended the event. The World Environment Day was observed by the Mission on 5 June 2018. The Mission organized the Fourth International Day of Yoga (IDY) on 23 June 2018 in Windhoek. Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Christine Hoebes, Mayor of Windhoek Mr. Muesee Kazapua, Gold Medalist in recent Commonwealth Games Ms. Helalia Johannes, attended the event. The 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi was organised by the Mission on 2 October 2018. During the event, the hymn 'Vaishnava Jana To' rendered by local artiste Sally Boss Madam was released along with a set of stamps on Mahatma Gandhi and a documentary on Mahatma Gandhi was screened.

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## NIGER

President Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou attended the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in March 2018 in New Delhi. During the visit to New Delhi of the Special Adviser to the President from 17-19 September 2018, an MoU for Establishment of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey with Gol grant assistance of US\$ 35.484 million was signed. The Minister for Hydraulics & Sanitation attended the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi

from 29 September-2 October 2018. The Minister of Energy of Niger participated in the 1st General Assembly of International Solar Alliance held in New Delhi on 3 October. 154 out of 160 slots under ITEC, 2 out of 8 slots under ICCR Africa Scholarship Scheme for Post-Graduate courses and 1 CV Raman International Fellowship for African Researchers for Post-Doctoral research in India were utilized by Niger in 2017-18.

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## NIGERIA

2018 marks an important milestone in the bilateral relations between India and Nigeria as it ushers in sixty years of diplomatic engagement between the two countries. India established its Diplomatic House in Lagos in November 1958, two years prior to Nigeria's independence. As the largest democracy and largest economy in Africa, Nigeria maintained close political and commercial relations during the year.

Substantial economic partnership continues to drive the

bilateral relationship with India remaining the largest trading partner of Nigeria globally, and Nigeria remaining the largest trading partner of India in Africa. Bilateral trade with Nigeria recorded US\$ 11.76 billion in 2017-18. In the first six months of this year alone, the bilateral trade touched US\$ 6.26 billion with imports increasing by around 3.5% and the exports by around 20%. Nigeria continues to play an important role in India's energy security and is the 5th largest supplier of crude oil and 2nd largest supplier of Liquefied Natural gas

(LNG). Around 10% of India's annual crude requirements are imported from Nigeria. Both countries have vibrant defence engagement with frequent exchanges between the Armed Forces of the two countries. India continues to be a major health tourism destination for Nigerians, while Nigeria is a major source of employment for over 50,000 Indian nationals in managerial and expert-level positions.

The year witnessed three incoming Ministerial visits from Nigeria and two outgoing Ministerial visits from India. Nigerian Minister of State of Power, Works and Housing and Minister of State for Environment participated in the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Solar Summit in New Delhi in March 2018. Nigerian Minister of Water Resources along with other senior officials attended the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) which was held in New Delhi in October 2018. Former MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar and Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce & Industry Shri C.R. Chaudhary together visited Nigeria on a bilateral visit and participated in the CII-EXIM Bank India-West Africa Regional Conclave which was held in Abuja from 8 & 9 October 2018. The Conclave, in which over 300 Indian and African industry leaders and CEOs participated, culminated in a roadmap and a multi-pronged action plan for intensifying and deepening economic partnership between India and fifteen countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Close to 500 projects were discussed at the conclave.

The renewed relationship also saw for the first time, the participation of 22 Nigerian diplomats in a Special Course offered by India at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), New Delhi in July 2018. Delegations from the Nigerian Air Force and Nigerian Defence Research and Development Bureau (DRDB) took part in the Defence Expo which was held in Chennai in April 2018; visit of a six- member delegation led by Chairman Senate Committee on Defence to DRDO, India

in May 2018 and the visit of Nigerian Chief of Naval Staff to India in July 2018 strengthened the already existing defence cooperation between the two countries.

During the Founding Conference of ISA, India announced a concessional loan of US\$ 75 million for two solar projects. This is in addition to the US\$ 100 million LoC already offered to Nigeria, of which projects in Kaduna and Cross Rivers amounting to US\$ 60 million are under implementation.

Under ITEC Programme, Nigerian nationals are attending training programmes in civilian as well as defence training institutions in India. In the year 2018-19, 200 civilian ITEC slots and 115 defence ITEC slots were offered to Nigeria. The First ICCR Sanskrit Chair was established in Nigeria at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University with signing of an MoU in October 2018 in the presence of MoS for External Affairs by Indian High Commissioner and Vice Chancellor of the University. On cultural level, a 12-Member Haryana Folk Dance Group visited Nigeria in November 2018 and performed in cities of Lagos, Abuja and Kano. As part of the Gandhi@150 celebrations, the Mission arranged for the rendition of "Vaishnav Jan Toh" bhajan penned by Narsinh Mehta by a group of Nigerian singers.

The Nigerian Minister of State for Aviation visited on 15 & 16 January 2019 to participate in the 2019 Global Aviation Summit to be held in Mumbai where the Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) is likely to be signed. The defence delegation led by Additional Secretary rank officer co-chaired the 5th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting was held in New Delhi from 17-18 January. Nigerian Foreign Minister attended the "Vibrant Gujarat Africa Day" from 18-20 January 2019. Nigerian Minister of Health are expected to attend the 4th Summit of Global Digital Health Partnership in New Delhi from 25-27 February 2019 and International Digital Health Symposium on 27 February 2019.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Three projects under Gol's Lines of Credit are under implementation in the Republic of Congo, namely the US\$ 89.9 million Urban Transport System project in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire; the US\$ 55 million Greenfield 600 tonnes per day (tpd) rotary kiln-based Cement Plant project; and the

US\$ 69.46 million Rural Electrification project. Work is under progress. The Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation (GSFC) is considering setting up an Ammonia-Urea Fertilizer Plant in the Republic of Congo. Out of the 10 ITEC slots offered to RoC for the year 2018-19, seven have been utilized so far.

## RWANDA

The first ever Foreign Office Consultations between India and Rwanda were held on 3 May 2018 in Kigali. At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi undertook a State visit to the Republic of Rwanda from 23-24 July 2018. This was the first ever visit by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Rwanda. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's programme included one to one talks with President of Rwanda, bilateral delegation-level talks, interaction with the Indian community and addressing a business event. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also visited the Gisozi Genocide Memorial and laid a wreath on the memorial of victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. On 24 July 2018, the Prime

to the Scheme. A total of six MOUs on defence cooperation, bilateral trade, dairy cooperation, leather cooperation, cultural exchange, agriculture & animal resources and; two Agreements on Lines of Credit of US\$ 100 million each for development of Industrial Parks and agriculture project schemes were signed. The announcements made during the visit included- setting up of a Task Force in the field of digital education including the provision of an e-library, gifting of 1,00,000 books and to provide support for digitalization and online access of education books and related learning material, setting up of the Entrepreneurship Development Centre, fully funded twenty five slots for short-term training in the field of dairy production and processing, contribution



Prime Minister meets Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda during his visit to Rwanda (July 23, 2018)

Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in an event in Rweru Model village outside Kigali under 'Girinka programme', a social protection scheme of one cow - one family and gifted 200 cows worth US\$ 2,00,000 as a contribution from India

of US\$ 10,000 each to the Gisozi Genocide Memorial in Kigali and the Imbuto Foundation run by the First Lady of Rwanda for the education of the girl child.

## SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

The Sao Tome & Principe (STP) Minister for Foreign Affairs and Communities visited New Delhi on 7 & 8 September 2018 and in addition to talks with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, the

Framework Agreement on Co-operation in the Exploration and Uses of Space for Peaceful Purposes was signed.

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## SENEGAL

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During the year, Indo-Senegalese ties were further strengthened. The Senegalese Minister of Petroleum & Energy participated in ISA Founding Conference in New Delhi on 11 March 2018. The Senegalese Minister of Hydraulics & Sanitation participated in Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) from 29 September-2 October 2018. Bilateral trade between India and Senegal for the financial year 2017-18 has for the first time crossed the figure of US\$ 1 billion and stood at US\$ 1289.05 million registering a strong jump of 35.7% over the last year. The implementation of various LoC projects made notable progress during the year. These included LoC of US\$

62.95 million for the first phase of Lift Irrigation for Rice Self Sufficiency Programme; US\$ 27.5 million for the 2nd phase of Rural Electrification Project; US\$ 26 million for public transportation and US\$ 24.5 million for up-gradation and rehabilitation of healthcare. Exim Bank of India 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. India supplied on grant basis 250 e-Rickshaws with lithium-ion batteries on grant basis to Senegal, responding to the request of President of Senegal Mr. Macky Sall to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

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## SIERRA LEONE

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India and Sierra Leone continued to enjoy warm and cordial bilateral relations. The High Commissioner represented India at the oath-taking ceremony of the new President Mr. Julius Maada Bio at Freetown on 12 May 2018. The Minister of Health and Sanitation attended the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention held at New Delhi from 29 September-2 October 2018. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley, led a two-member delegation for CII-EXIM Bank India-West Africa Regional Conclave at Abuja, Nigeria, from 8-9 October 2018. Total bilateral trade between the two countries increased from US\$ 105.94 million in 2016-17 to US\$ 117.68 million in 2017-18. ITEC training programmes are popular in Sierra Leone and thirty nine Slots were utilized

in 2017-18. During the period April-October 2018, thirty one ITEC Slots were utilized including ten Solar Mamas trained in rural solar electrification at the Barefoot College, Tilonia. Five experts from the National Digital Crime Resource and Training Centre (NDCRTC) of the IT Wing of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad imparted training to the Cyber Crimes Bureau of the Sierra Leone Police from 1-13 October 2018. The 4th International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great fervour in Freetown on 23 June 2018. The Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, accompanied by an official delegation attended Partners' Forum 2018 on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health held at New Delhi from 10-14 December 2018.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to South Africa to participate in the 10th BRICS Summit on 25-27 July 2018. During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a bilateral meeting with President Cyril Ramaphosa. Three MoUs were signed: Establishment of the Gandhi-Mandela Centre of Specialisation for Artisan Skills in South Africa; Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) and Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the South African Agricultural Research Council

(SAARC). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of South Africa jointly released commemorative postage stamps honouring Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi.

The External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj visited South Africa from 3-7 June 2018. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj participated in the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting and in the IBSA Foreign Ministers' meeting in Pretoria on 4 June 2018. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj had bilateral meetings with President Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ms Lindiwe Sisulu and the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Ms. Maite Nkoana-



Prime Minister and Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa release the India-South Africa Commemorative Stamps (July 26, 2018)

Mashabane. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj also interacted with the Indian diaspora, visited the Phoenix settlement that was established by Mahatma Gandhi in 1904 and Ramakrishna Abalindi Home in Inanda. To commemorate the 125th year of the “incident” involving Mahatma Gandhi at Pietermaritzburg railway station, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj accompanied by the South African Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Mr Luwellyn Landers, took a symbolic 10-15 minute train ride to Pietermaritzburg railway station and unveiled a first-of-its-kind two-sided bust of Mahatma Gandhi and a digital museum. A coffee-table book on the 125th Anniversary of Satyagraha, commemorative coins and commemorative postage stamps on ANC stalwart Oliver Reginald Tambo and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was released on the occasion. The Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister of India Shri Suresh Prabhu led the Indian delegation for the India-South Africa Business Summit (ISABS) 2018 held in Sandton, Johannesburg from 29-30 April 2018. Minister of Trade and Industry Dr. Rob Davies, Mr. Pravin Gordhan, Minister of Public Enterprises and Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of Small Business Enterprises, represented the South African Government at the Summit. The Premier of Gauteng province, Mr David Makhura also participated in the event. Bilateral meetings between the CIM and the South African Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister of Public Enterprises were held in the sidelines of the Summit. A white paper that highlights the good work done by

Indian businesses in South Africa was released and an MoU between Invest India and Invest South Africa was signed. A book by noted diaspora journalist Fakir Hassen, titled The Red Fort Declaration – The Legacy 20 Years On was launched during the Summit. An Invest in India Business Forum (IIBF) was held at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg on 12 & 13 November 2018 to follow-up on the India-South Africa Business Summit, the visit of the Minister of Food Processing Industries to South Africa in June 2018 and to familiarize the potential South African investors with the investment and business-friendly New India. The National Defence College Delegation headed by Vice Admiral Srikant, Commandant NDC, visited South Africa as part of course curriculum from 20-27 May 2018. INS Tarkash and Kolkata visited Cape Town from 1-13 October 2018 and participated in the 6th IBSA Maritime Exercise (IBSAMAR). In July 2018, a tripartite settlement agreement was inked between the Government of India, Government of South Africa and Denel SOC Ltd. which led to the lifting of administrative restrictions placed by the Government of India on Denel. This was followed by the visit of a high-level delegation led by DG Acquisition to South Africa from 16-20 September 2018 to attend the Africa Aerospace and Defence Exhibition (AAD) 2018 held at Pretoria. The delegation also held discussions with the South African Government and Denel SOC Ltd.

The Chief of South African Navy, Vice Admiral MS Hlongwane visited India from 12 to 16 November 2018 and participated in

the commemorative seminar held as part of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium's 10th anniversary celebrations. The soft launch of the Gandhi-Mandela Centre of Specialisation for Artisan Skills took place in Pretoria on 8 October 2018 in the presence of the Minister of Higher Education and Training Ms. Naledi Pandor. Minister of Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal, visited South Africa to attend the Africa Big Seven/Saitex and other meetings from 24-27

June 2018 at Johannesburg. The fourth meeting of the CEO's Forum was held on 26 April 2018 in Sandton, Johannesburg in the margins of the India-South Africa Business Summit from 29-30 April 2018. In the Financial Year 2018-19, under ITEC, seventy slots were allocated to South Africa, out of which, fifteen slots were utilized so far. ICCR offered a total of fifty two slots to South Africa in 2018-19 out of which twenty three were utilized.

## SWAZILAND

On the invitation of King Mswati-III (KM-III), President Shri Ram Nath Kovind undertook a State Visit to the Kingdom of Eswatini, on 9 & 10 April 2018, which became the first visit ever to Eswatini by an Indian President. He was accompanied by First Lady Smt Savita Kovind, Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways & Shipping, Chemicals & Fertilizer Shri Mansukh Mandavia and two Members of Parliament, namely Dr. Ponnusamy Venugopal and Dr. Yashwant Singh and other senior officials. In a special ceremony, the King conferred the highest honour of eSwatini, 'the Order of the Lion' on the President and was accorded special honour to address the Joint Sitting of their Parliament. The announcements made by the President includes - support for construction of the new

Parliament building, a credit line of US\$ 10.4 million to help establish a 'Disaster Recovery Site', grant of US\$ 4,00,000 for construction of irrigation infrastructure, donation of cash grant of US\$ 1 million and in-kind donation of 700 tonnes of rice and 300 tonnes of beans for the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), supply of medicines and a fully Gov-funded specialized training course in Public Finance Management for fifty Swazi officials at Institute of Government Accounts and Finance (INGAF), New Delhi. Two Agreements on health and exemption of visa were signed. The 4th International Yoga Day was celebrated in Soweto on 21 June 2018 in association with the Consulate General of India, Johannesburg.

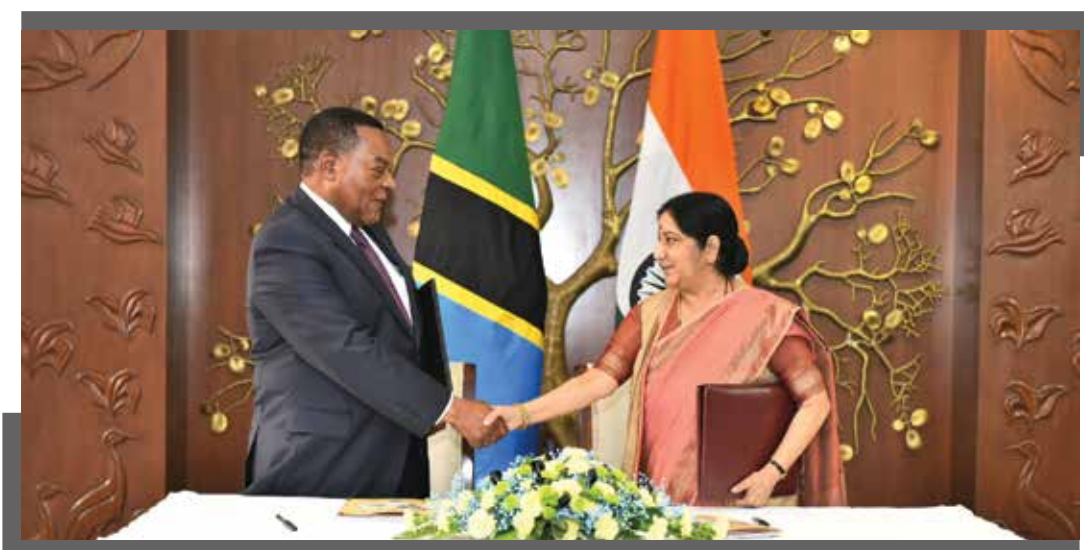


President inspects Guard of Honour during his Ceremonial Welcome on his arrival in Swaziland (April 09, 2018)

## TANZANIA

India-Tanzania Joint Commission on Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation held its 9th session led by the EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs & East African Cooperation of Tanzania Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga on 15 & 16 October 2018. During the Joint Commission, the two countries signed an MoU on cooperation between Foreign Service Institute of India and the Center for Foreign Relations, Dar es Salaam and exchanged an MoU

for cooperation between National Research Development Cooperation and the Tanzanian Industrial R&D organizations. The visiting Minister also addressed officials and scholars at the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi on Tanzania's perspectives on relations with India and visited the National Maritime Foundation for exchanges on maritime linkages and developments.



Exchange of Agreements between External Affairs Minister and Augustine P. Mahiga, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of Tanzania in New Delhi (October 16, 2018)

## TOGO

The warm and cordial bilateral relations between India and Togo were further strengthened by the visit of President Faure Gnassingbe to attend the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance held in New Delhi on 11 March 2018. The Minister of Health and Social Protection attended the Fourth India-Africa Health Forum in Mumbai on 16 May 2018. The Minister of Water Sanitation & Village Hydraulics led a five-member delegation to attend the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention held at New Delhi from

29 September-2 October 2018. The Minister of Mines & Energy, led a three-member delegation to attend the 1st General Assembly of the ISA held at New Delhi from 2-5 October 2018. Senior officials from Togo attended the CII-EXIM Bank India-West Africa Regional Conclave held at Abuja, Nigeria from 8-9 October 2018. India is among the top trading partners of Togo. The total bilateral trade between the two countries increased from US\$ 454.12 million in 2016-17 to US\$ 572.48 million in 2017-2018.

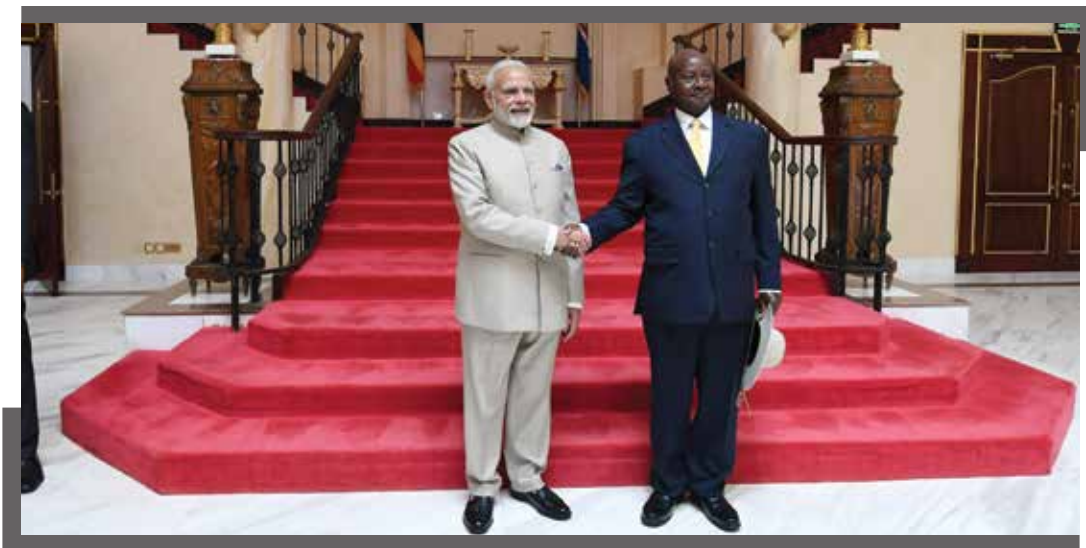
## UGANDA

At the invitation of President of Uganda, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi undertook a state visit to Uganda in July 2018. He held one-to-one discussions with President

of Uganda followed by delegation-level talks and a state banquet hosted in his honour. He also addressed a large gathering of 10000 plus members of the Indian community

in Uganda and unveiled a bust of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Ugandan President jointly addressed a business event. For the first time, an Indian Prime Minister addressed the Ugandan Parliament. In his speech, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inter-alia outlined India's approach to Africa and reiterated India's commitment to engage with the continent. The MoUs/Agreements on bilateral defence cooperation, exemption from visa requirement for official and diplomatic passport holders, Cultural Exchange programme and the establishment of Regional Material Laboratory in Uganda were signed. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced the offer of two Lines of Credits for construction of electricity lines and Substations worth US\$ 141 million and Agriculture and Dairy production for US\$ 64 million. It was also decided

that India will set up Mahatma Gandhi Convention/Heritage centre at Jinja where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were immersed; additional training of Uganda People's Defence Force in various Indian Army training institutions was also announced. Further, financial support for the East African Community (EAC) which is currently chaired by Uganda was announced. India also announced a donation of vehicles, for the Ugandan Peoples Defence Forces and for civil use by the Ugandan Government; Bhabhatron Cancer Therapy machine to Uganda Cancer Institute; NCERT books for school going children of Uganda; and solar-power irrigation pumps to help in the development of agriculture. First ever Foreign Office Consultations between India and Uganda were held in Kampala in April 2018.



Prime Minister meets Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda during his State Visit to Uganda (July 24, 2018)

A 15-member delegation from National Defence College, New Delhi visited Uganda from 20-26 May 2018. The delegation called on the President of Uganda, Minister of Defence and held meetings with officials in Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance. It also interacted with Senior Command and Staff College, Kimaka and with Air Force Headquarters.

Under the ITEC initiative of Government of India, Uganda was offered 125 training slots for the year 2018-19 out of which 94 slots have been utilized to date. Uganda was also offered twenty two Air Force Training slots in Indian Defence Institutions. Eight Ugandans have travelled so far to India

to avail IAFS-III training programmes in various fields. One Ugandan has availed of Special Agricultural Fellowship in 2018-19. Under 'Study in India' campaign, a total of seven students from Uganda have availed the benefit of Scholarships offered under the scheme. Under the Scholarship Program for Diaspora Children (SPDC) Scheme, one student from Uganda has been selected and is currently pursuing an education in India.

The IDY was celebrated at the historical "Independence Ground" at Kololo Airstrip, Kampala where more than 3000 yoga enthusiasts of all ages participated. To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Mission organized an event on 2



October 2018. The event was also attended by Mr. Victor Ochen, a Gandhian and the youngest Nobel Peace Prize nominee in Africa. High Commissioner also visited Jinja and paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi bust located on the Source of River Nile. He also attended a peace march in Jinja in which several Ugandans and Indians participated. EXIM Bank of India signed an Agreement with Uganda Development Bank Ltd (UDBL) for extending credit worth US\$ 5 million for the supply of goods and services from India. The credit facility will be used by the UDBL to provide medium and long-term development finance to Ugandan

SMEs. A Cultural Troupe from Uganda participated in the Africa Festival in Delhi in May 2018 on the invitation and funding by the Government of India. President of Uganda General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni hosted Diwali celebrations at State House, Entebbe on 23 November 2018 which was attended by prominent members of the Indian community. The High Commission organized a series of Rajya Divas (State Days) of Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana to showcase the rich history, culture, traditions, cuisine and tourism potential of the States in India.

## ZAMBIA

India and Zambia bilateral trade crossed US\$ 1 billion for the first time during 2017-2018 (US\$ 1388.29).



President meeting the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, at State House, in the Republic of Zambia on April 11, 2018.

At the invitation of the President of Zambia, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President Shri Ramnath Kovind accompanied Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Chemical and Fertilizers Mr. Mansukh L. Mandavia,

two Members of Parliament and other Senior Government Officials, paid a State visit to Zambia from 10-12 April 2018. Four MoUs on avoidance of double taxation, the establishment of the Entrepreneurship Cooperative Development Centre, exemption of visa requirement on diplomatic passports and judicial cooperation were signed. President Shri Ramnath Kovind also announced an offer of India's assistance in Construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre and a gift of medicines and medical equipment as well as \$100,000 to renovate the Mahatma Gandhi Primary School. Lusaka Roads De-congestion Project was jointly launched by the President of India and President Edgar Chagwa Lungu. Minister of Energy Mr. Mathew Mkhuluwa attended the 16th International Ministerial Meeting of the International Energy Forum (IEF) held in New Delhi from 10-12 April 2018. Dr. Dennis Musuku Wanchinga, Minister of Water Development and Sanitation visited Delhi from 29 September to 7 October 2018 to attend the Mahatma Gandhi Sanitation Convention. Zambia signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in April 2018. Mission issued about 150 visas to Zambian students for pursuing higher studies on self-financing basis. So far, around 3500 civilian Zambians have been trained in India in various disciplines. Setting up of 650 primary health posts across Zambia is in advance stage of implementation, supported by Government of India's LoC amounting to US\$ 68 million.

## ZIMBABWE

Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu visited Zimbabwe from 2-4 November 2018. This was the first ever high-level

visit from India to Zimbabwe in the past twenty two years. The Vice President paid a courtesy call on President Mr.

E.D. Mnangagwa and held bilateral discussions with the Zimbabwean delegation led by Vice President of Zimbabwe Mr. Kembo Mohadi. During the visit, five MoUs and an Action Plan on ICT were signed. The Vice Presidents of the two countries jointly addressed the India-Zimbabwe Business Forum and witnessed the signing of seven B2B MoUs/Agreements. Vice President also addressed the Indian Community. During the visit, Vice President announced US\$ 310 million LoC for up-gradation of Hwange Thermal Power

Station, additional US\$ 23 million LOC for rehabilitation of Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant and an additional US\$ 19.5 million Line of Credit for Deka Pumping & River Water Intake System; grant for construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre, US\$2.93 million grant for upgradation of Indo-Zim Technology Centre and Gifting of 10 Indian made Ambulances, gifting of lifesaving drugs and deputation of experts in five specialised areas.



Vice President calls on E.D. Mnangagwa, President of Zimbabwe in Harare (November 03, 2018)

Zimbabwe's Deputy Minister for Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Settlement Mr. Vangelis Peter Haritatos visited India to attend the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention from 29 September-2 October 2018 and Deputy Minister of Energy and Power Development, Magna Mudyiwa visited India to attend the 1st Assembly of International Solar Alliance in October 2018. Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce Mr. Raj Modi, visited India to attend the second edition of the India Gold and Jewellery Summit held in New Delhi on 23 & 24 November 2018.

At the invitation of Government of Zimbabwe, an eight-member Election Observer Mission visited Zimbabwe in July 2018 to observe the elections held on 30 July 2018.

A CII led business delegation visited Zimbabwe from 24-28 September 2018 and participated in the India-Zimbabwe ICT

Conference organised by the Embassy in association with the Zimbabwe Ministry of Information Communication Technology and Courier Services and the Zimbabwe-India Chamber of Commerce under the theme, 'Zimbabwe-India: Bridging the Digital Gap'. The same delegation also participated in the CZI annual Congress and International Investment Forum held in Bulawayo from 26-28 September 2018.

During this period, 125 ITEC slots, five defence ITEC slots and nine ICCR scholarships have been utilised.

The 4th International Day of Yoga, organised by the Mission, was celebrated in eight locations, viz., Mutare (2 June 2018), Rusape (3 June 2018), Kwekwe (9 June 2018), Gweru (10 June 2018), Victoria Falls (16 June 2018), Harare (17 June 2018), Bulawayo (23 June 2018) and UNDP in Zimbabwe.



Family Picture at the International Solar Alliance Founding Conference (March 11,2018)

The 3rd Edition of a 10-day 'India in the Sunshine City' festival was organised in September 2018 by the Embassy to showcase India's rich cultural heritage. As part of the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Mission in collaboration with Ministry of Youth,

Sports, Arts and Recreation, Sports & Recreation Commission, National Athletics Association of Zimbabwe and the Hindoo Society organised a 'Mahatma Gandhi Run for Peace and Harmony' on 7 October 2018.

# 7

## EUROPE AND EUROPEAN UNION

### WESTERN EUROPE

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#### ANDORRA

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Relations between India and the Principality of Andorra remain cordial and friendly. Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, Minister of State for Steel became the first ever Union Minister to visit Andorra in April 2018 and met Ms Maria Ubach, the Andorran Foreign Minister and discussed bilateral relations

and cooperation in multilateral issues. He also met with the Indian community living in Andorra. As agreed during the Minister's visit, a senior Andorran diplomat participated in the 4th Special Course for Asia-Europe (ASEM) diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi.

#### BELGIUM

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The year was marked by high-level exchanges between India and Belgian, one of the first European countries to establish diplomatic relations with independent India in September 1947. Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, on a visit to Brussels for the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) hosted by the European Union on 18-19 October 2018, called upon the King of the Belgians and discussed the

excellent bilateral cooperation between Belgium & India as well as contemporary issues of shared interest.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj had visited Belgium during 20-22 June 2018 and held bilateral talks with Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium and reviewed the ongoing India-Belgium bilateral cooperation. The leaders also



discussed United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reforms, development cooperation, counter-terrorism and regional as well as global issues. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj interacted with the members of the Indian community at the prestigious Center of Fine Arts (BOZAR).

The inaugural India-Belgium Foreign Office Consultations were held in Brussels on 2 May 2018 between Smt Ruchi Ghanashyam, Secretary (West) and Mr. Dirk Achten, Secretary General of the Federal Public Services Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium. The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest including follow-up action on the State Visit of the King and Queen of Belgium in 2017, status of negotiations on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, Visa Waiver Agreement for Diplomatic and Officials Passport holders, India-Belgium Economic and Trade Relations and other issues of regional importance.

The central pillar of India-Belgium bilateral relations has traditionally been trade and investment. India is Belgium's second largest export destination and third largest trade partner outside the EU. Trade in diamonds dominates the bilateral trade which during 2017-18 amounted to US \$12.2 billion. Trade for the period April to September 2018 has already reached US \$ 9 billion. Consolidated FDI by Belgians in India stands at US \$ 1.31 billion for period April 2000 to June 2018.

The India-Belgium-Luxembourg-EU Joint Commission (India-BLEU JCM) established in 1997 is the main forum for economic and commercial issues. A mid-term review meeting of the India-BLEU Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held on 3 May 2018 through video conferencing. As in the previous years, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) participated in the Global Seafood Expo held in Brussels during 24-26 April 2018 with thirty

exporters of seafood from India. A delegation from Bihar, led by Agriculture Minister Dr. Prem Kumar, visited Belgium during 15-17 April 2018 to discuss the possible sourcing of

disease-resistant varieties of banana. The visit was also useful in policy development for the control of this disease.

## FRANCE

India and France have completed twenty years of their Strategic Partnership which was established in 1998. The relationship is marked by a close and growing bilateral relationship and convergence of views on a range of international issues. The areas of defence and security cooperation, space cooperation and civil nuclear cooperation constitute the principal pillars of the Strategic Partnership. Apart from these traditional fields of cooperation, India and France are increasingly engaged in new areas of cooperation like security in the Indian Ocean region, climate change including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and sustainable growth and development among others.

India and France share a wide degree of convergence on a range of regional and global issues. France has continued to support India's claim for permanent membership of the Security Council and the reforms of the United Nations. France's support was vital in India's accession to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) and Australia Group (AG) while France continues to support India's bid for accession to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

In the economic domain, French business and industry, its capital and technologies have forged linkages with the Indian economy and India's developmental goals. There exist vibrant bilateral cultural and educational linkages as also growing people-to-people contacts. The Indian diaspora also has a sizeable presence in metropolitan France and its overseas departments/territories.

Vice-President Shri Venkaiah Naidu represented India at the commemorative ceremony of World War-I Armistice Centenary and also participated in the inaugural Paris Peace Forum on 11 November 2018 in Paris. He inaugurated the memorial for fallen Indian soldiers at Villiers Guislan on 10 November 2018.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Paris on 18&19 June 2018 and held talks with her counterpart Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, France's Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs. The two ministers discussed issues of bilateral partnership and international importance. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj also called on the



President and the Prime Minister receive Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic at the Ceremonial Reception in New Delhi (March 10, 2018)

French President on 18 June 2018. Later, she participated in the naming ceremony of the Indian Cultural Centre in Paris which was named as 'Vivekananda International Centre' and interacted with students and Indian Diaspora. A bilateral Letter of Intent (LoI) was also exchanged on cooperation on pre-historic caves during her visit.

Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Paris on 11 & 12 October 2018, for the first bilateral Ministerial Level Annual Defence Dialogue with her counter-part Ms. Florence Parly, France's Minister for the Armed Forces. During the visit, Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman also called on the French Prime Minister Mr. Edouard Philippe, gave a talk at the French Military College's Institute for Strategic Research (IRSEM) and also interacted with heads of key French defence industry enterprises.

Other Ministerial visits have been of Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister for Food Processing (October 2018) for the Salon International de l'Agriculture (SIAL) Agro-fair; Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Civil Aviation (May-June 2018) for the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference; and Former Minister of State (MoS) Shri M.J. Akbar (25&26 April 2018) for the 'No Money for Terror' multilateral conference in Paris. From the French side, recent Ministerial visits to India has been that of Secretary of State to the Minister for Ecological & Transition, Ms. Brune Poirson for the First General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (October 2018).

India and France share a range of regular institutional dialogue mechanisms. India-France Strategic Dialogue takes place between National Security Advisors (NSAs) from both sides. The last Strategic Dialogue was held in Paris on 19 July 2018 between Shri Ajit Doval, NSA and Mr. Philippe Etienne, Diplomatic Adviser to the French President. Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale held discussions with Secretary General of the French Foreign Office, Mr. Maurice Gourdault-Montagne on 18 June 2018 in Paris. The 3rd bilateral dialogue on Maritime Cooperation was held in Paris on 14 June 2018 led by Deputy NSA, Shri Rajinder Khanna and Ambassador Luc Hallade, French Ambassador for Regional Cooperation in the Indian Ocean and Vice Admiral Herve de Bonaventure, Acting Director General (DG) and Maritime Security Coordinator, French Ministry for the Armed Forces.

The bilateral consultations on UN [co-led by Joint Secretary (United Nations Political) / Joint Secretary (United Nations Economic and Social), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)] were last held in May 2018 in New Delhi.

During the visit of the French President Mr. Emmanuel Macron to India (March 2018), the two countries decided to create an annual defence dialogue at the Ministerial level, the first of which was held in October 2018. The regular bilateral naval Exercise Varuna took place during March-May 2018 in two phases in Goa and Reunion Island, France. The major on-going defence-related projects include the purchase of Rafale aircraft and the P-75 Scorpene Project.

Building on the historical linkages in the arena of civilian space, both India and France issued a "Joint Vision for Space Cooperation" during the visit of the French President to India (March 2018). Implementation is ongoing as regards the identified projects. The jointly developed Megha-Tropiques satellite which observes clouds and water vapours over the tropical region continues to be in good health and providing valuable scientific data. A joint Ka-band propagation experiment is also under implementation. France continues to be a major supplier of components and equipment for the Indian space programme. During the visit of the French President to India (March 2018), Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) and Électricité de France (EDF) concluded an Industrial Way Forward Agreement. Discussions between EDF and NPCIL have been ongoing with the objective of expeditious realization of the project.

Both India and France have important bilateral investments and trade and commercial cooperation. Almost 1000 French companies are present in India with a total turnover of US \$ 20 billion and employing around 300,000 persons. France is the ninth largest foreign investor in India with a cumulative investment of US\$ 6.30 billion from April 2000 to June 2018. In France, about 120 Indian companies are present with an estimated investment stock of € 1 billion and employing 7000 people. In the period April 2017 to March 2018, India France bilateral trade in goods stood at US\$ 11.42 billion, an increase of 4.26% as compared to the previous year. India's exports to France were valued at US\$ 4.90 billion, down 6.66%. French exports to India increased by 14.30% during the same period to US\$ 6.52 billion. However, the overall

volume of bilateral trade remains low with India's exports to France being a meagre 0.99% of France's total imports. Current trade from January to August 2018 stood at US\$ 8.85 billion.

A Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2016 to 2018 is under implementation. Government of India has also offered five scholarships for the study of Sanskrit in India to French nationals. The International Day of Yoga was organised by the Embassy of India, Paris on 16 June 2018 in Paris and in other cities of France which have received wide acclaim and press coverage.

In the field of Science & Technology, the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA)

established in 1987, based in New Delhi, is playing a major role by funding joint proposals for research in sciences and evaluate existing research projects. Several other bilateral cooperation programmes exist including an Indo-French Ministerial-level Joint Committee on Science and Technology, established in 2016, whose first meeting was held in New Delhi in June 2018.

It is estimated that there are about 6000 Indian students in France. Encouraged by the offering of courses in English medium in the French institutes of higher education, especially in the field of business management, about 3,000 Indian students come to France every year. The two sides aim to reach the number of 10,000 students by 2020.

## GERMANY

High-level visits between India and Germany helped maintain the momentum in bilateral relations in 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Germany in April 2018. Federal President of Germany Dr. Frank Walter Steinmeier undertook his first visit to India in March 2018. There were regular bilateral visits, both at the central and the state levels from

both sides, and continued interaction and cooperation in diverse areas, such as trade and investment, manufacturing, skill development, renewable energy, infrastructure, innovation, defence cooperation, science and technology and education.



Prime Minister meets Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany at the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires (December 01, 2018)

The mutual trust and understanding shared by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel was

manifested in several meetings and phone conversations that took place during the year. Prime Minister Shri Narendra



Modi congratulated Ms. Angela Merkel during a telephonic conversation on 21 March 2018 as she began her fourth term as Chancellor. At the invitation of Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Berlin on 20 April 2018 on his way back from the Commonwealth

Heads of Government Summit (CHOGM) in London. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel had a telephonic conversation on 9 November 2018 which was shortly followed by a meeting on the sidelines of G20 Summit held in Buenos Aires on 1 December 2018.



Prime Minister with the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, at Sunder Nursery, in New Delhi (March 24, 2018)

Federal President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier paid a 5-day State Visit to India during 22-27 March 2018 along with a business delegation. He met with President Shri Ramnath Kovind, Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj. He also visited Varanasi, and Chennai besides Delhi.

Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship & Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited Germany during 20-23 June 2018 and met with German Federal Minister for Education & Research Ms. Anja Karliczek in Berlin. He visited a bio-Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) plant near Stuttgart, skill development centres in Berlin and Stuttgart. German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Neils Annen visited New Delhi on 17 & 18 July 2018 and met with acting Union Finance Minister and Railway Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, former Minister of State (MoS) Shri M.J. Akbar, and Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale. The discussions during the visit were centred on the India-Germany bilateral relationship.

German Federal Commissioner for Culture and Media Prof. Monika Gruetters held bilateral talks with Union Minister for Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma and Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore on 17 September 2018 in New Delhi. The leaders agreed to revitalise the cultural engagement.

A Goodwill Parliamentary Delegation from India, led by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal visited Germany during 17-19 October 2018. The delegation consisted of eight Members of Parliament (MPs) from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The delegation met with Vice President of Bundestag (lower House of the German Parliament) Mr Wolfgang Kubicki, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee Dr. Norbert Roettgen and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Digitalisation Mr. Hansjoerg Durz.

German Federal Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid Dr. Baerbel Kofler travelled to Delhi,

Mumbai, Jharkhand and Gujarat from 21-26 October 2018. She interacted with government officials, National Human Rights Commission and Supreme Court. A Judicial delegation led by Supreme Court judges, Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman and Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur, visited Germany during 16-23 June 2018 to participate in expert discussions with judges of German Federal Courts. The visit was a continuation of the Indo-German Judicial Dialogue, which first began in 2015 in India.

Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation Dr. K. Sivan visited Germany on 21-22 June 2018 and held discussions at German Aerospace Center (DLR) and MT Aerospace, a leading German aerospace company. The cooperation between DLR and India dates back to 1971, when an agreement was signed for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and space research. Parliamentary State Secretary from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Mr. Christian Hirte visited India on 8 August 2018 and met with officials from Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in Delhi. He also launched the "Indo-German Association for Legal Cooperation" in India with Shri Nalin Kohli.

A delegation from the Indian Railways headed by Chairman, Railway Board (CRB) Shri Ashwani Lohani visited Berlin during 18-21 September 2018 to participate in International Trade Fair for Transport Technology (INNOTRANS) fair and to hold meetings with various Government officials and businesses. During the visit, he met with State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure Mr. Gerhard Schulz, who handed over High-Speed Rail Study Report for Chennai-Bangalore-Mysore Section to CRB.

Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Dr. Renu Swarup visited Berlin during 14-19 October 2018 to participate in "Grand Challenges Meeting". She also met with State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research Dr. Georg Schutte and discussed future programmes of India and Germany in the area of biotechnology.

Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe. India was ranked 26th in Germany's global trade in 2017. Bilateral trade increased to US\$ 21.98 billion (2017-18), a growth of 17.15%. In 2017-18, India's exports to Germany were worth

US\$ 8.68 billion and imports from Germany were worth US\$ 13.29 billion. Germany is the 7th largest foreign direct investor in India. Germany's total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India from April 2000 until June 2018 amounted to US\$ 10.99 billion. There are more than 1700 German companies active in India and over 600 Indo-German Joint Ventures in operation. The Mission's "Make in India Mittelstand" (MIIM) programme, aimed at assisting German Mittelstand companies entering the Indian market continued in the year 2018-19. 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 November 2018, the programme has supported 123 German SMEs with a declared investment of over € 870 million.

2018 marked sixty years of bilateral development cooperation. Germany has been an important development cooperation partner since 1958. Total bilateral Technical and Financial Cooperation since 1958, amounts to € 16.98 billion. Energy, sustainable economic development, environment and management of natural resources are priority areas under development cooperation. The unique feature of German development cooperation with India is that it focuses less on local projects and more on programmes with a structural impact. These programmes build on India's own efforts and reform programmes. They demonstrate model solutions and qualify the participating partners to continue and expand the projects independently.

Germany is also assisting India to upgrade its network of transmission lines through the funding for the Green Energy Corridors. This project will help improve the feed-in of power generated from renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind and hydropower) into the national grid as well as enhance energy efficiency and reduce power transmission losses. In the area of agriculture, Germany is supporting the Government of India's efforts to protect the soil and to boost food and nutrition security. Germany is also India's key partner in the area of vocational training. Current efforts of Germany are aimed at setting up a dual system of practice-oriented vocational education and training, in order to help create job opportunities for the younger population and improve the competitiveness of medium-sized businesses.

India-Germany Bilateral Development Cooperation

Consultation 2018 was held on 3 May 2018 in New Delhi between Department of Economic Affairs, Union Ministry of Finance and German delegation led by Head of India/South Asia, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development Dr. Wolfram Klein. Future cooperation in the priority areas of energy, sustainable urban development, environmental protection and resource conservation was discussed during the meeting.

On the defence side, Chief of the German Navy visited India from 15-18 October 2018. He met with the three Services Chiefs and the Defence Secretary. Rear Admiral Shri Adhir Arora, NM, Joint Chief Hydrographer visited Rostock, Germany to attend the 10th Meeting of Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) during 14-17 May 2018. An 18-member delegation from National Defence College (NDC) visited Germany on Foreign Country Study Tour of 58th National Defence College course from 27 May - 1 June 2018. A twenty-three-member delegation from College of Defence Management, Secunderabad visited Germany during 22-26 October 2018 as part of International Strategic Management Tour of Higher Defence Management Course. The Director Operations and Deputy Fleet Commander of German Navy visited India during 12-14 November 2018 for participating in the 10th Anniversary of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in Kochi.

Bilateral Annual Defence Cooperation programme 2018: A three-member delegation led by Director of German Federal Armed Forces Flight Safety visited India during 10-12 September 2018 for Flight Safety (Expert Talk/Information Visit) (IND-J-007-18), part of Bilateral Annual Cooperation Programme 2018. Lt. Gen. Shri Amarjeet Singh Bedi and Cdr.

Shri Ashutosh Sarangi visited the German Federal Ministry of Defence during 12-14 September 2018 for Military Intelligence Information visit (IND-J-003-18), part of Bilateral Annual Cooperation Programme 2018.

Director General of Training, Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Director General of Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 18 September 2018 for providing dual vocational education to Indian youth. Students who complete training courses in India will get a certificate that it is recognised in India as well as in Germany.

German Accidental Insurance (DGUV) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) on 13 November 2018 for further cooperation in the field of occupational health & safety and social security for employees.

The Mission, in collaboration with the Government of the German state of Thuringia, organised "India-Thuringia Partnership Day" on 18 June 2018 in Erfurt, the capital of Thuringia. School children from Erfurt interacted with Ambassador and were exposed to Indian culture through different workshops, including on Yoga, Indian dance and music. At the University of Erfurt, university students from all around Thuringia held discussions regarding India. A business seminar for Thuringian companies was organised on the occasion. An "Indian Food Festival" was organised by the Mission in the Chancery on 10 June 2018. A dozen food stalls were set up by Indian community associations in Germany, representing different Indian states and cuisines. Over 4,000 people, including the members of the Indian community, participated in the event.

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## IRELAND

Bilateral political and economic relations India and Ireland continued to remain upbeat. President Michael D. Higgins was the first to sign Condolence Book on the passing away of former PM Vajpayee on 16 August 2018. In his remarks, President Higgins expressed deepest sympathy on the passing away of "a great public Statesman and Poet".

India-Ireland trade turnover for the year 2017-18 reached

US\$ 1.3 billion. Irish consolidated investments in India exceeded US\$ 500 million till June 2018. The decision of the UK to leave the European Union has forced Ireland to focus its export and business strategies towards countries like India, which present an enormous potential. Ireland's decision to open a new Consulate in Mumbai is a step in this direction. Embassy in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organised a seminar on

the theme, "Doing Business with India" on 13 September 2018, at the prestigious House of Lords in Dublin. A number of Indian companies - IDFC Bank, Modi-Mundipharma and Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul) and others, dealing in Fintech, health and Bio-Pharma and Agritech sector participated in the 'Routes to Growth' Asia Pacific Conference, held in Dublin on 25 April 2018.

The 4th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated in Dublin on 16 June 2018 in collaboration with the Dublin City Council. More than 800 participants from different walks of life took part in the event at the Herbert Park in Dublin. For the first time IDY was also celebrated along with Summer Solstice at the Iconic site of Hill of Tara, which was the seat of ancient Irish High Kings on 21 June 2018 attended by around fifty people.

Celebration of friendship between Irish laureate WB Yeats and Indian laureate Gurudev Tagore on Yeats' birthday was held on 13 June 2018 at Sandymount, Dublin. Annual Dublin Rathayatra Festival (Festival of Chariots) was organised by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) on

28 July 2018. Embassy in collaboration with National Botanic Gardens in Dublin organised a talk on 'Gardens of India' on 17 May 2018 by Mr. Patrick Bowe, a renowned author, landscape designer and architectural historian. Gandhi @150 was one of the major events held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in collaboration with City Council on 2 October 2018. The 9th Indian Film Festival of Ireland was held in Dublin from 23-25 November 2018.

The Diaspora population in Ireland is about 34,000, of whom about 20,500 are Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and approximately 13,500 are Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). The bulk of the community is in healthcare (doctors and nurses), IT, engineering and senior management positions. The Embassy organised a Diaspora outreach event on 31 July 2018 to outline various policies of the Government. Mission also organised welcome receptions for the incoming students at various Irish educational institutions. Mission also organised the 4th India Day at Phoenix Park in Dublin on 2 September 2018 which was attended by a number of high-level Irish dignitaries.

## ITALY

2018-19 was a special year for India-Italy relations. Both countries commemorated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations with year-long celebrations in India and Italy. Relations received a further boost with the official visit of Prime Minister Mr. Giuseppe Conte in October 2018 exactly one year after the visit of former Italian Prime Minister Mr. Paolo Gentiloni. This was Prime Minister Mr. Giuseppe Conte's first visit to Asia after taking Office in June 2018. He led the Italian official-cum-business delegation to the 24th edition of the Department of Science and Technology-Confederation of Indian Industry(DST)-(CII) Technology Summit where Italy was partner country.

During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Mr. Giuseppe Conte. The leaders also jointly addressed the valedictory session of the Tech Summit, attended by over 700 delegates including 150 from Italy. The two sides issued a joint statement where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to

strengthening the bilateral, political and economic relations between two countries. It outlined the way forward for strengthening India-Italy relations in various areas including the constitution of a CEOs Forum and setting up of a fast-track mechanism to promote two-way investments and resolve issues faced by businesses of both countries expeditiously. Given Italy's renowned expertise in design, the two sides also decided to explore collaboration in Lifestyle Accessories Design (LAD) with a special focus on the leather sector, and Transportation and Automobile Design (TAD). India and Italy also committed themselves to strengthen their longstanding science and technology collaboration in areas like micro-electro-mechanical systems, cognitive neuroscience, material sciences, renewable energy, Information Communications Technology (ICT) and protection of cultural heritage.

The visit of External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj, to Italy on 17 June 2018 was the first major political exchange with the new Italian government. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj called on Prime Minister Mr. Giuseppe Conte



Prime Minister meets Giuseppe Conte, Prime Minister of Italy at Hyderabad House in New Delhi (October 30, 2018)

and conveyed felicitations of the Government of India to the newly elected Government of Italy and reiterated India's desire to strengthen bilateral relations with Italy. She also held bilateral discussions with the new Foreign Minister of Italy, Mr. Enzo Moavero Milanesi. They reviewed the bilateral relations and exchanged views on international and regional issues. The Ministers emphasised the importance of promoting regular high-level contacts and bilateral dialogue mechanisms and agreed to build a robust and wide-ranging partnership covering political consultations, trade and commerce, science & technology, culture and people to people ties. They welcomed the growing India-Italy convergence on contemporary global issues and agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in multilateral fora.

The first batch of nine Indian diplomats underwent a training course in Rome under the aegis of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October 2018, pursuant to the MoU signed in October 2017 between the Foreign Service Institutes of the two countries.

A Goodwill Parliamentary Delegation visited Italy during 15-17 October 2018. The delegation was led by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and MoS for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and comprised Members of Parliament from various political parties. The delegation met Italian Minister for Relations of Parliament and Direct Democracy, Mr. Riccardo

Fraccaro and interacted with Members of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies as well as that of the Italian Senate. Both sides underscored the need to strengthen cooperation in various fields including in IT, food processing, tourism as well as cultural and youth exchanges. Italian side appreciated the well-integrated Indian community who are peace-loving and hardworking. Taking place after a gap of seven years of the visit to India by Italy-India Parliamentary Friendship Association in December 2011, the visit provided an opportunity for the parliamentarians of both sides to enhance their understanding and goodwill for each other's countries.

The year saw a new momentum in the trade & investment relations between two countries. Italy is India's fifth largest trading partner in the EU. Bilateral trade grew by 18.4% to US\$ 10.4 billion in 2017-18 from US\$ 8.7 billion in 2016-17, with a trade surplus of US \$1 billion in India's favour. Trade at US\$ 5.23 billion during April-September 2018, is estimated to reach an all-time high in 2018-19. Italy emerged as the largest importer of coffee from India. Participation of Italian companies in Make in India is on the rise. An Italian super-bike company also opened a new manufacturing plant in India with plans to export to neighbouring countries. Italian companies have also won major infrastructural projects in India. An Indian company acquired a major steel plant in Italy.



External Affairs Minister meets Enzo Moavero Milanese, Foreign Minister of Italy in Rome (June 18, 2018)

An Indo-Italian High-level Forum on Design was launched in Milan during the International Furniture Fair in April 2018 where Indian interior designers, architects and furniture manufacturers participated. India participated as a partner country in the first edition of Videocitta, an exhibition related to the audio-visual entertainment industry in Rome during 19-27 October 2018. The India Pavilion showcased Indian films' heritage, ease of film shooting and beautiful shooting locations in India, International Film Festival of India, Indian Cinema from different regions, Audio Visual Co-Production between India and Italy. Indian cultural performances and yoga demonstrations were also held. During the year, the Embassy facilitated the participation of Indian businessmen in major commercial fairs in Italy besides organising/participating in various commercial events to promote India as a preferred trade partner for Italy and an investment destination.

In addition to the India-Italy Tech Summit, robust cooperation in Science & Technology (S&T) continued. The Joint S&T Committee that met in India in October 2018 decided to set up an Italy-India Platform for science and innovation for promoting and facilitating the establishment of Indo-Italian Centres of Excellence in selected areas of mutual strength such as cultural heritage preservation, renewable energy, life sciences, and geohazards. The 4th Phase of the India - Trento Programme for Advanced Research (ITPAR) was launched on

19 June 2018. ITPAR Joint Scientific Committee which met on 18 & 19 June 2018 recommended joint activities in the areas of (i) Microsystems (ii) Telecommunication (iii) Cognitive Neurosciences (iv) Renewable Energy and (iv) Quantum Physics for the next three years. Both sides also held a workshop on "Renewable energy technologies" from 17- 19 September 2018 in Camerino, where six Indian scientists participated.

Defence engagement with Italy intensified and received a fresh impetus with the holding of the 9th Joint Defence Committee Meeting on 14-15 May 2018 in Rome after a gap of eight years. The 9th meeting of India-Italy Military Cooperation Group was held in Rome on 11 & 12 October 2018 where both sides agreed on a bilateral cooperation plan for the year 2019 which increased the bilateral activities from eight to eighteen. INS Tarangini paid a goodwill visit to the port of Palermo in southern Italy. An Army Higher Command Course was organised in Italy after a gap of nine years. NATO Codification Bilateral Agreement signed during this period places the Indian defence industry at an advantageous position for exports of defence equipment.

The Embassy organised various events in the field of culture, performing arts and yoga. The commemoration of 70 years of diplomatic relations between India and Italy were the highlight of the public functions during this period. An ICCR sponsored troupe performed Kathak Dance "Vivartha" at the prestigious Teatro Argentina in Rome and at the Caserta Palace in southern Italy. The International Day of Yoga was celebrated at a much larger scale with the signature event held at the famed Piazza del Campidoglio. An annual Summer Mela Festival was organised by the India-Europe Foundation for New Dialogues (FIND). The event was held during June-July 2018 and saw participation by eminent Indian and Italian artists. Joining Ministry's global commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the iconic Palazzo Senatorio, the seat of Rome city council, was illuminated with a LED projection of Gandhiji's message and teachings on 2 October 2018. The festival of Deepawali/ Diwali was celebrated officially this year also at the Italian Senate and in Embassy premises in collaboration with Italian Hindu Union, ISKCON Italia, Brahma Kumaris et al.

There is also wide recognition of the role and sacrifices of the Indian soldiers that fought with the British Army for Italy's liberation during the Second World War. Proactive efforts have resulted in fast-tracking the case of ceremonial burial of the remains of two soldiers of the Indian Army who sacrificed their lives in Italy during WWII. The ceremony will take place on 25 April 2019. The Embassy continued to reach out to the Indian community in far-flung areas from Rome by organising consular camps periodically. An open house has also been

started by the Embassy every Wednesday where people can discuss their consular matters without a prior appointment with senior Embassy officials. The Indian Community Centre, Bucine which was established in collaboration with the Embassy in 2017 is assisting the Indian Diaspora in liaising with local authorities regarding various issues concerning the community like conducting Italian language classes, legal guidance to Indians, promoting Indian culture, cuisine and spiritual heritage.

## LUXEMBOURG

2018 was an eventful year for India-Luxembourg bilateral relations. The year was marked by high-level exchanges on both sides. Both countries are celebrating seventy years of establishing diplomatic relations between them in 1948.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Luxembourg on 19 & 20 June 2018. This visit was the first ever visit to Luxembourg by an External Affairs Minister of India. During her visit, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj called on the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, Henri Albert Gabriel Félix Marie Guillaume and Mr. Xavier Bettel, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj held talks with her counterpart, Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, in which both sides reviewed India-Luxembourg political bilateral relations and

consulted on regional and global issues. During the visit, EAM also interacted with the Indian community at the Grand Duke Jean Museum of Modern Art (MUDAM) in Luxembourg.

Mr. Pierre Gramegna, Finance Minister of Luxembourg visited Mumbai on 25 & 26 June 2018 to participate in the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). During his visit, he met Shri Piyush Goyal, the then Acting Minister of Finance.

Bilateral trade in goods between India and Luxembourg, during the year 2017-18 was US\$ 64 million. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from Luxembourg to India between April 2000 and June 2018 stood at US\$ 2.63 billion.



External Affairs Minister calls on Henri Albert Gabriel Félix Marie Guillaume, Grand Duke of Luxembourg (June 20, 2018)

## MONACO

Monaco, one of the world's most prosperous States and second smallest State after the Vatican. It 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.

Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan, Minister of State for Finance and Shipping visited Monaco on 21 & 22 May 2018 and had meetings with Mr. Jean Castellini, the Minister of Finance & Economy and Mr. Gilles Tonelli, Minister of External Affairs & Cooperation.

## NETHERLANDS

2018 witnessed the continuity of natural synergies between India and the Netherlands. The Dutch Prime Minister Mr. Mark Rutte led a trade mission to India on 24 & 25 May 2018. This was the largest ever Dutch trade mission to India. Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Minister for Medical Care, the Mayor of the city of The Hague were also part of the trade mission. Constructive discussions on a wide variety of regional and international issues including terrorism, cybersecurity and

cooperation in international organisations were held during the visit. The bilateral discussions focused on areas of water and waste management, spatial planning, agriculture and food processing, people-to-people and connectivity. The visit carried forward the momentum of the bilateral ties, which was significantly boosted by the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the Netherlands in June 2017. On the sidelines of the G20 in Buenos Aires, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Dutch Prime Minister Mr. Mark Rutte and Queen Maxima of Netherlands on 1 December 2018.



Prime Minister and Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of Netherlands participate in India-Netherlands CEO Roundtable at Hyderabad House, New Delhi (May 24, 2018)

The Netherlands is a natural partner in India's economic development. Both sides are keen to maintain the ongoing

expansion in Indo-Dutch economic engagement. Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 8.77 billion in 2017-2018. In 2017, Indian



exports to the Netherlands grew at 14.7%, while Indian imports grew at 18.2%. During the current financial year, FY 2018-2019 (April to September), total two-way trade stood at US\$ 6.28 billion. The Netherlands emerged as the third largest investor in India in 2017-2018 with investments aggregating US\$ 2.67 billion across a variety of sectors such as services sector, trading, automobile industry, fermentation industries, chemicals, and water management. It was the second largest destination of foreign investment by Indian companies, after Singapore, with investments worth Rs ₹83,500 crores (approximately US\$ 12.8 billion) in 2017. The Netherlands was India's fourth largest trading partner in the EU, after the UK, Germany, and Belgium. Economic and commercial engagement between India and The Netherlands achieved significant expansion in the last one decade.

2018 marked the tenth anniversary of the Indo-Dutch collaboration in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI). The Netherlands is the Partner Country for the India Tech Summit in 2019. Successful bilateral cooperation including research between India and The Netherlands continues across various sectors including science and technology, biotechnology, electronics and information technology, health care, water, big data, and Internet of Things (IoT), Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), space, agriculture, spatial planning, mobility management, cybersecurity. India and The Netherlands continued to cooperate and support each other's global initiatives. The Netherlands joined the International Solar Alliance in May 2018. India became the Co-convenor of the Global Center on Adaptation, initiated by the Netherlands, in October 2018.

There were other high-level visits in 2018. In May 2018, Queen Máxima of The Netherlands visited India in her capacity as the UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development. She met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and discussed various initiatives taken by the Government of India for enhancing financial inclusion in India. She also met External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj and discussed the progress that India has achieved in the area of financial inclusion since her previous visit to India in 2014. Minister for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik visited the Netherlands on 1-4 September 2018. He attended the 4th International Ayurveda Congress and

Health Fair (IAvC) and also addressed a Seminar on "India - Netherlands Collaboration in Healthcare, Including Ayurveda." Minister of Food Processing Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal visited the Netherlands from 4-6 September 2018. The focus of the visit was to promote World Food India (WFI) 2019 to be held from 1-4 November 2019 and to invite participation from The Netherlands. The 5th India-Netherlands Foreign Office Consultation was held on 4 May 2018 in The Hague.

In 2018, two MoUs were signed between India and the Netherlands viz. extension of MoU on Technical Cooperation in the field of spatial planning, water management, and mobility management (April 2018); and MoU between the Foreign Service Institute, MEA, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands (23 May 2018).

The 3rd Joint Working Group (JWG) on Technical Cooperation in the field of spatial planning, water management, and mobility management was held on 2 May 2018, in the The Hague, Netherlands. A Joint Action Plan was formulated for further cooperation focusing on urban planning and smart city development, affordable housing and waste management. The 6th JWG under the MoU on Cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation was held on 28 November 2018 at New Delhi. India-Netherlands 1st Cyber Dialogue and 2nd JWG meeting on Counter-Terrorism took place on 14 December 2018 in The Hague. The 2nd JWG meeting on Health Care Sector under the MoU on Cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Public Health took place on 17&18 December 2018 in New Delhi. The 6th edition of the India-Netherlands Foreign Office Consultation will be held in February 2019.

Since August 2015, the electronic Tourism Visa (eTV) has been successfully implemented in The Netherlands contributing greatly to increased business and tourism flows and people to people contacts between the two countries. From a single direct flight in 2015, the numbers of daily non-stop flights between India and the Netherlands increased to five in 2018 connecting Amsterdam to Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. This has greatly enhanced connectivity and ease of travel between India and The Netherlands.

The fourth International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 17 June 2018, in Museumplein, the most prestigious venue

in Amsterdam. For the first time, the International Day of Yoga was organised out of The Hague. The event witnessed a large gathering of people who participated in the whole day wellness festival. The event was inaugurated by Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Ms. Cora van Nieuwenhuizen and spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. Yoga demonstrations were interspersed with cultural programs of dance and music throughout the day with a grand finale 'The Soul Shanti Concert' featuring Indian violin maestro Dr. L. Subramaniam and Bollywood playback singer Smt Kavita Krishnamurthy. The 72nd Independence Day was celebrated at India House, the Ambassador's residence in The Netherlands. For the second time, the event was organised as an open house and was attended by over 600 people including members of the Indian diaspora and friends of India.

The 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and also the International Day of Non-Violence, were marked by six events in four cities including Utrecht, The Hague, Zoetermeer,

and Amsterdam. Special commemorative stamps marking the 150th birth anniversary issued by the Indian Postal Department was presented to the former Foreign Minister and Chairman of Carnegie Foundation, Dr. R. Bernard Bot at a function in the Peace Palace. LED projection on the "Relevance of Bapu's message in the contemporary world" was carried out at public places including in the railway stations of the four large cities of the Netherlands - The Hague, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Utrecht. On 30 September, Mission organised a Gandhi March in The Hague, as part of a 'Follow the Mahatma' campaign from the Peace Palace to Grote Kerk, The Hague. The march, which witnessed a large number of participants concluded with cultural events at the Grote Kerk where an exhibition on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi was housed. Further, an outreach programme called "Follow the Mahatma" was organised in which over 100 volunteers reached out to around twenty schools in The Netherlands to spread the message of non-violence and teach the life of Mahatma Gandhi.

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## PORTUGAL

The warm and friendly relations between India and Portugal, anchored in close historical, cultural and people-to-people links, continued to intensify as both sides worked to tap into complementary synergies and forge a forward-looking partnership with stronger strategic, political, economic, cultural, scientific and people-to-people ties. The relationship saw renewed momentum as India and Portugal began implementing more than twenty Agreements and outcomes from the unprecedented exchange of visits by the two Prime Ministers in 2017 within a span of six months - the State Visit of Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa to India from 6-12 January 2017 and the Official Visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Portugal on 24 June 2017 which resulted in agreements in several priority sectors like Defence, Space, Renewable Energy, Oceans, IT & Electronics, Agriculture, Startups, Higher Education & Research, Taxation, Public Administration, Culture, Visas, Youth & Sports, third country cooperation, and Trade & Commerce.

Pursuant to discussions held during Prime Minister Mr. Antonio Costa's visit to Goa in January 2017, the Portuguese Minister of Environment Mr. João Pedro Matos Fernandes,

accompanied by a five-member Portuguese delegation, visited Goa on 28&29 September 2018 and signed an MoU for technical collaboration in water management between Public Works Department (PWD) Goa and Águas de Portugal (AdP). Minister Mr. João Matos Fernandes attended the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi and held bilateral meetings with Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation Smt Uma Bharti, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Culture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Dr. Mahesh Sharma, and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal. The Ministerial visit was preceded by the visit of a three-member Portuguese delegation of ADP to Goa from 28 May-1 June 2018 to discuss collaboration in the water management sector with PWD Goa and Imagine Panaji Smart City project.

On 24-25 June 2018, the Portuguese Secretary of State for Internationalisation Dr. Eurico Brilhante Dias, visited Mumbai to attend the annual meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). He also visited Delhi and held

bilateral meetings with Minister of Shipping, Highways, Water Resources & Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Shri Suresh Prabhu and the former Minister of State (MoS) Shri M.J. Akbar. Secretary of State Dias was accompanied by a Portuguese business delegation and also held business meetings with Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Mumbai. The Minister of Revenue, Mining, Water Resources and Irrigation in the Government of Punjab, Shri Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, visited Portugal from 30 October - 2 November 2018 to celebrate Punjab State Day on 1 November with the Punjabi diaspora in Portugal.

In pursuance of the MoU on Public Administration and Governance Reforms signed during the visit of the Portuguese Prime Minister to India, a four-member delegation led by Shri K.V Eapen, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Governance (DARPG), visited Lisbon on 8 & 9 May 2018 and held the first meeting of the Senior Consultative Body to discuss matters related to e-governance and digital citizen-friendly service delivery systems.

In the defence sector, a sixteen-member Portuguese delegation led by the Portuguese Platform for Defence Industries (idD) participated in DEFEXPO-2018 in Kancheepuram during 11-14 April 2018. The delegation interacted with Indian Ministry of Defence officials including Defence Secretary, Indian defence Public Sector Units (PSUs) and participated in Business to Business (B2B) meetings organized by FICCI. A diplomatic reception was hosted on the occasion of the second friendly Port Visit to Lisbon by INS Tarangini from 4-7 June 2018. Air Marshal Shri Kuldeep Sharma visited Lisbon during 2-7 September 2018 and held discussions with Portuguese aerospace company OGMA regarding Maintenance Repair Overhaul (MRO) facility for Indian Embraer aircrafts and interacted with Portuguese defence companies interested in exploring business opportunities under the Make in India programme. A MoU between FICCI and the idD was signed on 17 July 2018 for promoting cooperation in the defence industry.

In the area of Science and Technology, a seven-member delegation of Indian scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) participated in a workshop on

nanotechnology at the International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL) in Braga, Portugal, from 15-17 October 2018. ISRO Chairman Shri K. Sivan also met the Portuguese Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education Dr. Manuel Heitor in Germany on the sidelines of the International Astronautical Congress from 2-5 October 2018. A MoU between the Department of Science and Technology and the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (FCT) for joint scientific research and collaboration is being finalized to operationalise the € 4 million fund announced during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Portugal in June 2017. A MoU between the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Portuguese Food and Safety Authority (ASAE) was signed in New Delhi on 6 September 2018 for cooperation in the area of food policy and safety.

On the economic front, a multi-sectoral trade delegation anchored by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) visited Portugal on 26 & 27 November 2018 for B2B meetings with the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIP) Lisbon, and Portuguese Entrepreneurial Association (AEP) in Porto. The visit took place under the framework of the MoU between FICCI and CCIP for exchanges of trade missions, signed at the Joint Economic Committee meeting in Lisbon on 30 May 2017. Pursuant to the MoU signed between Invest India and Startup Portugal during the Portuguese Prime Minister's visit in January 2017, applications have been invited to select ten Indian startups that will join Portuguese incubators to familiarise themselves with the EU market. On 5 September 2018, Prime Minister Antonio Costa attended the contract-signing ceremony between the Portuguese technology company Vision-Box and Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, for designing passenger-friendly, biometric systems. India participated in the MODTISSIMO textile fair in Porto on 26 & 27 September 2018 to promote Khadi and the SME BizForum in Santa Maria de Feira on 12 October 2018.

Promoting closer people-to-people ties, a second batch of twelve students from the Salgaonkar Institute of International Hospitality Education in Goa visited Portugal from 20 May - 2 June 2018 for training in the hospitality sector. Around

fifteen Indian students from St. Marks Senior Secondary Public School, New Delhi, visited the Escola Secundária of Agrupamento de Escolas de Caneças Portugal under a student exchange programme between the two schools. A book, 'Histórias Daqui e Dali' ('Stories from Here and Beyond'), a collaborative project on water pollution involving 400 school students from Auxilium High School in Goa and Alberta Menéres School in Sintra was launched on 14 May 2018 in Lisbon. The Centre for Indian Studies in the University of Lisbon, with the support of ICCR, organised a conference on 'Indian Ocean: Global Connections' on 17 & 18 April 2018, with distinguished speakers from India. Carnegie India, in association with the Orient Foundation, organized the India Strategy Group conference in the Arrabida Monastery in Portugal on 7&8 June 2018.

A series of events showcasing Indian art and culture were organised, including the commemoration of the 4th International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2018 with the Portuguese Yoga Confederation at the iconic Belém Tower involving around 200 participants; a mass yoga event on 24 June 2018 at Ramalde Sports Park in Porto; and the Jiya Festival of Dance at the Orient Foundation with Nakshatra Productions on 10 November 2018. The two-year celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was launched in the presence of the Mayor of Lisbon through a

LED projection of Mahatma Gandhi's images and messages at Lisbon's historic Praça do Comércio square and a conference on Mahatma Gandhi including Satya Varta at the India Studies Centre in the University of Lisbon. Prime Minister António Costa, who is a member of the Committee set up to organise commemorative events globally, authored an article for the Anthology on Mahatma Gandhi being brought out on the occasion. The well-known Portuguese flute player Mr. Rão Kyao rendered Gandhiji's favourite bhajan 'Vaishnava Jana To' as an homage to Mahatma Gandhi. On 15 August 2018, a Festival of India was organised in the Vasco de Gama gardens in Belém to celebrate India's Independence Day. More than 7,000 visitors enjoyed the diversity of Indian dances and music, cuisine, Khadi products, Yoga, Ayurveda, Henna, Rangoli, calligraphy, Bollywood, Indian products and an India Quiz. A Teacher of Indian Culture (TIC), sponsored by the ICCR, joined the Indian Embassy on 30 April 2018 and is actively promoting Yoga in Portugal.

Portugal continues to consistently support India in multilateral fora. Addressing the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 26 September 2018, the President of the Portuguese Republic, Dr Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa stated that India should be included as a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

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## SAN MARINO

Relations with San Marino have continued to remain cordial and friendly. Bilateral trade increased by 27.87% in 2017 over 2016-17 figures reaching US\$ 0.78 million. India's exports to San Marino however decreased by 39.15% and stood at US\$ 0.14 million while imports from San Marino increased 66.5% reaching US\$ 0.64 million. Round table with the Chamber of Commerce of San Marino was held on 23 January 2018, during which a potential for strengthening trade and investment relations between India and San Marino was discussed.

International Day of Yoga was celebrated at a large scale on 22-23 June this year. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Political Affairs and Justice, Mr. Nicola Renzi and Minister for Culture and Sports, Mr. Marco Podeschi also participated at Yoga Day event held in a prestigious location in San Marino.

A one-day film festival was also held on 22 June 2018. National Award winning film 'Queen' was screened and was enthusiastically received by the public in San Marino.

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## SPAIN

Following the impetus provided by Prime Minister's official visit to Spain in May 2017, bilateral relations were strengthened

by an increased frequency of high-level meetings. Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu met Mr. Pedro Sanchez,

Prime Minister of Spain on the sidelines of the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Brussels in October 2018. Prime Minister Modi also met the Spanish Prime Minister on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires on 1 December

2018. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj met with the Spanish Foreign Minister on the sidelines of UN General Assembly in New York in September 2018.



External Affairs Minister meets Josep Borrell Fontelles, Foreign Minister of Spain in New Delhi (January 8, 2019)

Mr. Ildelfonso Castro, Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs visited Delhi on 3 April 2018 for India-Spain Foreign Office Consultations. As agreed in the joint statement issued during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Spain, a defence industry conference was held in Madrid in April 2018; the first meeting of the Expert Panel on Tourism was held in Madrid in May 2018; a twinning agreement between the cities of Ahmedabad and Valladolid was signed in July 2018; a technical cooperation agreement in the field of urban transportation was signed between the National Capital Region Transport Corporation and ADIF, the Spanish public-sector railway infrastructure company, and negotiations were concluded on the Additional Agreement on defence R&D and the technical agreement on White Shipping.

On the commercial front, bilateral trade increased by 9.6% during the six month period of April – September 2018 compared with the same period last year and stood at US\$ 3.25 billion. During this period India's exports to Spain grew by 8% to US\$ 2.45 billion while India's imports from Spain grew by 15% and stood at US\$ 0.8 billion. The 11th round of the India-Spain Joint Commission on Economic

Cooperation was held in Madrid on 18 January 2018 and discussed bilateral trade and economic relations, market access issues and financial cooperation. Shri Alphons Kannanthanam, Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism led the Indian delegation to the 108th Executive Council Session of the UN World Tourism Organisation held in San Sebastián in April 2018. Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister for Food Processing Industries visited Spain in September 2018 and presented government's reform initiatives and opportunities for businesses in India and strengthened cooperation in food processing and mega food parks.

As part of States facilitation efforts Ministerial and official-cum-business delegations were organised from the States of Haryana, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Maharashtra and Telangana for cooperation in agriculture, animal husbandry, wholesale markets and cooperatives. Trade delegations, buyer-seller meets and business conferences were organized in defence, sports, renewable energy, textiles, leather and IT. India participated as the 'Partner Country' in FITUR 2018 tourism fair and with dedicated India Pavilion at trade fairs held in Spain viz. Intergift, Alimentaria, Foodtech, GPEX &

GASTECH, Digital Enterprise Show, CPhI Worldwide and Smart City Expo World Congress.

The 4th International Yoga Day (IYD) was celebrated in Madrid at the iconic Conde Duque Cultural Centre on 16 June 2018 followed by IYD events in seventeen major cities such as Barcelona, Tenerife, Granada, Valladolid etc. as well as in Principality of Andorra totalling about 4500 participants. Mission participated at the RioMundi World Rivers Festival in Cordoba representing the River Ganga. The 5th edition of India in Concert was held at Teatros del Canal in Madrid. Director General ICCR, Ms. Riva Ganguly Das visited Valladolid for the Casa de la India Board Meeting in July 2018. Mission held a Summer Course for Hindi from

July to September 2018. A film festival of independent films IndiaIndie was held in Madrid and Valladolid in September 2018. The celebrations of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi began on 2 October 2018 with the launch of Bapu@150 Quiz, the release of commemorative stamps, photo exhibition, LED projections of short film and the screening "Vaishnav Jan To" sung by Condesa Eylo Alfonso Choir for the Medley. The second edition of Diwali Mela took place in Madrid in cooperation with the City Council and the local Indian Community. Mission organised photo exhibition, screening of documentaries and quiz on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. Delegations from Ahmedabad and Kerala participated in AR&PA Biennale of Cultural Heritage in Valladolid.

## UNITED KINGDOM

The multi-faceted strategic partnership between India and the United Kingdom received fresh impetus with the visit of Prime Minister to London on 18 April 2018, which was the third at the level of Prime Minister within a span of three years. Ten MoUs/agreements were signed during the visit across diverse areas such as a cyber-relationship framework,

rejuvenation of river Ganga, skill development, vocational education, safe nuclear energy use, cooperation in animal husbandry, fisheries and dairying, sharing of criminal records, research in humanities and social sciences under the Newton-Bhabha programme and setting up of a centre of excellence in Ayurveda and traditional Indian medicine.



Prime Minister attends UK-India CEO Forum held at Francis Crick Institute in London (April 18, 2018)

Pursuant to wide-ranging and constructive interactions between both the Prime Ministers, it was decided to pursue an India-UK Technology Partnership and enhance cooperation

in the areas of trade, investment and finance. Implementation of the Tech Partnership was envisaged through the launch of an India-UK Tech Alliance between NASSCOM and Tech UK,

establishment of a UK-India Tech hub, development of UK-India Tech Cluster partnerships, setting up of an Advanced Manufacturing Centre in India and collaboration in Artificial

Intelligence and Digital Healthcare in India's Aspirational Health Districts Programme.



Prime Minister with Heads of Government at the formal opening of the CHOGM Summit in London (April 19, 2018)

Other initiatives announced during the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit included new India-UK Dialogues on Investment and FinTech, a multilateral India-UK Trade Dialogue and a sector-based roadmap to address barriers to trade. The India-UK CEOs Forum was convened during the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit on 18 April 2018 which discussed tech collaboration, data protection and ease of doing business. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Prince of Wales jointly unveiled a plaque for a new Ayurveda Centre of Excellence on 18 April 2018 which marked the launch of a new network to coordinate evidence-based research on yoga and Ayurveda. The UK also joined the International Solar Alliance during this visit.

Following Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit in April 2018, the momentum in bilateral cooperation was maintained through the year with a number of Ministerial visits from both sides. Union Minister for Electronics, Information Technology and Law, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, visited London in July 2018 to further the India-UK Tech Alliance coordinated by NASSCOM and Tech UK. A MoU in the field of law and justice aimed to develop shared approaches to future challenges and opportunities was signed on this occasion. Union Minister

for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. T. Gehlot, attended the Global Disability Summit in London on 23&24 July 2018. Minister for Power and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh, visited Birmingham in September 2018 to attend the Zero Emission Summit. He also co-chaired the second UK-India Energy for Growth Dialogue with Secretary, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Mr. Greg Clark in London on 13 September 2018.

UK of Minister of State for South Asia in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Mr. Mark Field, visited India on 7&8 May 2018 for wide-ranging talks on the Tech Partnership and sustainable energy. Minister for Countering Extremism in the Home Office, Mrs. Baroness Williams, visited India on 11 June 2018 to hold bilateral discussions for developing closer cooperation to tackle extremism. Chancellor of Treasury, Mr. Philip Hammond, visited Mumbai on 25&26 June 2018 to attend the annual meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and also met some young Indian entrepreneurs in the Zone Startups Accelerator at the Mumbai Stock Exchange. Universities and Science Minister, Mr. Sam Gyimah, visited India from 25-27 July 2018 to co-chair the Science and Innovation Council meeting held in

New Delhi on 26 July 2018 with Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science & Technology.

Secretary of State in the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Mr. James Brokenshire, visited India along with West Midlands Mayor, Mr. Andy Street, from 4-6 October 2018 to promote ties between India and the Midlands region of UK. Lord Mayor of the City of London, Mr. Charles Bowman, visited India accompanied by a business delegation and representatives of fintech firms from 7-12 October 2018 to strengthen economic and trade links with India. Deputy First Minister of Scotland, Mr. John Swinney, visited Delhi and Bengaluru from 23-29 November 2018 along with a delegation comprising business and representatives of Scottish universities with a focus on technology to promote trade and investment and strengthen education and cultural links.

State Governments of India continued to outreach in the United Kingdom and promote their respective incentives and strengths to route investment into India. Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Industry Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri M. C. Sampath and officials from the Uttarakhand Government visited the UK in May 2018, October 2018 and July 2018 respectively in this connection.

Another round of the India-UK Cyber Dialogue took place on 20 June 2018 in New Delhi which decided to take forward cooperation in cyber-related issues in the areas of cyber diplomacy, cybercrime, incident response, digital economy and capacity building through individual sub-groups and nodal points in designated Departments/ Agencies. It was also decided to initiate a separate structured dialogue on data privacy issues. The 12th meeting of the India-UK Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism took place on 16 November 2018 in New Delhi. The ensuing discussions ranged from sharing of risk assessments, countering radicalism and extremism, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and extradition matters, cooperation between Special Forces and in the field of aviation and maritime security.

Bilateral trade with the United Kingdom in goods in 2017-18 was US\$ 14.5 billion and in services was about US\$ 7 billion. India retained its position as the 4th largest investor in the UK and emerged as the second largest job creator with Indian

companies having generated more than 105,000 jobs. UK was the 4th largest investor in India with a cumulative equity investment of US\$ 26 billion from April 2000 – June 2018, accounting for around 7% of all foreign direct investment into India. The total consolidated revenue for 800 Indian companies operating in the UK amounted to £46.4 billion with total capital expenditure investment touching £4.7 billion. Indian companies created 120 FDI projects in the UK in 2017-18 and created 5,659 new jobs while safeguarding another 532 jobs.

Apex-level cooperation in the field of defence continued through the 19th Defence Consultative Group meeting on 27 September 2018 in New Delhi between Defence Secretary and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence. Discussions covered defence capability partnership, joint cooperation in defence R&D and manufacturing under the Make-in-India framework. The Defence Equipment Sub-group meeting at Additional Secretary-level, held in New Delhi on 26 September 2018, discussed defence equipment and maintenance issues. Executive Steering Group meetings between the Indian Navy-Royal Navy (24 July 2018) and the Indian Air Force-Royal Air Force (25-27 September 2018) took forward bilateral cooperation and implementation of the decisions taken between both sides at previous Defence Consultative Group meetings. A five-member Royal Navy delegation led by a Rear Admiral visited India from 25-29 June 2018 for developing capability partnership on Carrier Operations between the Indian Navy and Royal Navy.

Bilateral joint naval exercise Konkan 18 was organized in and off Goa from 28 November to 6 December 2018, in which Indian Naval destroyer INS Kolkata took part. An Indian army team from 2/8 Gorkha Rifles participated in the Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2018 in the UK from 15-17 October 2018 and won the silver medal. During its Navika Sagar Parikrama, Indian Navy Sailing Vessel Tarini with an all-women crew of six visited Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands (an Overseas Territory of the UK in the Southern Atlantic Ocean). INS Tarangini visited Sunderland in the UK from 12-14 July 2018 with its crew of ten officers, thirty trainee cadets and forty-four sailors.

Cooperation in Science & Technology continued with the India-UK Science & Innovation Policy Dialogue held in



London from 21-23 April 2018 which was co-chaired by Secretary, Department of Science & Technology and Chief Scientific Adviser, UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The 6th Steering Committee meeting of the India-UK Science & Technology Sub-Committee between

Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) and Defence Science Technology Laboratory (DSTL) the UK was held on 30 April 2018 and another Working Group-level meeting was held in London in September 2018 between DRDO and DSTL.

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## CENTRAL EUROPE

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### ALBANIA

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Bilateral relations are friendly and remain one of mutual trust & understanding. India & Albania cooperate on an issue-based approach in the multilateral fora.

Bilateral economic and commercial cooperation got a boost when in November 2018 a consortium led by India Power Corporation Ltd won a tender for construction of 100 MW of solar park worth Euro 70 million (US\$ 79.3 million) in Albania.

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### AUSTRIA

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Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Ms. Karin Kneissl met External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj for a bilateral meeting in September 2018 in New York on the side lines of United Nations General Assembly.

The Austrian State Secretary of Finance Dr. Hubert Fuchs visited Mumbai on June 23, 2018 for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship paid an official visit to Vienna from 19-20 June 2018 to participate in the 7th OPEC International Seminar. Minister of State for Textiles Shri Ajay Tamta during his transit visit to Vienna in May 2018, discussed the future roadmap for promotion of Indian textiles in Austria. Former MoS for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar met Austrian Federal Minister for Europe,

Integration and Foreign Affairs Ms. Karin Kneissl in Vienna on 15 May 2018.

Minister of State for Textiles Shri Ajay Tamta during his transit visit to Vienna in May 2018, discussed the future roadmap for promotion of Indian textiles in Austria.

Minister of State for External Affairs Sh. M. J. Akbar met Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Ms. Karin Kneissl in Vienna on 15th May, 2018.

An "India Day & Symposium on Ayurveda, Yoga & Meditation for active & healthy Ageing" in collaboration with AYUSH & Medical University of Graz was organised from 25-27 September 2018. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the All India Institute of Ayurveda and the Vice Rector of the Medical University of Graz on increasing cooperation in the field of Ayurveda and research.

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### BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

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The Indian pavilion in the 21st International Economic Fair in Mostar (10-14 April 2018) was inaugurated by H.E Mr. Mato Franjicevic, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the side-lines of the

trade fair the Indian delegation participated in the Conference on the investment potentials of Herzegovina organized by Centre for Investment and Entrepreneurship Development Mostar (CIRP) and Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA).

A 15-member Indian delegation visited Sarajevo Business Forum from 25-26th April, 2018 comprising of Vice Chancellor and doctors from Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, (SRMC), Chennai and Mr. Suhas Mantri, Honorary Consul of BiH in Mumbai.

Government of India Tourism Office in Frankfurt participated in the 40th Sarajevo Tourism Festival from October 24th-26th, 2018. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Denis Zvizdic and other Ministers of Federation of BiH.

### BULGARIA

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid a State Visit to Bulgaria from 4-6 September 2018. Coinciding with his visit, India-Bulgaria Business Forum was held in Sofia with the participation of large number of companies and was addressed by the Presidents of India and Bulgaria. A statue of Mahatma Gandhi created by Bulgarian sculptor Ivan Russev was also inaugurated by the Presidents of India and Bulgaria on the eve of Gandhiji's 150 anniversary celebrations. Five MoUs on cooperation in the field of investment, science & technology, civil nuclear energy, tourism and establishment

of Hindi Chair at Sofia University were signed during the visit.

The 9th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Science & Technology was held in Sofia in August 2018 during which the Programme of Cooperation for 2018-2021 was finalized.

Minister of State for Textiles Shri Ajay Tamta visited Bulgaria from 8-11 May 2018 and met the Bulgarian Minister of Economy.

India participated in the 74th International Technical Fair Plovdiv from 24-29 September 2018 with 47 Indian companies attending the Fair with ASSOCHAM.

### CROATIA

Ms. Marija Pejcinovic Buric, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia visited India on 22 Oct 2018. She met EAM and Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha. Two Agreements- Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the year 2019-2022 and Agreement on the Gainful Occupation for Family Members of Members of Diplomatic Missions or

Consular Posts were signed during the visit.

Mr. Mario Siljeg, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Croatia participated in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention from 29 September - 02 October 2018.

### CYPRUS

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid a state visit to Cyprus during 2-4 September 2018. He met the President of Cyprus, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, the President of the House of Representatives, Mr. Demetris Syllouris and addressed the extraordinary session of the House of Representatives.

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind unveiled the bust of Rabindranath Tagore at the University of Cyprus. Two MOUs ( Cooperation in the area of environment and Exchange of information on Money-laundering between FIU of India and MOKAS Cyprus) were signed.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid a state visit to Czech Republic from 6-9 September 2018 and met President Mr. Miloš Zeman. He also met Prime Minister Mr. Andrej Babiš, Speaker Radko Vondráček and addressed the Czech-Indian

Business Forum.

8 Agreements/ MOUs were signed during the visit - Visa Waiver for Diplomatic Passport holders; MoU on S&T cooperation between Czech Academy of Sciences and CSIR;

Work Plan on joint S&T projects between DST and M/o Youth, Education and Sports; Agreement on Laser research between the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and ELI Beamlines; MoU between Hissar Agricultural University and Czech University of Life Sciences; MoU between Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML) and TATRA Trucks a.s.; MoU between PHDCCI and Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Crafts CZ and MoU between Faculty of Business Administration, University of Economics Prague and IIM, Bangalore.

Shri C.R. Chaudhary, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution led a four-member delegation for the 11th Session of India-Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) held in Prague from 22-23 October, 2018. A joint Protocol was signed with Ms. Marta Novakova, Trade & Industry Minister. An MOU between Investment Promotion Agencies on both sides viz. Invest India and CzechInvest was also signed.

The 5th JWG on Heavy Industry was held in New Delhi on 8 March, 2018 on the sidelines of the India International Sourcing Fair (IESS) 2018 at Chennai. The meeting was co-chaired by N Sivanand, Joint Secretary MoHI&PE, and Richard Hlavaty, Senior Director General, Ministry of Industry and Trade on the Czech side.

Volkswagen group announced an investment of One billion

euros into the new project INDIA 2.0, which will be supervised by Skoda Auto company, to develop new models specifically for the Indian market from plant in Pune.

The 4th round of Consular Consultations between India and the Czech Republic were held in Prague on 22 April 2018.

A 35-member delegation led by Mr. Tomas Huner, Minister of Industry and Trade visited India from 4-10 March 2018, along with 13 companies to attend the India-EU 29 Business Forum in Delhi and India Engineering Source Show in Chennai where Czech Republic was the partner country.

Mr Richard Hlvaty, Senior Director General, Ministry of Trade and Industry led an industrial delegation to India from 25 November – 1 December 2018 for launch of the Czech Industrial Clusters (CIC) in Bengaluru.

The Czech Government has launched a special project called 'Special Procedures for Highly Qualified Employees' in India w.e.f. 1 October 2018, where applications for employment permit from highly skilled workers from India will be accepted preferentially with an annual quota of 500 such applications to start with.

The Czech Republic opened two new Honorary Consulates in India in Bengaluru and Chennai (in addition to its Embassy in Delhi and the two honorary consulates in Mumbai and Kolkata).

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## DENMARK

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Danish Prime Minister Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen during the India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm on 17 April 2018. This was the first meeting at PM-level after a gap of nine years. Four MoUs were exchanged during the meeting -MOU on Cooperation in the fields of Animal Husbandry and Dairying; MoU in the field of Sustainable and Smart Urban Development; MoU on cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education and MOU on Food Safety Cooperation.

Foreign Minister of Denmark, Mr. Anders Samuelsen met Hon'ble Vice President on the margins of the 12th ASEM Summit in Brussels on 19 October 2018.

Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and

Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan visited Denmark during 21-24 May 2018 to attend the 9th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM9) and 3rd Mission Innovation Ministerial (MI3) held in Copenhagen and Malmo (Sweden).

Minister for Food Processing Industries, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, visited Denmark from 30 August– 01 September 2018 to attend the World Food Summit. The Minister met the Danish Minister of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, Mr. Rasmus Jarlov, and the Minister of Environment and Food, Mr. Jakob Ellemann-Jensen.

A 12-member delegation from the Maharashtra Legislature, led by Shri Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar, Chairman, Maharashtra



Prime Minister with Nordic Prime Ministers from Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Finland at the First India-Nordic Summit at Stockholm (April 17, 2018)

Legislative Council, visited Copenhagen during 18-19 Apr 2018.

Shri Gopal Krishna, Secretary (Shipping) visited from 28-31 May 2018. The 1st JWG on Shipping was held during the visit.

Shri Yudhvir Singh Malik, Secretary, Road Transport and Highways visited from 1-2 November 2018.

Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs visited from 21-23 November 2018. The JWG on Urban Development was held during the visit.

Shri Manish Gupta, Joint Secretary (OIA-I) led the Indian delegation for the JWG on Labour Mobility from 8-9 August

2018 in Copenhagen.

During this period the following JWG's meetings between India and Denmark were held- i) JWG on Agriculture & Animal Husbandry (16 May 2018 in Delhi); ii) JWG on Food Processing (17 May 2018 in Delhi); iii) JWG on Science & Technology (22 May 2018 in Copenhagen); iv) JWG on Shipping (28-31 May 2018 in Copenhagen); v) JWG on Labour Mobility (8-9 August 2018 in Copenhagen); vi) 2nd JWG on Renewable Energy (4 October 2018 in Delhi); vii) JWG on Environment (29-31 October 2018 in Copenhagen); and viii) JWG on Urban Development (21-23 November 2018 in Copenhagen).

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## ESTONIA

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Mr. K.J. George, Minister of IT, BT and S&T of Karnataka visited Estonia on 26-27 August, 2018.

Government of Telangana and Estonia signed an MoU for cooperation in digital practices, e-governance and related areas in October 2018.

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## FINLAND

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Mr. Juha Sipila, Prime Minister on 17 April 2018 on the sidelines of the first India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm, Sweden.

Finland's Minister of Energy, Housing and Environment Mr.

Kimmo Tiilikainen, visited India from 18-21 April 2018.

Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan accompanied by six Members of Parliament visited Finland from 17 to 18 June, 2018.

## GREECE

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid a State Visit to the Hellenic Republic from 16-19 June 2018 and met Greek President Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos. He met the Greek President Pavlopoulos and Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis called on President Shri Ram Nath Kovind. Three MoUs on Cooperation in the Fields of Standardization; Cooperation in Diplomatic Training and the Programme of Cultural Cooperation for the year 2018-2020 were signed during the visit. President Shri Ram Nath Kovind addressed the India-Greece Business Forum and the Hellenic Foundation for Europe and Foreign

Policy (ELIAMEP). He thanked Greece for inviting India as “Honored Country” for Thessaloniki International Trade Fair 2019.

Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu met with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, on the sidelines of ASEM Summit 2018 in Brussels on 18 October 2018.

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, paid a official visit to Greece from 17-19 April 2018 and met with Greek Minister of Agricultural Development and Food, Evangelos Apostopoulos and President of the Hellenic Parliament, Nikos Voutsis.

## HOLY SEE

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between India and The Holy See.

## HUNGARY

Former Minister of State Shri M.J. Akbar met Mr. Peter Szijjarto, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary in Dushanbe on 4 May 2018, on the sidelines of the High-Level International Conference on ‘Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Radicalization’.

An event on promotion of States of India- their economic, culinary and tourism potentials was organised on 12 May 2018. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Hyderabad, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West-Bengal, and their “Make in India” potential was showcased.

On 15 June 2018, Gurgaon-based multinational group SRF limited announced the setting up of a packaging plant in the city of Jaszfenyszaru (near Budapest).

The 3rd edition of “Ganga-Danube Cultural Festival of India” was celebrated in 22 cities of Hungary from 23-24 June 2018. The Festival showcased yoga, Indian classical dance, music, folk art, films and gastronomy.

An MOU between the Council of EU Chambers of Commerce of India (CEUCCI) and the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) on future cooperation was signed on 25 June 2018 in Budapest.

An MoU between ICCR and ELTE University of Budapest for continuation of Hindi Chair at ELTE University was signed on 19 September 2018.

A delegation from World Skills India, an initiative of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship visited Hungary from 24-29 September, 2018 to participate as a guest country in the Hungexpo’s Euroskills events and to prepare themselves for the World Skills competition.

The 5th Indian Film Festival was organized from 4-10 October, 2018 in Puskin cinema, Budapest.

To commemorate 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Hungary, the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary organised the 1st Hungarian Indian Film and Tourism Symposium in Budapest on 13th November, 2018. The symposium was inaugurated by Ms. Cecilia Szilas, Deputy State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Hungarian Foreign Minister, Mr. Peter Szijjarto, announced greenfield investment of Euro 71.50 million by M/s Flex Films Europa, a subsidiary of Uflex India Ltd. on 21st November 2018. The company will establish a flexible packaging materials production plant in Rétság.

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## ICELAND

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Ms. Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland during the India - Nordic Summit held in Stockholm, Sweden on 17 April 2018. A Memorandum of Understanding for establishment of ICCR Chair for Hindi language at the University of Iceland was signed on 12 April 2018 by ICCR and University of Iceland. The exchange of MoU took place at the India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm, Sweden on 17 April 2018 in the presence of Prime Minister of India and Iceland.

Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Minister of State for Electronics and IT visited Iceland from 5-8 June 2018. During the visit, Minister called on Mr. Gudni Th. Johannesson, President of Iceland and met Ms. Thordis Kolbrun Gylfadottir, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Innovation; Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, Minister of Finance and Economic; and Mr. Sigrudur Ingi Johannsson, Minister of Transport and Local Government of Iceland.

Indian delegation was led by Dr. Vijay Kumar, Scientist G, Ministry of Earth Sciences participate in the 5th Arctic Circle Assembly was held in Reykjavik from 19-21 October 2018.

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## LIECHTENSTEIN

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India and Liechtenstein celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

His Serene Highness Hereditary Prince Alois visited India and met Rashtrapati ji on 12 October 2018 and EAM on 10 October 2018 in New Delhi.

Agreement between Republic of India and Principality of Liechtenstein in the field of Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information was signed on 11 October 2018 in Vaduz, Liechtenstein.

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## LITHUANIA

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India and Lithuania enjoy cordial relations that is marked by close cultural linkages. There exists a strong tradition of Indology studies in Lithuanian Universities.

Indian investment (Indorama group) is estimated to be over US \$ 200 million. A dedicated Indian Chamber of Commerce was established in September 2018.

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## LATVIA

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A 12-member Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited Latvia from 13-17 June 2018. Hon'ble Speaker met the Prime Minister of Latvia Mr. Māris Kučinskis.

A 11-member delegation led by Mr. Jagat Shah of Global Network visited Riga, Latvia from 17-22 October 2018 to promote the 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Summit to be held in January 2019 .

An Ayurveda Chair has been set up at the University of Latvia in June 2018.

## MACEDONIA

Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Ajay Tamta visited Macedonia from 6-8 May 2018. MOS held discussions with Macedonian Minister of Economy Mr. Kreshnik Bekteshi.

Indian company Indus Medika opened a high tech medical

laboratory in Skopje on 14 November 2018 with an investment of Euro 3 million which is the biggest Indian investment in Macedonia this year. The company is planning 5 further investments in the Balkan region with Macedonia as its base.

## MALTA

The 2nd India-Malta Foreign Office Consultations were held in Malta on 20 April 2018. Former MoS Shri M.J. Akbar paid an official visit to Malta from 8-10 July 2018, and met Foreign Minister Mr. Carmelo Abela. He called on the President of Malta Ms. Marie Louise Coleiro Precca and the Prime Minister of Malta Dr. Joseph Muscat. Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, paid an official visit to Malta from 16-18 September 2018 and met the President of Malta, Ms. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. Vice President had meetings with the Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr. Angelo Farrugia, Acting Prime Minister & Minister of Economy Dr. Christian Cardona. Leader of Opposition Dr. Adrian Delia called on

the Vice President. Three MoUs - Maritime Cooperation between the Ministry of Shipping of India and the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects of Malta; Mutual cooperation between Foreign Service Institute, India, and the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta; and Tourism Cooperation between India and Malta were signed during the visit.

Parliamentary Secretary for local Government and Communities of Malta Mr. Silvio Parnis led the Maltese delegation to the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation (MGIS) Convention held in New Delhi on 29 September -2 October 2018.

## MOLDOVA

Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova, Mr. Tudor Ulianoschi paid an official visit to India from 11 - 15 August 2018 and met the External Affairs Minister Mrs Sushma Swaraj on 14 August 2018. He also

met with the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Suresh P. Prabhu and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh.

## MONTENEGRO

Indian relations with Montenegro are close and friendly and there is goodwill and feeling of friendship for India in Montenegro.

The International Day of Yoga was organized in Montenegro on June 25, 2018 and was very well attended by officials and citizens of Montenegro and the UN office in Podgorica.

## NORWAY

Prime Ministers of India and Norway met in Stockholm on the sidelines of India Nordic Summit on 17 April 2018.

An 11-member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Council, Shri Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar visited Oslo from 19-21 April

on a study visit;

INS Tarangini, a Sail Training Ship of the Indian Navy, visited Stavanger in Norway from 26 to 29 July 2018 to participate in the Race 2 of the 'Tall Ships Races 2018' from Stavanger to Harlingen.

A 5-member delegation led by Shri Yudhvir Singh Malik, Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways visited Norway from 28 to 30 October 2018 on a study tour on tunneling technology in Norway.

The first Norwegian Letten Prize Award of NOK 2 million was given to an Indian legal scholar Dr. Tarunabh Khaitan for his work against discrimination and inequality.

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## POLAND

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The 8th FOC was held on 19 January 2018, co-chaired by Secretary (West) from Indian side and Deputy Foreign Minister from the Polish side.

A 3 member Ministerial delegation from Bihar, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sushil Modi and a 2 member delegation from West Bengal, led by Minister of Power & Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Shri Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay visited Katowice from 14-15 May 2018 to participate in the European Economic Congress.

Ms Teresa Czerwinska, Polish Minister of Finance visited Mumbai from 25-26 June 2018 to participate in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Summit. Ms Czerwinska met with the Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley during her visit.

Mr Michal Kurtyka, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment and President of COP24, visited India from 10-11 September 2018 and called on Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

Chairman, Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) visited Warsaw from 13-14 September 2018 to promote the second edition of TPCI's flagship event 'INDUSFOOD-II' to be held at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida from 14-15 January, 2019.

Mr Aleksander Hankiewicz, representative of Main Inspectorate of Plant Health and Seed Inspection, visited India on 25 September 2018 to participate in the European Union Working Group on Plant Health.

Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) Shri C. K. Mishra, led the Indian delegation for the Pre-COP24 conference in preparation of the COP24 in December 2018 held on 22-24 October, 2018 in Krakow. Secretary (MoEFCC) met his Polish counterpart Michal Kurtyka, Vice Minister of Environment and President of COP24.

India Tourism Office, Frankfurt, participated in the TT Warsaw Tourism Trade Fair in Warsaw from 22-24 November, 2018.

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## ROMANIA

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Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Romania on 18 - 20 September 2018. He met the Romanian leaders including President, Prime Minister, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament. Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated an AYUSH Information Cell and also released a book on Ayurveda. An MoU on cooperation on tourism between Petroleum-Gas University, Ploiesti and

Pandit DeenDayal Petroleum University, Gandhinagar and 3 MOUs of Bucharest Chamber of Commerce each with CII, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI were signed during the visit.

Mr. Teodor Melescanu, Foreign Minister of Romania, visited India from 24-27 November 2018. He met the External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj and the Deputy National Security Advisor Shri Pankaj Saran.

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## SERBIA

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Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu paid an official visit to Serbia on 14-16 September 2018. During the visit, he met President of Serbia Mr. Aleksander Vucic, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia, Ms. Maja Gojkovic, and Prime

Minister Ms. Ana Brnabic. Two agreements were signed during the visit -Agreement on Plant Protection and Quarantine and Revised Air Services agreement. During the visit, Serbia Post and Department of Post of India jointly released



commemorative stamps on Serbian scientist and inventor, Nikola Tesla and Swami Vivekananda in commemoration of 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

Mr Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Serbia paid an official visit to India from 1-4, May 2018 and met the External Affairs Minister. An agreement on cooperation in the field of culture, arts, youth, sports and mass media was signed by the two Ministers.

Defence Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman met Serbia's Defence Minister Mr. Aleksandar Vulin in April 2018 on the sidelines of the VII Moscow Conference of International Security (MCIS 2018).

India was the 'Country in the Focus' at the 27th International Festival of Ethnological Film organized by the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade from 9-13 October 2018.

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## SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Former MoS Shri M.J. Akbar visited Bratislava from 17-19 May 2018 to participate as a Speaker in the GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum and held meetings with Mr. Richard Rasi, Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatisation; Mr. Peter Gajdos, Minister of Defence; Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs in his capacity as

the 72nd President of UNGA and Mr. Lukas Parizek, State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

India's Tata Group owned Jaguar Land Rover automobile manufacturing plant at Nitra started its production on 25 October, 2018. The plant was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Mr. Peter Pellegrini of the Slovak Republic.

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## SLOVENIA

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In July 2018, two Indian lady pilots, Keithair Misquitta and Aarohi Pandit, on their way to circumnavigate the globe in a tiny Slovenian-built Pipistrel Sinus Light Sports Aircraft made a two-day stopover in Slovenia.

Alma Mater Europaea, a local University, the European Congress for Integrative Medicine (ECIM) and the Ministry of AYUSH organised the 5th International Ayurveda Congress, as a part of the 11th European Congress for Integrative Medicine from 21 to 23 September 2018.

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## SWEDEN

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Sweden from 16-17 April 2018 after a gap of nearly three decades. India and Sweden jointly hosted the first ever 'India-Nordic Summit' with Nordic leaders from Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Finland. Prime Minister had an audience with His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf. Two documents were agreed between India and Sweden -A Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future and a Joint Action Plan. Both Prime Ministers addressed a Round-table meeting with top Swedish CEOs. Prime Minister addressed the Indian community in Stockholm. The event was also attended by the Swedish PM Lofven. Leader of Opposition and Leader of Moderate Party in Swedish Parliament, Ulf Kristersson also called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

An 11-member delegation led by Hon'ble Shri Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar, Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council, including Hon'ble Shri Haribhau Bagade, Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Council visited Sweden on 23 April 2018.

Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs visited Sweden from 2-4 May 2018, to attend 2nd Indo-Swedish Joint Working Group Meeting on Sustainable Urban Development set up under the aegis of the Indo-Swedish MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Sustainable Urban Development.

Minister of Science and Technology, Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan visited Sweden from 22-23 May 2018 to participate in Mission

Innovation-3 Ministerial and 9th Clean Energy Ministerial and met the Swedish Minister for Enterprise and Innovation, Mikael Damberg

A delegation led by Ms. Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology visited Sweden from 20-22 August 2018 to conduct meetings with Vinnova, Swedish Research Council to develop strategy for innovation incubator partnership and industrial R&D as per the Joint Declaration signed during PM Modi's visit to Sweden in April 2018.

A 10-member CII delegation led by Shri C.P. Gurnani, CEO, Tech Mahindra visited Sweden under the JWG on Digitalization of the India-Sweden Business Leaders Round Table (ISBLRT) from 22-23 August 2018.

A 2-member delegation led by Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare visited Sweden from 28-30 August 2018 to attend Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child health (PMNCH) Board Retreat in Stockholm.

A 4-member delegation led by Dr. Gulshan Rai, National Cyber Security Coordinator of India visited Sweden from 2-5 September 2018 to explore possibility of setting up of Joint Task Force of Cyber Security between India and Sweden. During his visit, he met Mr. Hans Dahlgren, State Secretary to the Swedish Prime Minister.

Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the PM led an Invest India delegation of 10 startups to participate at the Stockholm Tech Fest 2018 from 2-4 September 2018.

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## SWITZERLAND

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Swiss Foreign Minister Dr. Ignazio Cassis visited India from 8-12 August 2018 and had meeting with EAM.

Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri J. P. Nadda visited Switzerland on 19 May 2018 and had a meeting with major stakeholders from the Swiss health and pharmaceutical industry in Zurich.

Minister of State for External Affairs General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) visited Berne on 26 November 2018.

Two separate delegations of Maharashtra State Legislature visited Switzerland in February and April 2018.

Swiss Parliamentarian Mr. Niklaus Samuel Gugger and Mayor Jean-Philippe Pinto participated in the 1st PIO Parliamentarian Conference held on 9 January 2018 in New Delhi.

The 4th round of India-Switzerland Consular Dialogue was held on 11 May 2018 in New Delhi.

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## TURKEY

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan interacted with each other on the sidelines of BRICs Plus meeting in Johannesburg on 25-27 July 2018.

A three-member delegation led by Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO

of NITI Aayog attended Global Entrepreneurship Congress organized by Global Entrepreneurship Network in Istanbul on 16-18 April 2018 and also met with Mr. Lutfi Elvan, Minister of Development of Turkey.

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## EUROPEAN UNION

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European Union (EU) is a block of twenty-eight countries, a global economic powerhouse and represents the largest single market economy with GDP worth US\$ 16.4 trillion. It is India's largest trade partner (including in services) which valued at US\$ 136 billion in the last financial year. The total

trade in goods totalled US\$ 101 billion and in services US\$ 35 billion. EU is also the source of the largest FDI flow into India with a consolidated investment of US\$ 91 billion (from April 2000 to June 2018). India was EU's ninth largest trade partner in 2017-18.



Prime Minister meets Donald Tusk, President of European Council and Jean-Claude Juncker, President of European Commission at the G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires (December 01, 2018)

The EU and India, based on their shared values of democracy, pluralism, human rights, rule of law, commitment to multilateralism and a rules-based international order – and their many commonalities of being unions of diverse peoples, entered into a strategic partnership in 2004. Over the years, the relationship between India and the EU has expanded and grown from strength to strength.

India welcomed the European Commission's 2018 strategy for relations with India titled "Elements for EU's Strategy on India – Partnership for sustainable modernisation and rules-based global order", covering the bilateral relationship over the next ten to fifteen years - building on the last such communication in 2004 and reflecting the recommendations of the European Parliament's September 2017 "Resolution on Political Relations with India".

The Strategy seeks to build and enhance the India-EU partnership – in a wide range of section that both sides have prioritised - including sustainable modernisation in India and a more active engagement with India on global issues such as climate change, global energy security, resources efficiency, disaster risk reduction, ocean governance and the protection of global common goods. EU has also underlined the importance of India-EU research and technical cooperation, efficient use of renewable and alternative sources of energy, food security, implementation of Agenda 2030 and the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), cooperation in multilateral fora on important issues such as climate change, preservation of the environment, disaster risk reduction and other regional and global issues.

The year 2018-19 has been marked by a series of high-level contacts and milestone events that contributed towards the positive momentum and enhancement of mutual cooperation between India and EU - both in the bilateral and global context. The first India-EU informal strategic partnership review was led by Secretary (West) Smt Ruchi Ghanashyam and Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Mr. Christian Leffler on 2 May 2018 in Brussels where the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation between India and the EU was revived and next steps were discussed. The 9th annual "India-EU Macro Economic Dialogue and Dialogue on Financial Services Regulations" was held in New Delhi on 17 May 2018.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Belgium during 20-23 June 2018. The 25th India-EU Ministerial Meeting was held on 22 June 2018 with EU High Representative/Vice-President Ms. Federica Mogherini. During the visit, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj also called on European Commission President Mr. Jean Claude Juncker and European Parliament President Mr. Antonio Tajani on 20 June 2018. EAM Smt Sushma

Swaraj addressed a conference hosted by the European Commission on “Climate, Peace and Security” and graced the 4th International Day of Yoga celebrations in the European Parliament on 21 June 2018.

EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Mr. Karmenu Vella led a “Circular Economy Mission” to India during 3-7 September 2018. The 2nd informal meeting on “India-EU Maritime Security” was held on 21 September 2018 in Brussels. Dr. Pankaj Sharma, JS (Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division (DISA), MEA led the Indian delegation and Mr. Pawel Herczynski, Director for Security Policy, European External Action Service (EEAS) led the EU side. The 9th meeting of the India-EU Joint Working Group on Pharmaceuticals Biotechnology and Medical Devices was held during 27 & 28 September 2018. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and the European Food Safety Agency was signed on 14 September 2018.

The 11th India-European Union Counter-Terrorism Dialogue was held in Brussels on 12 November 2018. India and the EU agreed to work together to enhance bilateral cooperation, *inter alia*, in countering violent extremism, radicalisation and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats. Both sides had a fruitful exchange on multilateralism, underlining their support for the United Nations, the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and other multilateral for a dedicated to addressing the menace of terrorism that affects the entire world.

The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu attended the 12th Asia- Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM) hosted by the European Union in Brussels on 18 & 19 October 2018. Vice President addressed the plenary and retreat session at the Summit on 19 October 2018. In his interventions at the Summit, Vice President stated that India valued ASEM as a platform that brings together the leadership of Asia and Europe to exchange views and address global challenges.



# 8

## THE AMERICAS

### NORTH AMERICA

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#### CANADA

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India and Canada share a strategic partnership underpinned by shared values, common interests and strong people-to-people ties. Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Canada in April 2015 reinvigorated the bilateral ties and elevated the relation to the level of strategic partnership. The momentum continued with the State visit of Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Justin Trudeau to India from 17-24 February 2018.

During Prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau's visit, both sides reaffirmed the breadth and scope of Canada-India relations, based on the fundamental principle of respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the two countries. Both sides reiterated their commitment to the ongoing diversification and growth of the strategic partnership, based on shared values of democracy, diversity, pluralism, and rule of law.

Prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau was accompanied by six Federal Ministers and fourteen parliamentarians. During the visit, both sides signed the following agreements:

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Atomic Energy of the Republic of India and the Department of Natural Resources of Canada concerning cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Republic of India concerning cooperation in higher education.
- Terms of reference of the India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue.
- Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development of the Government of Canada on cooperation in the field of information and communication technology and electronics.



- Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Canadian Heritage (Sport Canada) and the Government of the Republic of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on cooperation in sport.
- Memorandum of Understanding in the field of cooperation on intellectual property rights (IPR) between the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, India (DIPP) and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office.



Prime Minister receives Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, during his ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan (February 23, 2018)

Prior to the visit of Prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau, National Security Advisor of India and National Security and Intelligence Advisor of Canada met on 14 February 2018 and discussed about the bilateral security cooperation. Both side also signed a Framework for Cooperation between India and Canada on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism on 14 February 2018.

On the margins of Prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau's visit, Foreign Ministerial-level Strategic Dialogue chaired by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Ms. Chrystia Freeland was held in New Delhi on 22 February 2018.

Other high-level visits with Canada during the year were:

### ● Visits from India

- Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis visited Montreal, Quebec from 10-13 June 2018 to attend Conference De Montreal organised by the International Economic Forum of the Americas.
- Minister for Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar visited Vancouver from on 8-13 July 2018 to attend the World Sanskrit Conference 2018.

### ● Visits from Canada

- Mr. Jason Kenney, Leader of the Opposition in Alberta and Leader of United Conservative Party of Alberta from 17-22 September 2018. During the visit, Mr. Kenney met External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj, Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari and Minister for Food processing and Industries Smt Harsimat Kaur Badal. He also met Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Amarinder Singh in Chandigarh.
- Mr. Andrew Scheer, Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition of Canada and Leader of the Conservative party of Canada from 6-14 October 2018. During his visit, he called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Home Affairs Shri Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and Minister of State (MoS) for Housing and Urban

Affairs. He also met Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Amarinder Singh during his visit to Chandigarh.

- Mr. Scott Ryan Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan visited India from 24-30 November 2018.
- Ms. Kamal Khera, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development visited India from 10-13 December 2018 to attend the 2018 Partners' Forum on Maternal, Newborn and Child health in New Delhi.
- Mr. Stephen Harper, former Prime Minister of Canada visited India from 6-13 January 2019 to attend the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi. On the margins of the Dialogue, Mr. Harper met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Finance, Minister for Commerce and Industry and Minister of Food Processing Industries. Mr. Harper also visited Mumbai.

## Bilateral Trade

Bilateral Trade amounted to US\$ 7.23 billion for FY 2017-18 and stood at US\$ 3.35 billion for the period April - October 2018. India's export to Canada during this period was US\$ 1.585 billion and import from Canada was US\$ 1.768 billion.

Since April 2000 till now, Canadian Pension Funds have invested around US\$ 15 billion in India and are increasingly viewing India as an attractive destination for long term 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.

Canada's Minister of International Trade Diversification Mr. Jim Carr and Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu (CIM) met on 14 November 2018 on the margins of East Asia Summit in Singapore and discussed cooperation in diverse sectors, economic growth & multilateral areas of mutual interest.

## 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. An expert team from the Ministry of Agriculture visited Canada from 10-13 September 2018 to assess Canada's system approach to grain handling and storage of pulses.

## Energy

Canada can be a key source of energy supply in India's search for diversified, stable and secure energy supplies. Considering the potential in the energy sector, during the visit of Prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau in February 2018, the scope of the Ministerial level Energy Dialogue was expanded to additionally include electricity, energy efficiency and renewables.

IOC has 10% stake in integrated shale project from a consortium Progress Energy Canada Ltd (now known as Petronas Canada) led by Petronas LNG project in British Columbia. IOC has invested C\$1.61 billion (till September 2018) so far in the project.

Minister of Natural Resources of Canada, Mr. Amarjeet Sohi is expected to visit India to attend the 13th edition of PETROTECH 2019 organised by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

## Civil nuclear cooperation

During the visit of Prime Minister to Canada in April 2015, Department of Atomic Energy and M/s CAMECO Inc. (Canadian Mining and Energy Corporation), Canada had signed an agreement for supply of 3000 metric tonnes of uranium ore concentrate to India in 2015-2020. Six shipments of uranium have been received till December 2018.

Both sides are working on the Joint Working Group as envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Atomic Energy of the Republic of India and the Department of Natural Resources of Canada concerning cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation.

## Science and Technology

The Action Plan for 2017-19 finalised by the Indo-Canada Joint Science & Technology Committee on 14 November

2017 is being implemented by both sides. Under the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnership to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS), ten projects are under implementation in the areas of Safe and Sustainable Infrastructure, Energy conservation and Integrated Water Management. Under Indo-Canada joint Industrial R&D program the call for proposals for 2018 was launched on 14 November 2017. The focus sectoral areas were Advanced Materials & Advanced Manufacturing, Water Technologies, Smart Cities, and Food & Agro Technologies. So far three projects were jointly recommended for funding support under the programme.

## Space

ISRO and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) had a video conference meeting on 10 April 2018 and discussed the potential areas such as microwave satellite data for disaster management and crop forecast and design and development of compact sensors. On 27 June 2018, ISRO and Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation (CCMEO) discussed the potential areas like utilization of RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM) and RADARSAT-2 for disaster-affected infrastructure; research in landslides and urban flooding and India's future RISAT and NISAR launches – exchange of Calibration and S-band expertise. Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), the commercial arm of ISRO, has so far successfully launched 13 satellites from Canada as co-passenger satellites in Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). This includes Kepler (CASE) satellite launched by the recent PSLV-C43 mission on 29 November 2018.

## Higher Education

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in Higher Education signed in 2010 was renewed during the visit of Prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau in February 2018. Both sides are working to establish a Joint Working group as envisaged in the MoU to take the cooperation forward.

Canada is one of the 28 countries covered under Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), an initiative launched by Ministry of Human Resources Development on 25 October 2018 aimed at improving the

research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions. Under SPARC, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar has been designated as the Nodal Institution for collaboration with Canadian Institutions.

### The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI)

is celebrating its golden jubilee this year. Since its establishment in 1968, SICI has been engaged in supporting Canadian and Indian Governments' objectives to extend cooperation in higher education and a considerable number of bi-national research studies have been completed with positive outcomes for both countries.

### People-to-People contacts

Canada is home to over 1.4 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) who comprise more than 3% of the country's

population. With over 125,000 Indian students currently studying in Canada, it has become one of the most favoured destinations for higher education for Indian students.

### India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue

With the support of Ministry of External Affairs of India and Ministry of Global Affairs of Canada, the first India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue on Innovation, Growth and Prosperity between Gateway House, Mumbai and Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Canada was held in Ottawa from 29 & 30 October 2018. Experts, government officials and business leaders from both sides explored the possibility of future cooperation in the areas of strategic, security including cybersecurity, economic relations, geoengineering, climate leadership, trade in services and traditional & non-traditional forms of energy.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The strong and multi-faceted strategic partnership between India and the United States (U.S.) is based on shared values, growing convergence in strategic perspectives and strong people-to-people contacts. Both countries are also working together on various regional and global issues. During the year, India-U.S. bilateral relations developed in a

comprehensive manner, which includes cooperation in areas such as security, economic ties, energy, technology, and people-to-people contacts.

### High-Level Interaction

- Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu visited the U.S. on 8 & 9 September 2018 and addressed the 2nd World Hindu Conference in Chicago. During the visit, he also interacted with members of the Indian community in the U.S.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the Vice President of the United States Mr. Michael R. Pence on 14 November 2018 in Singapore, on the margins of the East Asia Summit. Both leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral relations and discussed a range of bilateral and global issues of mutual interest.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Mr. Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Mr. Shinzō Abe on 30 November 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the first-ever trilateral meeting of the leaders of India, Japan, and the U.S. The three leaders exchanged views on the Indo-Pacific, emphasized upon ASEAN centrality,



Prime Minister with Donald Trump, President of US and Shinzō Abe, Prime Minister of Japan at India-US-Japan Trilateral Meeting in Buenos Aires (November 30, 2018)

and agreed to synergize efforts on maritime and connectivity issues.

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation with President of the United States, Donald J. Trump on 08 January 2019. Both leaders exchanged New Year greetings, expressed satisfaction over the progress in the strategic partnership in 2018, and agreed to continue to work together for further strengthening India-U.S. bilateral relations in 2019.

## 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Michael R. Pompeo and the then U.S. Secretary of Defence Mr. James N. Mattis visited India on 6 September 2018 for the inaugural India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue with External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman. During the visit, Secretary Mr. Michael R. Pompeo and the then Secretary Mr. James N. Mattis paid a joint call on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. They also had separate bilateral meetings with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, respectively. The launch of the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue is a reflection of the shared commitment between the leaders to provide a positive, forward-looking vision for the India-

U.S. strategic partnership and to promote synergy in strategic and security efforts.

- A Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) was signed during the visit. This will facilitate access to advanced defence systems and enable India to optimally utilize its existing U.S. - origin platforms. The two sides agreed to a new tri-services exercise. It was also agreed to enhance interaction between the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and the Indian Navy. A Memorandum of Intent between the United States Defence Innovation Unit and the Indian Defence Innovation Organization - Innovation for Defence Excellence was concluded on the eve of the Dialogue.

## Ministerial-Level Exchanges

- On 17 April 2018, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and the U.S. Secretary of Energy Mr. Rick Perry co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the India-U.S. Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) in New Delhi. Both sides had agreed to establish the SEP during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Washington DC in June 2017. India and the U.S. seek to enhance energy security, expand energy and innovation linkages, bolster strategic alignment, and facilitate



External Affairs Minister and Minister of Defence meet US Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense in New Delhi (Sept 06, 2018)

increased industry and stakeholder engagement in the energy sector through this Partnership. An India-U.S. Natural Gas Task Force was formed under the SEP, which had its first meeting in New Delhi on 6 December 2018.

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism Shri K.J. Alphons visited the U.S. in April 2018. During the visit, he interacted with tour operators and media in New York on inbound tourism into India.
- Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Vijay Sampla, visited New York and met the Indian Community in April 2018.
- Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu visited the U.S. in June 2018 for meetings with his US interlocutors. During the visit, he held discussions with the U.S. Trade Representative Mr. Robert E. Lighthizer, Secretary of Commerce Mr. Wilbur L. Ross and Secretary of Agriculture Mr. Sonny Perdue. He also had a joint meeting with the India Caucus co-chairs; Senator Mr. Mark Robert Warner and Senator Mr. John Cornyn. Discussions were centred around bilateral trade and commercial relations between the two countries and focused on finding the way forward to address concerns of both sides.
- The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism Shri K. J. Alphons attended a series of 'Incredible India' roadshows in the U.S. in June 2018. The roadshows were held in several major cities of the U.S. including New York, Chicago, St. Louis & Houston.
- U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N, Ambassador Nikki Haley visited India in June 2018. During the visit, she called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and met EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj.
- Minister of State of Ministry of Civil Aviation Shri Jayant Sinha, visited the U.S. in July 2018. During the visit, he delivered a Keynote Address at the U.S. - India Strategic Partnership Forum's Annual Leadership Summit in Washington DC and attended roadshows in Chicago and New York.
- Minister of State for Textiles Shri Ajay Tamta, visited Las Vegas and San Francisco in August 2018 to participate in a fair for sourcing apparel and accessories.
- Minister for Electronics, IT and Law and Justice Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, visited San Francisco in August 2018. He met CEOs and representatives from leading IT and Electronics firms based in the region and solicited greater investment and collaboration from U.S. technology companies in India.
- National Security Adviser Shri Ajit Doval visited the U.S. and met the U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Michael R. Pompeo, then U.S. Secretary of Defence Mr. James N. Mattis, and the U.S. National Security Adviser John R. Bolton in September 2018.
- Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman met with the then U.S. Secretary of Defence Mr. James N. Mattis on the margins of the 5th ASEAN Defence Ministers Plus Meeting [ADMM-Plus] in October 2018 in Singapore. The Ministers reviewed progress in bilateral defence cooperation and discussed a wide range of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest.
- Minister of Railways & Coal Shri Piyush Goyal, visited the U.S. in October 2018 to attend an award ceremony at the University of Pennsylvania in connection with the 2018 Carnot Prize.
- Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) inaugurated the Passport Seva Project at the Embassy of India in Washington DC on 24 November 2018. He inaugurated similar projects at the Consulate General of India in New York on 21 November 2018 and the Consulate General of India in Atlanta on 25 November 2018. During the visit, he also held separate interactions with members of the Indian community in New York, Baltimore and Washington DC.
- Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited the U.S. on 2-7 December 2018. She met the then U.S. Secretary of Defence Mr. James N. Mattis and discussed the India-U.S. defence partnership. Views were also exchanged on a broad range of bilateral and international issues of mutual interest. Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Reno, Nevada and met members of

the Indian community in the U.S. She also visited San Francisco and Honolulu.

### The following Chief Ministers from the States in India visited the U.S.

- Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Pema Khandu visited San Francisco in April 2018, as a part of the e-governance leadership training organized by IIM Ahmedabad.
- Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis visited New York, Washington DC, and San Francisco in June 2018. He participated in meetings with the Centre for Strategic Investment Studies, World Bank, U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum and potential investors for promoting investments in Maharashtra.
- Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan visited the U.S. in July 2018 and participated in community events with the Indian Diaspora.
- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Chandrababu Naidu visited the U.S. in September 2018 to attend a conference on financing sustainable agriculture. During the visit, he interacted with potential investors and companies doing business with the state.

### Parliamentary Exchanges

Mutual exchanges and interaction with the U.S. Congress reflect the strong bipartisan support for the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership. There were a number of exchanges during the year including:

- A Congressional Delegation led by the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee William “Mac” Thornberry, and including three other Representatives visited New Delhi in May 2018.
- A seven-member U.S. Congressional Delegation visited Delhi in April 2018.
- A delegation comprising of eight Senators from the California State Senate visited India in November 2018. The delegation was led by State Senate President Pro Tempore Ms. Toni Atkins.

- A delegation comprising of six members from the California State Assembly visited India in December 2018.

### Other Major Exchanges

- Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale and Defence Secretary Shri Sanjay Mitra visited the U.S. in March 2018 and met senior U.S. officials.
- Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Shri Subhash Chandra Garg had a bilateral meeting with his counterpart, the U.S. Under Secretary of Treasury for International Affairs Mr. David Malpass in Washington D.C. in April 2018 on the sidelines of 2018 Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF.
- Chief Secretary of the Government of Goa Shri Dharmendra Sharma visited Chicago in May 2018.
- A delegation led by Secretary of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Shri Ramesh Abhishek visited Washington D.C. in May 2018 for consultations with the World Bank on the “Ease of Doing Business” reforms in India.
- Secretary (CVP & OIA) of the Ministry of External Affairs Shri Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay, visited San Francisco in June 2018.
- Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy Shri Sekhar Basu visited the U.S. in June 2018 to attend the American Nuclear Society (ANS) Annual Meeting at Philadelphia.
- Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale visited the U.S. in August 2018 in preparations for the India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.
- Secretary of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Durga Shankar Mishra visited the U.S. in July 2018 to attend events related to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development at New York.
- Secretary Shri Atanu Chakraborty of Department of Investment & Public Asset Management in the Ministry of Finance visited the U.S. in August 2018.
- Chairman Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Shri S. Ramesh visited the U.S. in September 2018.

- Secretary of Department of Space and Chairman in Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Dr. K. Sivan, visited Pasadena, Los Angeles in October 2018.
- Secretary of the U.S. Navy Mr. Richard V Spencer visited India in December 2018 and met senior officials in the Government of India.
- U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad visited India in January 2019 and met External Affairs Minister, National Security Adviser, and Foreign Secretary.

### Consultations/Dialogue Mechanisms

India and the United States continued their engagement through various senior official level and expert level dialogue mechanisms covering a wide range of areas including commerce and trade, defence technology, health, agricultural research, and civil aviation. Major bilateral exchanges/initiatives under these institutional dialogue mechanisms during the year included the following:

### Security/Strategic

- The 15th Meeting of the India-U.S. Counterterrorism Joint Working Group was held in New Delhi on 27 March 2018. The Working Group reviewed threats posed by terrorist groups worldwide and in their respective regions including cross-border terrorism in the South Asian region. Both sides committed to strengthening information and exchanged views on efforts to counter the financing and operations of regional and global terrorist organizations.
- The third round of the India-U.S. Maritime Security Dialogue was held on 30 April & 1 May 2018 in Goa. During the Dialogue, the two sides discussed developments in the maritime domain in the Indo-Pacific Region and exchanged views on ways to further strengthen bilateral maritime security cooperation.
- India, Japan and the United States held the 9th Trilateral Meeting at Joint Secretary/Director General/

Assistant Secretary level in New Delhi on 4 April 2018 and discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. The officials explored practical steps to enhance cooperation in the areas of connectivity and infrastructure development; counter-proliferation; counter-terrorism; maritime security, maritime domain awareness and HADR. The officials reviewed the outcomes of the Trilateral Infrastructure Working Group that met in Washington in February 2018.

- On 7 June 2018, senior officials from India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. met in Singapore on the margins of ASEAN-centred Senior Officials Meeting for consultations on issues of common interest in the Indo-Pacific region. Another meeting in the same format was held in Singapore on 15 November 2018. The discussions focused on cooperation in areas such as connectivity, sustainable development, counter-terrorism, non-proliferation and maritime and cybersecurity. The participants reaffirmed the ASEAN centrality as the cornerstone of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- The Senior Officials Meeting of the India-U.S. Homeland Security Dialogue took place on 18 July 2018, in New Delhi.
- The inaugural India-U.S. 2+2 Intersessional Meeting was held at Delhi on 11 January 2019. The participants discussed follow up on the decisions taken during the India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue, and ways to make progress on bilateral cooperation on defence and foreign policy issues of mutual interest.

### Defence

- Defence cooperation is a key pillar of the India-U.S. bilateral strategic cooperation. Both sides continued to work towards expanding military ties as well as defence trade. Co-development and co-production projects are also under consideration. The notification granting Strategic Trade Authorization Tier-I (STA-I) of licence exemption to India was published in the U.S. Federal Register on 3 August 2018.

## Exercises and Mil-to-Mil Cooperation

- India and the U.S. conduct bilateral exercises involving all the three Services and also participate in major international/multilateral exercises. In 2018, the following major joint military exercises were held:
  - Exercise Vajra Prahar for the year 2018-19 was held at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan on 19 November-2 December 2018. It is an annual joint military exercise held between Indian and U.S. Special Forces.
  - The 14th edition of the Exercise Yudh Abhyas was held at Chaubattia, Ranikhet, India on 16-29 September 2018. Exercise Yudh Abhyas is an annual joint military exercise held between the Indian and the U.S. Army. The aim of the exercise is to learn best practices and hone tactical skills in counterinsurgency and counter-terrorist operations.
  - The fourth edition of Exercise Cope India between the Indian and the U.S. air forces was held at Kalaikunda and Panagarh in West Bengal on 3-14 December 2018.
  - The 22nd edition of the Malabar exercise was conducted on 4-15 June 2018 off the Coast of Guam Island. This trilateral naval exercise involves naval forces of India, U.S. and Japan.
  - India participated in RIMPAC 2018 hosted by the United States INDOPACOM on 25 June-3 August 2018 off the coast of Hawaii. The Rim of Pacific (RIMPAC), a biennial exercise, is currently the largest multilateral maritime exercise conducted in the world.
- The 13th Defence Procurement and Production Group (DPPG) meeting was held at Washington DC on 6-9 June 2018. The meeting reviewed the progress of Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases and discussed measures to expedite procurements cases under implementation.
- The 21st Indian Air Force- U.S. Air Force ESG meeting was held in India on 14-16 March 2018. The 21st Executive Steering Group meeting on bilateral naval cooperation was held in New Delhi on 12 December

2018. The Service-to-Service Executive Steering Groups (ESGs) are held annually to facilitate service-to-service cooperation.

- Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph F. Dunford Jr. visited India in September 2018 and had meetings with his counterpart and other senior officials. He also participated in the India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.
- Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba visited the U.S in September 2018 for attending the 23rd edition of the International Seapower Symposium (ISS) organised by the U.S. Navy and had bilateral meetings with the U.S. side.
- Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations) Air Marshal PN Pradhan, attended the 3rd Chiefs of Defence Conference on Countering Violent Extremist Organizations held in Washington DC in October 2018.
- U.S. Pacific Air Force Commander General Charles Brown visited India in December 2018.
- Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Philip S. Davidson visited India in January 2019. He participated in the Raisina Dialogue and had a number of bilateral meetings.

## Defence Technology

- The 7th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting was held at New Delhi on 18 July 2018 and was Co-chaired by Dr Ajay Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production), Ministry of Defence, and Ms. Ellen M Lord, Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment, U.S. Department of Defence. The meeting reviewed the on-going cooperation in defence technology cooperation.
- The meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Other Systems (OS), under the aegis of India-U.S. Defence Technology and Trade Initiative, was held on 9 & 10 October 2018 at Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.
- The 1st meeting of Joint Working Group Land System

(JWG LS), under DTTI, was held at New Delhi on 9 May 2018. This was followed by the 2nd meeting of the JWG LS that was held at Michigan, USA on 21-24 August 2018.

- The Master Information Exchange Agreement (MIEA) between Ministry of Defence, India and the U.S. Department of Defence concerning the exchange of Research & Development Information were extended for another term of 15 years i.e., up to Feb 2034.
- The twentieth meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Technical Group (JTG) was held at CAIR, Bengaluru on 14 August 2018.

### Commerce and Trade

- The U.S. is India's largest trading partner (goods and services combined). According to U.S. official statistics, bilateral trade increased by more than 10% to reach US\$ 126 billion in 2017. The two-way merchandise trade was US\$ 74.29 billion in 2017. During the first nine months of 2018, the bilateral trade stood at US\$ 105.54 billion with the balance of trade in favour of India at US\$ 19.03 billion. Both sides remain engaged to resolve issues of mutual interest and expand economic ties.
- The India-U.S. Animal and Plant Health Dialogue was held on 11 & 12 April 2018 in Mumbai. This dialogue is held under the umbrella of the Trade Policy Forum. A number of issues of mutual concern relating to animal and plant health systems, regulatory measures and areas of bilateral cooperation were discussed during the meeting.
- From 9-11 May 2018, the sixth biennial Aviation Summit hosted by Ministry of Civil Aviation and U.S. Trade and Development Agency under the India-U.S. Aviation Cooperation Programme was held in Mumbai. It provided an opportunity to the industry in both countries to advance aviation partnership to support the rapid growth of India's aviation sector.
- Mark Menezes, Under Secretary in the U.S. Department of Energy, visited India in December 2018 and

participated in a number of meetings including the India-U.S. Gas Task Force.

### Science & Technology Cooperation

- The 30th Meeting of the Vaccination Action Programme Leadership was held on 16 January 2018 in New Delhi. The Indo-U.S. Vaccine Action Programme is a bilateral programme between the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA.
- India and the United States continued their cooperation in the field of research and development in the areas of oceanography and climate science. Under a joint research project by National Institute of Ocean Technology in Chennai, a U.S. team of researchers joined Indian researchers on board U.S. Navy R/V Thomas G Thompson in June 2018 for Monsoon studies in the Bay of Bengal.

### Think-tank Exchanges

- The Ministry of External Affairs, in association with the Ananta Aspen Center, organized the Second India-U.S. Forum on 7 & 8 April 2018 in New Delhi. The event brought together eminent personalities from the Government, politics, think-tanks, universities, industry and media for discussions on different aspects of the India-U.S. relationship.
- A six-member delegation from the Ministry of External Affairs supported think-tank, Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies (CCCS) visited Washington DC and San Francisco from 29 July-4 August 2018 for interactions with think-tanks, and government officials in the U.S.

### People - to - People Contacts

- People-to-people contacts have played an important role in the development of friendly ties between India and the U.S. This interaction continued to develop through the year. The Indian Diaspora in the U.S. is about 4 million strong and growing. Both countries enjoy comprehensive ties in the field of education with



more than 200,000 Indian students pursuing various courses in the U.S. in 2017.

- The Seventh India-U.S. Consular Dialogue was held on 23 October 2018 at New Delhi. A wide range of issues relating to visa and consular matters, including employment visas [H1B and L-1], and consular notification and access for Indian citizens in the U.S. were discussed.
- Cultural relations form an important component of India-U.S. bilateral relations. The Indian Embassy and Consulates in the U.S. continued to promote cultural interaction between the two countries through various events and programmes during the year. The interest in Indian culture and traditions was reflected in the enthusiastic participation of over 2500 people in the 4th International Day of Yoga on 16 June 2018 at the U.S. Capitol West Lawn in Washington, which was organized in collaboration with different organizations.
- Diwali celebrations were held on the Capitol Hill on 14 November 2018 in the presence of the Indian Ambassador to the U.S. and several Congressmen including Mr. Keith Rothfus, Mr. Ami Bera and Mr. Raja Krishnamoorthi. On 5 November 2018, a Diwali event was organized at the State Department in cooperation with South Asian American Employees Association at the State Department. Indian Ambassador to the U.S.A. was invited as a guest at the Diwali celebrations hosted

by President Mr. Donald J. Trump at the White House on 13 November 2018.

### Expected Events in January – March 2019

- The 16th Meeting of the India-U.S. Working Group on Counter-Terrorism is expected to be held in February 2019.
- The 2nd Meeting of the India-U.S. Counter-Terrorism Designations Dialogue is expected to be held in February 2019.
- The India – U.S. Information Communications Technology Working Group is expected to meet in February 2019.
- The India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue is expected to be held in February 2019
- The India-U.S. Foreign Office Consultations at the level of Foreign Secretary are expected to be held in February-March 2019.
- Both sides are discussing the possibility of holding the Homeland Security Dialogue Ministerial Meeting in February 2019.
- The India-U.S. Strategic Security Dialogue is expected to be held in February-March 2019.
- The India-U.S. Space Security Dialogue is expected to be held in February-March 2019.

## LATIN AMERICA

### ARGENTINA

As G-20 Chair Argentina organized over fifty G20 meetings covering a variety of themes including Education, Employment, Trade and Investment, Finance, Agriculture, Women, Business and Entrepreneurship and Law and Order, leading up to the Leaders' Summit on 30 November & 1 December 2018. These meetings were attended by various delegations from India, at both Ministerial and officials and levels including Shri Shaktikant Das, G20 Sherpa for India, Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Shri Subhash Chandra Garg, Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde of the Supreme

Court of India, Minister of State (MoS) [IC] Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Purushottam Rupala, Economic Advisers from the Department of Commerce Ms. Rupa Dutta and Ms. Anu P Mathai, Minister of State (MoS) for Tourism Shri KJ Alphons.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Argentina to participate in the G20 Leaders' Summit 2018 in Buenos Aires



Prime Minister meets Mauricio Macri, President of Argentina in Buenos Aires (December 01, 2018)

on 30 November & 1 December 2018. During the visit, he held bilateral meetings with the President of Argentina, Mr. Mauricio Macri, on 1 December 2018, and Presidents of Chile and Jamaica. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also participated in 'Yoga for Peace', an event organized by the Art of Living, Argentina, on 29 November 2018 that saw participation by over 4000 people. Earlier, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had met the President of Argentina on 26 July 2018 on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg. During the course of the meetings, the two leaders discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the areas of agriculture, space, energy, technology, oil and gas, etc.

Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Shri Suresh Prabhu visited to participate in the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting from 14-17 September 2018. During the visit, he met the Argentine Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Jorge Faurie on the sidelines of the meeting and discussed measures to diversify and increase bilateral trade and investments. He also interacted with young Indian professionals working in Argentina at the Embassy of India on 15 September 2018.

Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt Sumitra Mahajan led a 13-member Indian Parliamentary delegation to participate in the

Parliamentary Forum and Speakers' Summit of G20 Countries held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 30 October-2 November 2018. She interacted with members of the India-Argentina Parliamentary Friendship Group on the sidelines of the event.

Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), visited Argentina from 19-22 May 2018 to participate in the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Buenos Aires. On the sidelines of the meeting, he met the Argentine President and the Argentine Foreign Affairs Minister. He also met the Agriculture Minister of Argentina.

Other visits which took place were in the context of Steering group meeting of the Global Forum on Excess Steel Capacity, Fourteenth Biennial Conference of International Association of Women Judges; visit of Minister of Agriculture of Haryana Shri O.P. Dhankar, when he met officials of the Ministry of Agro-industries of Argentina and interacted with Indian and local agricultural entrepreneurs. An ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)-led delegation visited Argentina in May 2018. A technical delegation comprising of officials and experts from Development Partnership Administration (DPA-II) Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur, and Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC) visited Argentina from 5-12 May 2018 to discuss the modalities for the establishment of an IT Centre of Excellence in Buenos Aires.

The Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Services organized a Seminar on 'Investment and Business Opportunities with India' in Buenos Aires on 27 September 2018. The Inter American Bank for Development, in cooperation with the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, organized a LATINDIA Seminar on 'Future of Cooperation between India and Latin America' on 7 June 2018 in Buenos Aires. An Argentine business delegation, 'Argentina Hacia el Mundo', visited India from 13-25 April 2018. During the visit, the Economic Federation of Corrientes (FEC), signed a MoU with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). Another MoU was signed between FEC and Millennial India International Chamber of Commerce.

The 5th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between India and Argentina was held on 14 January 2019 in New Delhi.

Mr. Mauricio Macri, President of Argentina, paid a State Visit to India on 18 February 2019. Cooperation agreements / MoUs signed during the visit covered diverse areas including defence, renewable, agriculture, pharmaceutical and culture.

Second High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) will be held in Buenos Aires from 20-22 March 2019; India will be represented by a senior official.

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## BELIZE

Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, MoS (Tribal Affairs) visited Belize under Government's outreach programme from 14-16 May 2018. The Visa Waiver Agreement for persons holding

Diplomatic/Official passports between the Governments of India entered into force on 30 April 2018.

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## BOLIVIA

Minister of State (MoS) for Railways Shri Rajen Gohain paid an official visit to Bolivia on 20 & 21 April 2018. He held talks with Foreign Minister of Bolivia and a group of Bolivian authorities, comprising Vice Ministers of Foreign Trade & Integration, Electricity & Energy and Public Works & Housing as well as authorities from other Ministries in La Paz. Minister's engagements included a visit to Mi Teleferico - cable car system and interaction with Indian community representative in La Paz.

External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj held a bilateral meeting with the new Foreign Minister of Bolivia Mr. Diego Pary Rodriguez in New York on the sidelines of 73rd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 26 September 2018. Experts from Ministry of Railways, Indian Port Rail Corporation Ltd. and Metro Corporations of Chennai and Delhi attended a 4-day workshop on cable car system in La Paz in September/October 2018. A delegation from EXIM Bank also visited La Paz in October 2018.

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## BRAZIL

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met with Brazilian Foreign Minister Mr. Aloysio Nunes Ferreira Filho during the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting on 27 September 2018 on the margins of UNGA. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj also met Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil Mr. Marcos Bezerra Abbott Galvão, who was leading his country's delegation for the informal meeting of India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) in Pretoria on 4 June 2018.

Air Chief Marshal Shri B.S. Dhanoa paid a goodwill visit from 4-8 June 2018. Prof. Laxman Kumar Behera, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis and Prof. Harsh Pant, King's College London participated in the 'Symposium on India' held from 23-25 October 2018 at Naval War College, Rio de Janeiro. A two-member delegation led by Mr. Kumar Rajesh Chandra, Director General, BCAS visited Brasilia from 5-7 June 2018 to attend ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP) Regional Seminar and Exhibition at Brasilia. From Brazil, a two-member delegation led by Air Chief Marshal Raul Botelho, Chief of Staff, Brazilian Air Force visited India

from 6-10 August 2018. A defence delegation led by Air Vice Marshal Paulo Cha, Chief of Defence Products Department of Brazil visited India to participate in DefExpo 2018 held at Bengaluru from 10-13 April 2018. Brig. Engenheiro Augusto Luiz de Castro Otero, Director, Brazil Institute of Aeronautics and Space visited India from 6-8 September 2018 to participate in Bengaluru Space Expo-2018.

Mr. S.K. Jaiswal, Director General, CAG visited Brasilia from 6-17 August 2018 to attend the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) audit professional's certification pilot meeting held in Brasilia. Dr. Rajagopal S., Head of Kaumarabhritya Department, All India Institute of Ayurveda visited Brazil representing Ayush Ministry to participate in 'Encontro Latino Americano de Ayurveda (ELAA)' held in São Paulo from 9-11 November 2018 aimed at promoting Ayurveda in Brazil.

An India Pavilion was set-up by FICCI at 'Hospitalar 2018', the biggest exhibition of solutions, products, services, technology, innovations and equipment for the healthcare

sector in the whole Latin America, held in Sao Paulo on 22 May 2018, where around 50 Indian companies from healthcare sector showcased their products. The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) organised an India Pavilion at "Inter Solar-South America", the 6th International Exhibition & Conference for Solar Power Industry held from 28-30 August 2018 in Sao Paulo, where nearly 35 prominent Indian companies in the solar energy and related sectors participated in the show. Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics and Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) participated in the 32nd Dye+Chem Brazil International Expo - 2018 held from 28-30 August 2018 in Sao Paulo where around 25 leading Indian companies participated in the Expo.

A business delegation led by Agriculture Minister for

Government of Haryana Shri Om Prakash Dhankar visited Rio de Janeiro from 26-30 April 2018 to identify opportunities in Agriculture. A delegation from National Jute Board (NJB) met with India Brazil Chamber of Commerce in Sao Paulo on 18 April 2018 to establish sustainable market linkages and export enhancement of Food grade quality jute. The Mission in association with the India-Brazil Chamber of Commerce organized a conference 'Doing Business with India' on 14 November 2018 at Rio de Janeiro.

Indian Cultural Center at Sao Paulo organized an 'Experience India' event at the prestigious Unibes Cultural Centre in Sao Paulo which included a celebration of Indian classical dances and other prevailing cultural manifestations.

## CHILE

PM Shri Narendra Modi met President Sebastián Piñera Echenique on 30 November 2018, on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Buenos Aires. MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) visited on 22 & 23 May 2018 and on 1 & 2 October 2018. In the May 2018 visit, MoS signed an agreement establishing a High-Level Joint Commission between India and Chile.

During the October 2018 visit, MoS Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) led the Indian delegation to the VIII CII India-LAC Business Conclave and inaugurated the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. From Chile, Agriculture Minister Antonio Walker visited India on 29 & 30 October 2018.



Prime Minister meets Sebastian Pinera, President of Chile on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Buenos Aires (November 30, 2018)



President pays respect at the memorial of Fidel Castro, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes and the memorial of Mariana Grajales at Santa Ifigenia Cemetery at Santiago (June 21, 2018)

## COLOMBIA

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj met the Foreign Minister of Colombia Mr. Carlos Holmes Trujillo on the sidelines of the UNGA at New York on 24 September 2018.

MoS for External Affairs Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh(retd) visited Colombia on 3-5 October 2018 and held extensive talks

with Foreign Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo. During the visit, cooperation agreements were signed covering Traditional Systems of Medicine of India, Tourism Development and Joint Interpretative Declaration on Promotion and Protection of Bilateral Investment Agreement.



External Affairs Minister meets Carlos Holmes Trujillo, Foreign Minister of Colombia on sidelines of UNGA in New York (September 24, 2018)

At the initiative of the Embassy of India, Bogota, a 16-member delegation from the Assembly of Caldas, Colombia consisting of Members of the Provincial Assembly, representatives of Governor's office, Chamber of Commerce, coffee farmers, NGOs etc. visited India from 4 - 11 September 2018 to explore cooperation in commerce, education, ITES, and tourism.

On 29 November 2018, ISRO successfully launched FACSAT 1 satellite of Colombian Air Force on PSLV-C43/HysIS mission. It was the first ever Colombian Air Force nanosatellite. This was historic occasion in bilateral relations showcasing India's prowess in space sciences.

A "Make in India" trade and investment promotion event was organised by the Embassy of India, Bogota, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce of Medellin which was attended by over 50 representatives of the Colombian and Indian companies.

A 16-member Indian Business Forum delegation by CII visited Colombia on 25-26 April 2018.

At III Big Data World Meeting 2018 event organized by Laybor and Portafolio Groups in Bogota on 26 April 2018, India was invited as the Guest of Honour country for at the IV Big Data World Meeting 2019 to be held in Bogota.

Shri Narendra Kumar Verma, MD & CEO, ONGC Videsh Limited visited Colombia to review the company's ongoing operations and future plans in Colombia and Ecuador.

A sixteen member CHEMEXCIL delegation visited Bogota on 3 September 2018.

India, as the Partner Country, had an impressive presence at Feria Internacional de Bogota under the banner of INDEE of EEPC after a gap of eight years. Over seventy five Indian companies participated at the Fair and received an excellent response with the signing of MOUs.

A group of senior officers of Grupo Bolivar of Colombia, the third largest financial group in Colombia beginning mid-October visited Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai to learn from India's experiences in financial inclusion, digital economy, demonetisation, and ICT in the banking and insurance sectors.

An Indian week was organized at UNITEC university beginning on 16 October 2018.

Professor Rajiv Saxena, Chairman, Centre of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian & Latin American Studies at JNU visited Colombia and delivered a lecture on the National Mission of Education in Information Technology on 4 May 2018 in Bogota.

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## COSTA RICA

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During discussions held after the presentation of Credentials by Ambassador on 29 August 2018, the new President of

Costa Rica voiced keenness in pursuing stronger ties with India in science and technology, academics and other such areas.

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## ECUADOR

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EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met Foreign Minister Mr. Jose Samuel Valencia Amores on the margins of UNGA in New York on 24 September.

Foreign Minister Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa met EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj on the sidelines of the Mid-term Ministerial

Conference of the Non-aligned Movement held in Baku on 4 & 5 April 2018.

Minister of Hydrocarbons Carlos Perez participated in the International Energy Forum held in New Delhi on 10-12 April 2018.



External Affairs Minister meets Jose Valencia Amores, Foreign Minister of Ecuador on sidelines of UNGA in New York (September 24, 2018)

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## EL SALVADOR

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El Salvador signed the Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance.

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## GRENADA

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Minister of State for Health & FW Smt. Anupriya Patel visited to Grenada under the outreach programme 'Abhinav Pahal' from May 13-15, 2018 when she called on the Governor General, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and

Minister of Health of Grenada.

On 30 April 2018, Ms. Shadel Nyack Compton presented the Instrument of Appointment as the 1st Honorary Consul of India to Grenada.

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## GUYANA

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Minister of State for Human Resources & Development (HRD), Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Dr. Satya Pal Singh visited Guyana from 8-11 May 2018. Guyanese Minister of Public Health Dr. Karen Cummings, visited New Delhi in June to attend the 10th Meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis. Prime Minister of Guyana, Dr. Moses Nagamootoo, made a private visit to inaugurate the World Tamil Economic Conference in Puducherry.

19 Guyanese nationals visited India under the Know India Programme on a familiarisation visit. Cultural programmes organized during the year commemorated the 180th anniversary of Indian Arrival Day, on 4 May 2018; celebrated Indian festivals like Raksha Bandhan (27 August 2018), included Garba Dance (18 October 2018) and marked Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (31 October 2018).

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## GUATEMALA

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Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, visited Guatemala on 6-8 May 2018. This was the first-ever visit of an Indian Vice President to Guatemala. MoUs signed during the visit covered cooperation between Foreign Service Institutes;

and, training of Guatemalan English teachers in India.

A 22-member delegation led by the Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) visited Guatemala.

India donated US\$ 100,000 for Disaster Relief in the aftermath of the eruption of Volcano Fuego in Guatemala in June 2018.



Vice President calls on Jimmy Morales, President of Guatemala (May 07, 2018)

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## HONDURAS

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Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, visited Honduras from 10- 13 May 2018 under the outreach programme 'Abhinav Pahal' , when he met the Acting Foreign

Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock.

PHARMEXCIL led a 22-member delegation to San Pedro Sula.

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## NICARAGUA

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MoS (Rural Development and Land Resources) Shri Ram Kripal Yadav visited Nicaragua from 13-16 May 2018 under the outreach programme 'Abhinav Pahal' when he held

meetings with the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, Finance Minister and members of the National System for Production, Consumption and Trade.

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## PANAMA

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Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Panama from 8-10 May 2018. On the occasion, India announced two Lines of Credit for Panama for US\$ 10 million for setting up a

Centre for Bio-Diversity and Drug Discovery and also for US\$ 15 million for setting up the Centre for Innovation and Technology. An agreement on the exemption of visa on





Vice President at the Panama Canal with the President of Panama, Mr. Juan Carlos Varela Rodriguez, in Panama on May 09, 2018.

diplomatic and official passports too was signed. Hon'ble Vice President also gave an address at the Panama Foreign Office Auditorium to a gathering of 250 persons including Ambassadors, senior members of the diplomatic core, young Panamanian Diplomats, Students of University of Panama and leading Indian businessmen. He along with Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Shri Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor and the accompanying Members of Parliament paid floral tributes at the Mahatma Gandhi Statue in Panama City.

Facility of five-year multiple entry visas for Indian business and other applicants was introduced by Panama.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met with Vice-President & Foreign Minister of Panama on the sidelines of the UNGA in

September 2018.

India-Panama Foreign Office Consultations were held in India on 11 September 2018.

Denis Moncada Colindres, Nicaraguan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship will be attending the India SICA Foreign Ministers meeting being hosted by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj at Delhi on 1 March 2019. Invitations for the same have also been issued to the Foreign Ministers of Panama and Costa Rica to attend this meeting and their confirmations are awaited.

A visit of the President of Panama, Mr. Juan Carlos Varela to India has been proposed for March/April 2019 and is under consideration of the Ministry.

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## PARAGUAY

Shri Haribhai Parathibhai Chaudhary, Minister of State for Coal and Mines visited Paraguay from 8-10 May 2018 under

the outreach programme 'Abhinav Pahal' when he met Mr. Eladio Loizaga, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay.

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## PERU

Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Peru from 10-12 May 2018. During the visit, Vice President had wide-ranging discussions with the President, Prime Minister,

Foreign Minister and several other Ministers of Peru. The delegation also interacted with the President of Congress and the President of Peru-India Parliamentary Friendship

League. Interaction with the Indian community, the celebration of the 55th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between India and Peru were other prominent engagements. The visit also saw the signing of an MoU for Cooperation in the field of New and Renewable Energy between the two governments.

The 2nd meeting of JWG on Cooperation in Geology and Mineral Resources was held in Lima on 13th September 2018. Ministry of Mines Secretary Mr. Anil Mukim and Vice

Lima and 3rd round of Negotiations on India-Peru Trade agreement took place in New Delhi from 4-7 December 2018. There have been visits by several delegations from India, namely, National Jute Board delegation visited Lima in April and held a Buyer Seller Meet (BSM), SRTEPC held a roadshow on "Source India 2018" in July, a mining delegation participated in Expo-Mina Peru 2018, a large delegation of gold firms held extensive business consultations in Lima in October, Council for Leather Exports (CLE) delegation organized a BSM in October and 26 Indian textile companies



Vice President with the President of Peru, Mr. Martin Vizcarra, at the Presidential Place, in Lima, Peru on May 11, 2018.

Minister of Mines Mr. Luis Miguel Incháuestegui Zevallos led their respective delegations.

The second round of negotiations on Trade Agreement between India and Peru was held from 9-12 April 2018 in

under the coordination of SRTEPC and ICC took part in Expo Textil 2018 in November by setting up an India Pavillion. "India Show 2019", a multi-product trade fair, under the aegis of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) will be held in Lima from 21-25 March 2019.

## URUGUAY

A technical delegation comprising of officials and experts from Development Partnership Administration (DPA-II) Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, and Centre for Development of Advance

Computing (C-DAC) visited Uruguay from 7-11 May 2018 to discuss the modalities for the establishment of an IT Centre of Excellence in Montevideo.

## VENEZUELA

Venezuela emerged as India's 6th largest supplier of crude oil. The Embassy organized an Indian Tea exhibition and tea-

tasting (April), exhibition of Indian plastics (May), an exhibition on 'The magic of plastics in Indian household' (August).

## CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

### ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Minister of State (Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Commerce & Industry), Shri C.R. Chaudhary, visited Antigua & Barbuda from 23-25 April 2018. On the sidelines of the UNGA, External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj met Foreign Minister, Mr. Chet Greene, on 26 September 2018.

After the devastating hurricane in September 2017, India

extended cash assistance of US\$ 100,000 and another US\$ 1 million through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from India-UN Development Partnership Fund, for rehabilitation of the Hannah Thomas Hospital and of the Barbuda Post Office. Installation of solar panels in health centres and schools at a grant of US\$ 4,00,000 through the Indian National Institute of Solar Energy is under progress.

### BARBADOS

Minister of State for Law & Justice and Corporate Affairs Shri P. P. Chaudhary visited Barbados from 25-28 April 2018 under MEA's outreach programme 'Abhinav Pahal' and met the then Prime Minister Mr. Freundel Stuart during a community reception on 26 April 2018. He held extensive bilateral discussions with Mr. Adriel D. Brathwaite Q.C, Attorney

General & Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Donville Inniss, Minister of Industry, International Business Commerce & Small Business Development, Ms. Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade and Mr. Dacosta Jones J.P, Minister of Education, Science, Technology & Innovation.

### BAHAMAS

The Bahamas government announced in April 2018 that visa on arrival will be issued to Indians travelling to the Bahamas. Later it introduced extra facilitation for select category

of Indian visitors. Also, an agreement for waiver of visa for holders of Diplomatic and Official passports was signed on 29 November 2018.

### COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

Minister of State for Health & FW of India Mrs. Anupriya Patel visited Dominica under the outreach programme 'Abhinav Pahal' on 11 & 12 May 2018 when she called on the

President, Prime Minister, Actg. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Health.

### CUBA

India-Cuba bilateral relationship acquired new momentum with the first-ever visit of President Shri Ramnath Kovind to Cuba in June 2018. He was accompanied by the Minister

of State (MoS) for Steel and two Members of Parliament. Besides holding a meeting with his counterpart, the President Shri Ramnath Kovind paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi,

Cuban National Hero Jose Marti and the revolutionary leader Fidel Castro. He also visited renowned Cuban Institute of Biotechnology and also addressed scholars and diplomats at the Havana University on "India and the Global South". President Shri Ram Nath Kovind announced India's offer of US\$ 75 million LoC for 100 MW solar power project in Cuba under the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement.

A delegation from the Department of Biotechnology and BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) visited Cuba and held discussions and signed a Tripartite Letter of Intent between BIRAC, Kalam Institute of Health Technology (KIHT) and 'Bio Cuba Farma' on the sidelines of the visit on 20-23 June 2018.

India participated in the 36th International Trade Fair of Havana (FIHAV) 2018 from 29 October-2 November 2018 in which 45 Indian companies were present. A letter of Intent was also signed between Escorts and Ministry of Agriculture of Cuba.

India participated in the First Gastrocult 2019, organised by Cuban Cultural Tourism Agency Paradiso. During the event, 8 January 2019 was observed as "India Day" when two Indian chefs showcased Indian cuisine.

The bulk blending fertilizer plant built under Indian LoC was inaugurated in March 2019.

**ITEC Day:** Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day was celebrated at India House on 6 December 2018. About 100 ITEC alumni attended the event. The Chief Guest was the Acting Vice Minister of Trade and Foreign Investment Vilma Sanchez Sempe and the Director General

of Asia Division in the Ministry of External Relations was also present.

**Gastrocult:** In fulfillment of the commitment made during the visit of President of India to Cuba in June 2018, India will be participating in the First Gastrocult 2019, being organised by Cuban Cultural Tourism Agency Paradiso. The first edition of of Gastrocult 2019 will be dedicated to India. Expert Chefs from five countries, India Mexico, Peru, Spain and Cuba interacted from 8-10 January. The Gastrocult 2019 academic program will also be dedicated to India and 8 January observed as "India Day" when two experienced chefs from India will showcase Indian cuisine, complemented by a cultural show.

**PBD:** The Mission will organize the 2019 Pravasi Bhartiya Divas and Satya Vaarta. Artists will be honoured. 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak will also be celebrated.

**Cuban Minister of CIT's Visit to India:** First Deputy Minister Mr. Gonzalez Vidal Wilfredo will be leading an 11-member delegation, comprising senior government officers and top executives, to India and to attend the 19th Edition of the Annual International IT Exhibition and Conference INDIASOFT and India Electronics Expo (INDEE) during 4th and 5th February 2019 in Hyderabad, Telangana.

**Fertilizer Plant:** The bulk blending fertilizer plant being built with Indian LoC for an amount of USD 2.712 million, will be inaugurated in February-March 2019. The works should be completed by 15 January 2019, so that the plant is in running position by 28 February 2019. Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdés is likely to be present on the occasion.

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## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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India appointed an Honorary Consul General in Santo Domingo.

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## HAITI

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Shri Vijay Sampla, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment visited Haiti from 18-21 April, 2018 under the outreach programme 'Abhinav Pahal'. During the visit, MoS

held meetings with Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant, Mr. Jovenel Moise, President of Republic of Haiti and Mr. Antonio Rodrigue, Foreign Minister of Republic of Haiti.

## JAMAICA

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Jamaica Mr. Andrew Holness met on the margins of CHOGM in April 2018 in London, BRICS Summit in July 2018 in Johannesburg; and, G20 Summit in November 2018 in

Buenos Aires. The Jamaican government appointed Senator Aubyn Hill as Jamaica's High Commissioner to India with residence in Kingston.

## MEXICO

The Mexican Parliamentarian and President of IPU Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron met Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu in Delhi on 11 December 2018. The Minister of Energy of Mexico, Ms. Rocio Nahale visited India from 10-12 February to attend Petrotech 2019.

As part of the study tour, a 16-member National Defence College team visited Mexico in May 2018. At the invitation of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Ambassador Eduardo Roldan of Mexico participated in the 2nd ICWA-LAC Conference on India-LAC partnership in Brasilia in May 2018.

Secretary of Economic Development of the state of Durango, Secretary of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economy Mr. Juan Carlos Baker and Dr. Aldo Flores Quiroga, Secretary of Hydrocarbons, Ministry of Energy visited India. Parle set up its first manufacturing plant in the western hemisphere in Mexico and Tech Mahindra opened its second office in the state of Aguascalientes. CEMEX from Mexico announced its investment plan in India. Several Indian companies participated in prominent business exhibitions under the aegis of Trade Promotion Council of India (forty companies in the F&B sector and forty five companies in the construction sector), National Jute Board, Synthetic and Rayon Textiles

Export Promotion Council, Confederation of Indian Industries (thirty five companies in construction sector) and Council for Leather Exports (nine companies). The Embassy in collaboration with PwC Mexico brought out a publication "Doing Business in Mexico: A Guide for Indian investors" to facilitate business engagement from India.

For the first time, India participated as the 'Guest of Honour' Country at the 46th edition of the Cervantino International Festival in Guanajuato from 10-28 October 2018. Several dance groups including Malavika Sarukkai (Bharatanatyam) and Manipuri JagoiMarup Group (Manipuri). Shahid Parvez Khan (Sitar), Rashmi Agarwal (Sufi and devotional), Ozone Raaga (fusion) and Samandar Khan Manganiar (Rajasthani folk) participated. India also participated in food festivals, Film shows, Yoga demonstrations, exhibitions (textiles, dolls and photographs), workshops and academic conferences. ICCR donated a bust of Mahatma Gandhi to the Municipality of Guanajuato.

National Book Trust of India (NBT) and Feria Internacional de Libro Guadalajara signed a MoU in July 2018 according to which India would be the Guest of Honour country for the 2019 International Book Fair in Guadalajara.

## SURINAME

President Shri Ramnath Kovind paid the first ever state visit to Suriname from 19-21 June 2018 on the invitation of the President of the Republic of Suriname with a high-level delegation comprising Minister of State (MoS) for Steel Shri Vishnu Deo Sai. Five MOUs were signed between India

and Suriname in the areas of Centre of Excellence in ICT, Cooperation between the electoral authorities, National Archives, Cooperation between diplomatic Institutes and Remunerative employment of dependents of the diplomatic personnel of the two countries. The two LoC agreement on



President inspects Guard of Honour during his Ceremonial Welcome at Presidential Palace in Suriname (June 20, 2018)

EBS transmission line for US\$ 27.5 million and maintenance of Chetak helicopters for US\$ 3.5 million were signed during the visit. A LoC of US\$ 20 million for ISA project towards rural electrification of the villages of Suriname was also announced following the handing over of the instrument of ratification of ISA to the President of India by the President of the Republic of Suriname

Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu met with Vice President of the Republic of Suriname Mr. Ashwin Adhin on 9 September 2018 on the margins of World Hindu Congress in Chicago. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj held a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of the Republic of Suriname Ms. Yldiz Pollack Beighle on the sidelines of 73rd UNGA in New York on 26 September 2018.



Vice president meets Ashwin Adhin, Vice President of Suriname on the sidelines of 2nd World Hindu Congress in Chicago (September 09, 2018)

A four-member musical group led by Dr. Radhika Chopra was sponsored by ICCR to Suriname during the period 27 May-7 June 2018 to participate in the 145th anniversary

of the Indian arrival in Suriname. Five scholars from India participated in the Conference on Legacy of Slavery and Indentured Labour in Paramaribo from 18-23 June 2018.

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## ST. KITTS & NEVIS

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Minister of State (Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Commerce & Industry), Shri C.R. Chaudhary,

visited St. Kitts & Nevis from 25-28 April 2018 under the outreach programme 'Abhinav Pahal'.

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## ST LUCIA

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with St. Lucia Prime Minister Mr. Allen Chastanet on 19 April 2018 on the sidelines of CHOGM in London.

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## ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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Shri P.P.Chaudhary Minister of State Law & Justice and Corporate Affairs visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 22-24 April 2018 under the outreach programme 'Abhinav

Pahal' when he called on PM Dr Ralph Gonsalves and met with Mrs. Sandy Peters-Philips, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

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## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago Dr. Keith Rowley in London on 19 April 2018, on the sidelines of the CHOGM Summit.

An ICCR sponsored 8 Members Qawwali Group led by Ustad Shahid Niazi visited T&T from 12-15 July 2018. An 18 members Ramleela Group sponsored by Ayodhya Research Institute, Deptt of Culture, Government of UP visited Trinidad & Tobago from 17-23 January 2018 as part of their "Ramleela Yatra in the Caribbean". Photo-framed letters

signed by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, were presented to 110 Elderly PIOs who are over the age of 90 years. Also presented were Angavastrams specially provided by Khadi Board of India for the event. A group of five noted national award winner Artisans from India, sponsored by the Commissioner of Handlooms, Government of India visited Trinidad & Tobago and participated in the annual Diwali Nagar Festival organized by the National Council for Indian Culture (NCIC) from 28 October-5 November 2018.

# 9

## UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND LEGAL AND TREATIES DIVISION

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### VISIT OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL

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UN Secretary-General (UNSG), Mr. Antonio Guterres, participated in Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi in the first week of October. The Convention was attended by leaders from more than fifty countries, in which the UNSG highlighted that the ongoing work in India on “Open Defecation Free Society” under ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ was changing the global sanitation statistics rapidly.

The Secretary-General during his visit to India also participated in an event to mark the first meeting of the Governing body of the International Solar Alliance. The establishment of International Solar Alliance has been commended in the Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum as

well as in the General Assembly Resolution on Energy in its 73rd session.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) awarded the Champion of the Earth award to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi [along with French President Macron]. At a special ceremony on 3 October in Delhi, the UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres, who was in India to attend the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention and the first General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, conferred the award.





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## ELECTIONS

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India was elected to the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the term 2019-2021 securing highest number of votes (188 out of 193) among all the eighteen candidate countries. India will serve on HRC for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2019.

India was re-elected to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (CNGO) for the term 2019-2022 with highest number of votes (forty-six out fifty-four) among all the contested seats in Asia-Pacific Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC). India will serve on CNGO for a four-year term beginning from 1 January 2019.

India was also elected to five UN Bodies: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) for the term

2019-21; Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS for the term 2019-2021; UN-Women (Executive Board of UN-WOMEN) for the term 2019-2021; CPD (Commission on Population and Development) from 16 April 2018 to 2021; and CSoCD (Commission for Social Development) from 16 April 2018 to 2021.

India was re-elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) for 2019-2022 term at the elections held from 29 October to 16 November 2018 at ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai. India has been a member of the ITU since 1869 and has been regularly elected as member of the ITU Council since 1952.

Ambassador Preeti Saran was elected on 5 December 2018



Prime Minister meets António Guterres, UN Secretary General on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires (November 29, 2018)

unopposed to an Asia-Pacific seat on the UN's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) for a term

beginning on 1 January 2019 until 31 December 2022.

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## UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC)

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India got elected as Member of the Human Rights Council for the term 2019-2021, winning the highest number of votes among all the Members that were elected to the Council in October 2018. India continued to play constructive role in the three regular Sessions of the Council held between

February to September 2018 as an Observer State.

India continued its active participation in the Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review Process where interventions in respect of thirty-nine Member States out of forty-two that were reviewed in 2018.

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## GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION

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The Inter-governmentally agreed text on Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was concluded after eighteen months of negotiations in July 2018. India was one of the key players in the negotiations, arguing for a balanced and nuanced approach, underlining the benefits

and challenges of international migration, including the positive aspects of regular legal migration. The agreed text will come for adoption at the Inter-governmental Conference in Morocco in December 2018 and subsequently in 73rd UNGA.

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## 2030 AGENDA AND SDGS

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In the High-Level Political Forum, in July 2018, the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs participated in his capacity as the President of the Governing body of UN-Habitat, and led the deliberations on SDG-11 on urbanization.

In the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, India demonstrating its leadership became the first country to contribute to the UN Tax Trust Fund that aims to help developing countries participate in the discussions of UN Tax Committee.

India has provided the contribution of US \$ 250,000 to the Office of High Representative for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small

Island Developing States (SIDs) (OHRLLS) for hosting of the mid-term review of implementation of Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs in 2019.

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### UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REFORMS

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India supported UN Secretary General's proposals for UN Development System Reform. Based on UNSG's proposal, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the Repositioning of the UN development system (UNDS). The new Resident

Coordinator (RC) system is at the heart of the UNDS reform strategy, intended to help streamline work across UN agencies.

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### SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES (UNESCO)

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204th session of the Executive board: India participated in the 204 session of the UNESCO Executive Board (EXB) held in Paris from 4-17 April 2018 with thirty-three items on the agenda. Prof J S Rajput, India's representative to the Executive Board delivered his address at the plenary session. He spoke about the strategic transformation that UNESCO has embarked upon and also about the celebration of 150 years of the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and about Gandhian philosophy.

UNESCO- Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science (PX) : The UNESCO- Kalinga Prize is the oldest UNESCO Prize and was instituted in 1951. It is sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, The Government of Orissa and the Kalinga Foundation Trust. UNESCO expressed its gratefulness to the Government of India and the donors for doubling the financial contribution and the quantum of the prize from \$20,000 to \$40,000.

World Congress on Justice for Children 28th to 30th May, 2018: Under the patronage of UNESCO, the World Congress on Justice for Children was held from 28-30 May 2018. Fourteen High Court Judges led by Justice Madan Singh Lokur of the Supreme Court of India participated in the event. Justice Lokur was also the panel speaker at the forum.

23rd Session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) : was held in Paris from 11-15 June 2018. The need for better dialogue and coordination on Sustainable Development Goal on

Water and Sanitation (SDG6) was recognized by all the thirty-six members of the IHP council.

Seventh General Assembly of the State Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Paris from 4 - 6 June 2018 : Eleven states ratified the Convention during the reporting period, including four ASPAC members, namely Cook Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu. India was one of the four outgoing members of the ICH committee in 2018 which also included Afghanistan, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea.

42nd session of the World Heritage Committee: India's nomination of "Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai" was inscribed on the List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites during the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in Manama, Bahrain from 24 June - 4 July 2018. The inscription of this site is India's 37th entry on the UNESCO list.

205TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO: The 205th Session of the EXB was held from 3-17 October 2018 in Paris. The Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission of the Executive Board examined item thirty-eight on "Remembering the Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi" which was proposed with no debate. The Commission was also informed of the Government of India's plan to undertake a series of events throughout the coming year in celebration of this icon. A short film on the life of Mahatma Gandhi was also screened.

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## DIGITAL COOPERATION

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The UNSG has set up a twenty-member High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, co-chaired by Melinda Gates and Jack Ma. The Panel is expected to present a Report and

recommendations in April 2019. Ambassador Amandeep Singh Gill has joined as Executive Director to the Secretariat of the Panel.

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## WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)

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India hosted the End Tuberculosis (TB) Summit in Delhi on 13 March 2018. It was jointly organized by the Government of India, Stop TB Partnership and World Health Organisation (WHO) South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reaffirmed Government's commitment to end TB by 2025 and stressed the need for all partners, public and private, to come together to end TB in India, in the region and globally. The Summit was attended by Director General of WHO.

The first ever UN High Level Meeting on tuberculosis on held on September 26, 2018 during the High-Level Week of the 73rd UNGA which adopted a political declaration on theme "United to end tuberculosis: an urgent global response to a global epidemic" affirming political commitment to accelerating efforts in ending TB and reaching all affected people with prevention and care. The Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri J.P. Nadda led the Indian delegation at the meeting. India's target to end tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030, was highlighted.

The Third United Nations High-level Meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) was held on 27 September 2018, which adopted a political declaration on 'Time to deliver: accelerating our response to address non-communicable diseases for the health and well-being of present and future generations'. The Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri J.P. Nadda led the Indian delegation at the meeting.

71st World Health Assembly session took place in Geneva from 21-26 May 2018. India was represented by Health Minister Shri J. P. Nadda. A resolution on Digital Health, which was initiated by India was adopted during the session. Health Minister also appraised the Assembly of India's new initiative of "Ayushman Bharat", which would be India's contribution to the goal of Universal Health Coverage. On the sidelines,

Health Minister also attended the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting in Geneva. The theme of the meeting was "Enhancing the global fight against NCDs: raising awareness, mobilising resources and ensuring accessibility to universal health coverage".

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata, a Global Conference on Primary Health Care took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 25-26 October 2018. The conference was co-hosted by Government of Kazakhstan, the World Health Organization and UNICEF. India was represented by Health Minister Shri J. P. Nadda at the Conference. Speaking at the Conference, Health Minister said that India is aiming at establishing an electronic database in all its districts by the year 2020, to reduce the burden of paper-based data collection, recording and storage.

The 2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products - Achieving the SDGs 2030' was held at New Delhi on 9 -11 October 2018. The Conference was organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India with the support of World Health Organization. India had also hosted the first World Conference in New Delhi in November 2017.

In May 2018, the Union Cabinet gave approval to accede to the Protocol under World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.

Under the Presidency of India the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC) closed its eighth session (COP8) after adopting a Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) outlining a new action plan to scale up the global tobacco control agenda.

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## **OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA**

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India participated in the 28th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) held at UNHQ on 11-14 June 2018; 24th Session of the International Seabed Authority held at Kingston, Jamaica from 8-13 July; 19th Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea on "Anthropogenic underwater noise", held on 18-22 June; 10th 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 28 February - 1 March 2018; and 11th 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 on 23 & 24 August 2018.

India participated in the meetings on the issue of Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) under the UNCLOS held in April and September 2018.

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## **UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)**

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India participated in the Working Group I on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (12-16 March 2018); Working Group II on Dispute Settlement (5-9 February 2018); Working Group III on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform (23-27 April 2018); Working Group IV on Electronic Commerce

(16-20 April 2018); Working Group V on Insolvency Law (7-11 May 2018); Working Group VI on Security Interests (30 April - 4 May 2018); and 51st annual session of UNCITRAL (25 June - 13 July 2018).

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## **INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)**

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India actively engaged in the meetings organized by the co-facilitators - Switzerland and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) - in the intergovernmental process for strengthening the respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The process is a follow-up of the 32nd International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent in December

2015.

India maintained, during the five formal intergovernmental sessions held in Geneva in 2018, that sustained efforts be made to use the full potential of the existing international mechanism to achieve the goal.

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## **INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)**

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Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, led the delegation to the 107th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), held in Geneva from 28 May-8 June, 2018. Prominent Employer and Worker Groups representatives from India also attended the ILC.

Throughout the year, India participated in the deliberations of various ILO technical committees including the 4th meeting of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (SRM-TWG) and 3rd meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

India actively participated in the 332nd, 333rd and 334th Sessions of the Governing Body (GB) of ILO held in March, June and October-November 2018 respectively. India remained engaged in the ongoing reform process in the ILO including those related to its Governance structures, the review of ILO Supervisory Mechanisms and the Standard Review Mechanism as part of ILO's centenary (year 2019) initiatives.

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## INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

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Dr. M.G. Thambidurai, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, led the Indian delegation of Members at the 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on the theme “Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: the need for evidence-based policy solutions”, in Geneva from 24-28 March 2018. It was attended by Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

At the 139th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),

on the theme “Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change” in Geneva from 14-18 October 2018, the Indian delegation was led by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker of Lok Sabha. The delegation also included Shri Harivansh, Deputy Speaker, Rajya Sabha and Shri Thambi Durai, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha as well as a group of Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

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## UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

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Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution represented India at the 3rd

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy in Geneva on 9 July 2018.

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## THE INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND

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India has committed to contribute US\$100 million during the next 10 years to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, located in the UN Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), established in June 2017. In April 2018, a

Commonwealth window of US\$ 50 million was added to the Fund. The Fund supports country-led projects in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and on the principles of south-south cooperation.

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## STUDY TOUR TO INDIA

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The Mission organized a Study Tour to India of select Permanent Representatives from twelve countries based in New York from 21-28 August 2018. They were from Niger, Equatorial Guinea, Marshall Islands, Malta, St. Lucia, Grenada, Zambia, Dominica, Eswatni, Comoros, St. Kitts and Nevis and

Kiribati. The delegation called on External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj. The programme for the visit included engagements at Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Election Commission, and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), etc.

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## OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND VISITS AT THE UN

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The Permanent Mission of India organized several events to commemorate the 4th International Day of Yoga at the UN. These included a Yoga Session with Yoga Masters (20 June), Conversation with Yoga Masters on Yoga for Peace (21 June) and an Exhibition on Yoga (18-22 June). The UN Secretariat building was lit up with Yoga Postures on this occasion.

India sponsored the prestigious UN Day Concert at the United Nations on 24 October 2018 after a gap of fifty-two years. The theme of the concert was ‘Traditions of Peace and

Non-Violence’ and featured a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th anniversary. Sarod Maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan performed on the occasion along with the Refugee Orchestra Project.

A high-level seminar titled ‘Leaving No One Behind’ was organized by the Permanent Mission of India at the UN on 13 April to mark the 127th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) delivered the keynote

address which was followed by a panel discussion on the theme.

India participated at the meeting of Legal Advisors of Foreign Ministries of the UN Member States during the International Law Week held on 22 & 23 October.

India participated at the informal meeting of BRICS legal advisers during the International Law Week held on 24 October.

The Instrument of Ratification for the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was deposited with the United Nations on 8 August.

The Instrument of Ratification for the Minamata Convention on Mercury, 2013 was deposited with UN Secretary General on 18 June.

The Instrument of Accession for the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco, 2012 was deposited with the UN Secretary General on 5 June.

India actively participated in the 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 held on 6-13 November 2018.

An Indian delegation led by the Surveyor General participated in the Eighth Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) during July-August 2018.

India is actively engaging in the negotiations for the Inter-

governmentally agreed outcome document for the Second UN Conference on South-South Cooperation, called BAPA+40 (forty years after adoption of Buenos Aires Plan of Action).

11th Conference of State Parties to the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the theme "Leaving no one behind through the full implementation of the CRPD" was held in New York from 12-14 June 2018. The Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities headed the Indian delegation and delivered the national statement highlighting India's commitment in light of the landmark Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act which came into effect last year.

The 9th Session of the UN General Assembly's Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing was held from 23-26 July 2018 at UN Headquarters. A delegation from National Human Rights Commission of India, headed by Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson participated in the meeting in its independent capacity as national human rights institution (NHRI). NHRC India also made a written submission on 'Long-term care and palliative care' contributing to the discussion of the Working Group.

The Permanent Mission of India hosted a special event to commemorate the International Day of Peacekeepers at the UN in May 2018. UN Secretary-General attended the event.

The Permanent Mission of India hosted a special event on 'Jaipur Foot' in May 2018.

India partnered several other countries in the events to commemorate the International Day of Nowruz, International Day of Vesak, Diwali, and the World Toilet Day.

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## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

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India continued to participate in Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as a member of the FAO Council. It also continued to serve as a member of various Committees, such as Committee on Fisheries, Committee on Forestry, Committee on food Security, Committee on Commodity Problems and Committee on Agriculture.

India was nominated as one of the two members from Asia

Group to the International Steering Committee (ISC) on Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 in recognition of its support for family farming. The ISC will be responsible for the development and coherent implementation of the work programme. India will be on the ISC for two years i.e. 2019-2020. The resolution on International Decade on Family Farming was adopted by UNGA in December 2017 and (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development

(IFAD) will lead the implementation of the Decade in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders.

India's proposal for an International Year of Millets in 2023 was endorsed by the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture held in Food and Agriculture organization (FAO), Rome from 1-5 October 2018.

The 45th Session of Committee on World Food Security was held in FAO from 15-19 October 2018. On the opening day, on the occasion of International Day of Rural Women, Zala Shardaben Fathesinh, small farmer and member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) was given the privilege of delivering the Keynote address.

Sikkim was awarded the World Future Policy Gold Award 2018 for being the First Organic State in the World at a ceremony held at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome on 15 October 2018.

At the International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers held at FAO on 21-23 November 2018, Prof. Anil Gupta, Founder, Honeybee Network India was given the privilege of opening the Symposium with a Keynote address. The Rythu Bandhu Insurance Scheme in Telangana was selected as one of the twenty success stories of innovation and Shri C. Partha Sarathi, Agriculture Production Commissioner & Secretary, Government Agriculture & Cooperation (Horticulture & Sericulture) Department, Government of Telangana, participated in the Symposium

and briefed the participants about the important aspects of the insurance scheme.

International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)

India's strong commitment and involvement in IFAD was reflected at the IFAD 11 Replenishment meeting this year when India pledged US\$ 60 million, substantially increasing its contribution from US\$37 million in the previous period. India also continued to serve in the IFAD Executive Board.

UN-ESCAP

The 74th annual Commission Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) was held in Bangkok on 11-16 May 2018. Ms. Anuradha Mitra, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, led the Indian delegation at Senior Officers Meeting (SoM) and Ambassador Shri Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi was Head for the Ministerial Segment. The theme topic of the 74th Session was 'Inequality in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. Ambassador Bishnoi delivered the Country Statement, highlighting the initiatives of the Government of India in this regard. Eleven resolutions were adopted during the Commission. During the session, election of Governing Council of Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) and Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) was also held. India was re-elected for both the Governing Councils.

## ASIA-PACIFIC ENERGY FORUM

The 2nd Asia-Pacific Energy Forum was held in Bangkok from 03-05 April. Member countries adopted a Ministerial Declaration, which laid out a series of actions to encourage the sustainable use of energy, including through greater regional cooperation to facilitate cross-border infrastructure and energy trade to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the Ministerial Declaration, International Solar Alliance has also been listed as a platform for clean energy along with other relevant UN forums. Ms Priya

Nair, Director (Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of External Affairs, attended the Ministerial Meeting. On behalf of Thai Government, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Virasakdi Futrakul delivered remarks on 4 April. Delegations from more than fifty countries in Asia and the Pacific participated in this meeting with sixteen Ministerial delegations including from Afghanistan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, China, Laos, Republic of Korea and Russia.



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## **BANGKOK CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2018 (BCCC)**

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The pre-session meetings of the Bangkok Climate Change Conference 2018 (4-9 September 2018) commenced on 30 August at the United Nations Convention Centre in Bangkok. The Indian delegation at the BCCC was led by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. The conference was organised to facilitate the timely completion of the Paris

Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) at the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to be held at Katowice, Poland in December 2018. A briefing by UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Epsinosa was organized by the UN-ESCAP for the member states. The briefing was attended by the Embassy officials on 6 September.

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## **REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION (SSC)**

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Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific was organized by UN-ESCAP, in collaboration with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the Government of Thailand, in Bangkok from 27-29 June. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare towards the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 40th Anniversary

(BAPA+40), scheduled for March 2019. Director (United Nations Economic and Social), Ministry of External Affairs, attended the meeting. India shared its experience regarding SSC. India-UN Development Partnership Fund came up for praise and was mentioned several times during the meeting.

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## **SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION DAY**

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South-South Cooperation Day was commemorated on 12 September at United Nations Conference Centre Bangkok. The event was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event marked the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA) – a blueprint for South-South Cooperation.

In his address representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand stressed the importance of partnership, which is the spirit of South-South and triangular cooperation. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, Ms.

Deirdre Boyd, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Thailand, Ambassadors and other senior representatives from South-South cooperation countries in the region, including Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia and Thailand, took stock of past achievements and shared perspectives on the future, ahead of the BAPA+40 Conference.

Shri Abbagani Ramu, Charge d'Affaires (C'dA), Embassy of India, Bangkok, shared India's various initiatives on SSC including establishment of India-UN Development Partnership Fund to expand the development partnership with developing countries. Under this Fund, India has committed to provide US \$100 million for South-South Cooperation over a period of ten years.

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## **OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS AT UN-ESCAP**

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Embassy of India, Bangkok and UN-ESCAP jointly organized International Day of Non Violence in UNESAP on 2 October 2018. Mr. Hongjoo Hahm, Deputy Executive Secretary and officer in charge of UNESCAP delivered opening remarks. Mr. Abbagani Ramu, C'dA, Embassy of India, Bangkok

delivered the remarks thereafter. Several Ambassadors and representatives from diplomatic community, UN bodies, students from Schools and Universities attended the International Day of Non Violence.

Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific was held at United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok from 8-10 October. Shri P G Diwakar, Scientific Secretary, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), attended the event. Ministerial Declaration was adopted during the Conference on the use of geospatial information and space applications for sustainable development. The Conference also agreed on the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030), a regionally-coordinated blueprint that harnesses space applications and digital innovations to support countries, particularly those with special needs, to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda.

Mid-term review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development was held from 26-28 November 2018 at UNCC, Bangkok. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Midterm Review of the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) saw participants review progress and gaps in implementing the ambitious Programme of Action adopted in Cairo in 1994. Going forward, delegates also identified priority actions to address a broad set of population-related challenges, as well as new and emerging trends. Ministry of Women and Child Development led the Indian delegation for the meeting.

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## UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

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### 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.

The Sixth Committee met during the Seventy-third Session of the General Assembly, from 3 October -13 November 2018. During the main part of the Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Sixth Committee considered the following subjects/topics:-

- Rule of Law at the National and International Levels;
- Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and Experts on Mission;
- Rule of law at the national and international levels;
- Status of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts;
- Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-first 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 70th 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;
- The responsibility of international organizations;
- Measures to eliminate International Terrorism;
- Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly;
- Administration of justice at the United Nations;
- Report of the Committee on relations with the host country.

Strengthening of the legal regime to deal with terrorism and related issues inter-alia remained the focus of discussions before the Sixth Committee as well as during the General Debate of UNGA. In the General Debate, besides strongly condemning terrorism, Member States stressed for combating every act of terrorism effectively and to ensure the adequate legal measures to deal therewith.

In this context, there being a need to have a global normative document to curb the menace of terrorism, Measures to eliminate international terrorism continued to be on the agenda of the Sixth Committee (Item 111). In this regard, progress was made as the Seventy-third Session adopted the draft resolution on “Measures to eliminate international terrorism” with the call to the UN Member States for considering effective measures to deal with the menace of terrorism including the early conclusion of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

The Sixth Committee also considered and debated the Report of the International Law Commission (ILC) in three clusters/parts covering the following topics:

- Protection of persons in the event of disasters;
- Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction;
- Provisional application of treaties;
- Formation and evidence of customary international law;
- Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties;

- Identification of customary international law;
- Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts;
- Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts;
- Protection of the atmosphere;
- Succession of States in respect of State responsibility;
- Preemptory norms of general international law (*Jus Cogens.*)

India made statements on all three parts. In addition, the Sixth Committee has also considered the requests for grant of Observer Status to (i) New Development Bank (introduced by BRICS countries), (ii) International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (introduced by Norway), (iii) European Public Law Organization (introduced by Portugal), (iv) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (introduced by China and supported by India) and (v) International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (introduced by Mongolia). The deliberation in the Sixth Committee resulted in a recommendation for granting the requests, which were subsequently adopted by the UNGA.

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## INTERNATIONAL LAW WEEK

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This year, the International Law week was observed from 22-26 October 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. Dr V. D. Sharma, Additional Secretary and Legal Advisor of the MEA participated in the events during the International Law week. During this period, the Sixth Committee debated on the report of the International Law Commission (ILC). India participated in the debate, examined the International Law topics considered by the ILC and commented thereupon in statements.

The meeting of Legal Advisors of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UN Member States was held from 22 & 23 October, 2018. Poland was the chief coordinator for the meeting of Legal Advisors this year. The Sixth Committee experts, international law academicians and the UN officials also participated in the meeting. The UN Office for Legal Affairs, in addition to the Legal Advisors of India, Canada, Mexico and Sweden, assisted Poland in organizing this event. The event consisted of three discussion panels dedicated to prevention and punishment of atrocity crimes; the responsibility of states for internationally

wrongful acts in a practical context; and Memoranda of Understanding in the light of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. The Indian Legal Advisor participated actively in the deliberations of the meetings of Legal Advisors. During the International Law Week, the informal meeting of the BRICS Member countries' Legal Advisors also took place.

South Africa being the Chair of this year's informal BRICS Legal Advisers' meeting, Adv Sandea de Wet, Chief State Law Adviser (International Law), Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa hosted a working lunch for the legal advisers of the BRICS countries, during the International Law Week on 24 October 2018. The meeting informally exchanged views on topics before the International Law Commission including the Working Methods of the Commission, and on the scope of application the principle of self-defence under the UN Charter.

During the International Law Week, the Report of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) was also debated in the Plenary of the UNGA. Dr V.D. Sharma, Additional Secretary

(L&T) and Legal Advisor made a statement in the UNGA on the Report of the ICJ.

## OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

India participated in the Organizational meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference on marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (IGC - BBNJ) from 16-18 April 2018 to discuss organizational matters, including the process of the zero draft of the instrument.

India also participated in the first session of the IGC BBNJ convened under resolution 72/249, which was held on 4-17 September 2018, and the substantive discussions which addressed the topics identified in the package agreed in 2011, namely, the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. The President of the Conference will produce, as part of the preparations for the second session of the Conference, a document with the aim of facilitating focused discussions and text-based negotiations, containing treaty language and reflecting options concerning the four elements of the package.

India participated in 28th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 which was held from 11-14 June 2018. The delegations took note of the work undertaken by the institutions established under the Convention, namely, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the International Seabed Authority, and The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

India participated in the 24th session of the International

Seabed Authority in Kingston, Jamaica which considered models for a financial payment system; draft regulations on deep-seabed mining; contractors' non-compliance issues; the possible operationalisation of the Enterprise; a strategic plan for 2019-2023; annual report of the SG; and the proposed budget for 2019-2020.

The other meetings relating to the Oceans and the Law of the Sea participated by the Legal & Treaties Division at the UN HQ were:

- 19th Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea on "Anthropogenic underwater noise", from 18-22 June 2018;
- 11th meeting of the 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, convened pursuant to paragraph 330 of General Assembly resolution 72/73 from 23 & 24 August 2018.
- The Indian delegation contributed actively to the deliberations at the informal consultations on Oceans and Law of the Sea (Ominibus) resolution during 1-4 October 2018 and 14-20 November 2018.
- India actively participated in the informal consultations on Implementation of Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions on the impact of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks from 6-13 November 2018.

## UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)

India participated in the following Working Groups:

- The Working Group I (Micro, Small and Medium-sized

Enterprises) from 12-16 March 2018 at New York continued with the preparation of legal standards aimed at reducing the legal obstacles faced by micro, small and

medium-sized enterprises throughout their life cycle and, in particular, those in developing economies.

- The Working Group II (Arbitration and Conciliation / Dispute Settlement), held from 5-9 February 2018 at New York, (68th session) finalized its work on the preparation of a draft convention on international settlement agreements resulting from mediation as well as a draft amendment to the Model Law on International Commercial Conciliation.
- The Working Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform) from 23-27 April 2018 at New York continued its work on the possible reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement.
- The Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce) from 16-20 April 2018 at New York continued its consideration of contractual aspects of cloud computing as well as of legal issues related to identity management and trust services.
- The Working Group V (Insolvency Law) from 7-11

May 2018 at New York, pursuant to the decision of the Commission at its forty-fifth session, the Working Group continued its consideration of measures to facilitate the cross-border insolvency of multinational enterprise groups and also continued its deliberation on the draft model law on the recognition and enforcement of insolvency-related judgments including mechanisms specifically to address the insolvency treatment of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

- The Working Group VI (Security Interests) from 30 April-4 May 2018 at New York continued its work to prepare a practice guide to the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions.

The 51st annual session of UNCITRAL (from 25 June-13 July 2018) considered the adoption of the Model Law on the Recognition and Enforcement of Insolvency-Related Judgments and its guide to help in harmonizing the legislation on cross-border insolvency, while respecting the national procedural and judicial systems of various States with different legal and economic systems.

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## **ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (AALCO)**

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Legal & Treaties Division participated in the 57th Annual Session of Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) held in Tokyo, Japan from 8-12 October 2018. Thirty-Seven Member States of AALCO participated in the Session.

The inaugural session was held on 9 October 2018. Mr. Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Mr. Takashi Yamashita, Minister of Justice of Japan were the Chief Guests in the inaugural session. India held the presidency of the 55th Annual Session of AALCO and Dr. V.D. Sharma, AS (L&T) was the president of the 55th Session. In the absence of AS (L&T), Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Tokyo on behalf of AS (L&T) delivered the vote of thanks in the

Inaugural Session.

The following international law topics were discussed during the session: Topics on the Agenda of the International Law Commission; Law of the Sea; Violations of International Law in Palestine; International Trade and Investment Laws; International Law in Cyberspace; and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes. Additionally, the organizational and financial matters of the Organization were also discussed.

Apart from the General Statement, Indian delegation delivered statements on topics on the agenda of the International Law Commission; Law of the Sea; International Law in Cyberspace; and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes.

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## **HAGUE CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW (HCCH)**

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Fourth Meeting of the Experts Group on the Parentage/Surrogacy Project, held from 25-28 September 2018 at The Hague focused on the Private International Law issues

surrounding legal parentage in general. The Expert Group discussed the following matters during the fourth meeting:

- the possibility of accepting foreign public documents on legal parentage;
- the possibility of recognizing legal parentage established abroad where there is no judicial decision;
- whether there is a need for, and, if so, whether it is

possible to reach agreement on uniform applicable law rules on legal parentage, including how any such rules might operate together with public documents; and

- refined provisions regarding the cross-border recognition, by operation of law, of foreign judicial decisions concerning legal parentage.

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## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)

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Legal and Treaties division participated in the 8th South Asian Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law held from 17-19 November 2018 in Tehran which discussed 'New Technologies and IHL'. Additionally, the Division examined

documents/proposals/questions on several aspects of IHL and rendered advice therein to the UNES Division of the Ministry.

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## EXTRADITION

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During the year 2018, the Legal & Treaties Division examined a number of extradition requests and rendered legal advice therein. Other requests relating to criminal and civil matters

from domestic and foreign jurisdictions were also examined and advised upon.

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## INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE ADJUDICATION INVOLVING INDIA

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- 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. India has completed the filing of its written pleadings with the registry. Both parties' written pleadings got completed by Italy having submitted its reply on 16 February 2018. The final oral hearing which was scheduled to take place in October - November 2018 could not be held due to the sudden demise of one of the arbitrators of the Tribunal. Now, the oral hearing has been re-scheduled to take place in July 2019.
- Kulbhushan Jadhav Case (India v. Pakistan):** In Jadhav's case, before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in addition to its memorial, India filed its reply to Pakistan's Counter Memorial on 17 April 2018. Pakistan filed a Rejoinder on 17 July 2018. With this, the submission of written pleadings on both sides got completed. The Oral Hearing of the Parties on the merits has been scheduled by ICJ from 18-21 February 2019 at The Hague.

The various Arbitral Tribunals constituted under the auspices of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), ruled on the following investment treaty disputes brought against the Republic of India.

- Investment related Arbitration Cases:**

- On 8 October 2018, the Arbitral Tribunals made two awards in favour of India in *Astro All Asia Networks Limited and South Asia Entertainment Holdings Limited*, constituted under the India-UK and India-Mauritius bilateral investment treaties respectively. The claims arose out of ongoing criminal proceedings against the Claimants in India. The Claimants and its officers had been charged with offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act and the case was pending before the 2G Special Court. In the arbitration proceedings, the Claimants contended that India's conduct in relation to the criminal proceedings against them was in breach of India's substantive obligations and commitments under the India-UK and India-Mauritius bilateral investment treaties, and had resulted in harm to their investments in India. The investors' claims against India were eventually withdrawn with

prejudice, and India (including its organs, agencies, instrumentalities, agencies and representatives) stood released and forever discharged from the investors' claims, complaints and causes of action. India was also awarded full costs of defending itself in these proceedings which included the tribunal's fee and expenses and counsel fee.

- On 11 September 2018, in *Louis Dreyfus Armateurs (LDA)*, under the India - France bilateral investment treaty an award was passed in favour of India. LDA was a partner in this joint venture with Haldia Bulk Terminals Pvt Ltd (HBT). The claim arose due to termination of the contract by Haldia Bulk Terminals Pvt Ltd citing mounting losses, non-allocation of cargo to Berths 2 and 8 and other factors like declining law and order issues. Multiple litigations followed. The award stated that LDA's indirect investment in HBT is not entitled to protection under the France-India BIT as the France-India BIT excludes from the scope of protection indirect investments in which an investor owns less than 51% of an intermediate investment

vehicle, wherever located. The tribunal also awarded part of the costs claimed by India.

- Arbitral award rendered by the tribunal constituted under the auspices of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), in the dispute between *Deutsche Telekom v. Republic of India* dispute under the India-Germany BIT in December 2017 was challenged before the Federal Court in Geneva, and the court ruled against India's challenge and upheld the award of the tribunal.
- In Republic of India's challenge of the arbitral award in the *Devas v. Republic of India* dispute under the India- Mauritius BIT, the district court in The Hague ruled against India's challenge and upheld the award of the tribunal.

Arbitral Tribunal has also been constituted under the auspices of Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), in the dispute between *Khaitan Holdings Mauritius Limited vs. Republic of India*, under the India- Mauritius BIPA.

## TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

- a. Environment: The representative of the Legal & Treaties Division participated in the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held from 2-14 December 2018, in Katowice, Poland.
- b. Investment: The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the process of negotiations and examination of documents relating to Bilateral Investment Agreements with Iran, Switzerland, Ukraine, UAE and Morocco.
- c. Civil and Criminal Matters: The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the negotiation of the Treaties on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between India and Morocco in Rabat during the month of May 2018 and the month of September, the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Civil and Commercial between India and Morocco were negotiated in New Delhi and all the three Treaties were signed during

the month of November, 2018 during the VIP visit from Morocco. Further, in the month of September, the representative of the Ministry participated in the negotiations on the Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters between India and Belarus in Minsk. The Legal & Treaties Division also 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 Poland, Belarus and Morocco.

Legal & Treaties Division participated in the Eighth BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in August and also participated in the Eighth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Legal and Law Enforcement Issues held in Kathmandu, Nepal during November 2018.

- d. Outer Space: The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the 57th session of the Legal Sub-Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Vienna between 9-20 April 2018.
- e. Cybercrime: The Legal & Treaties Division has participated in the 4th United National Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to conduct a comprehensive study on

cybercrime, held in Vienna from 3-5 April 2018. The discussions during the Meeting were largely pertaining to the Legislation and Frameworks which could play a key role in legal measures in the prevention and combating of cybercrime. Further, the Chapter on Criminalization was examined based on the available national legislation in light of fourteen actions identified in the study relating to notions of cybercrime.

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### ONLINE TREATY DATABASE

The Legal & Treaties Division is maintaining a dedicated web module on the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) website under the link Indian Treaties Database and the Treaties/Agreements/MoUs and other important instruments entered into by the Government of the Republic of India with Foreign

countries are made available in the public domain 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 more than 3000 treaties in it.

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### 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 (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), health, biotechnology, 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, audiovisual, 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.

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### LIST OF TREATIES

India has signed/ratified many multilateral/bilateral treaties/agreements with foreign countries and International Organizations during the year 2018. A comprehensive list is placed at Annex-I. The list of Instruments of Ratification/Accession (37) issued during the year 2018 is at Annex-II; and

the list of Instrument of Full Powers (16) issued during the year 2018 is at Annex-III It can be seen that India has signed/concluded more than 300 bilateral and multilateral Treaties during 2018.

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### 73RD SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), with the theme '*Making the United Nations relevant to all people: Global leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies*' commenced on

18 September 2018 in New York. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation during the High-Level segment of the 73rd UNGA Session from 25 September to 1 October 2018. Minister of State for External



Affairs Shri. M.J.Akbar accompanied EAM during 28-29 September 2018.

EAM delivered India's national statement at the High Level segment of 73rd UNGA on 29 September 2018. EAM held bilateral discussions with her counterparts from 21 countries (Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Armenia, Bolivia, Chile, Cyprus, Colombia, Ecuador, Estonia, European Union, Germany, Iran, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Panama, Spain, Syria and Suriname) as well as 3 Heads of Government (Fiji, Mauritius and Nepal). The EAM also had

meetings on the side-lines with ministers from Bangladesh, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

EAM also participated in the special event on Climate Change hosted by the United Nations (UN) Secretary General António Guterres,, special event hosted by US President Trump on Global Call for Action on World Drug Problem and Nelson Mandela Peace Summit. The EAM also took part in the meetings of NAM Committee on Palestine, G-4, IBSA, BRICS and SAARC.

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## **VISIT OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE 73RD SESSION OF THE UNGA**

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A ten member multi-party Parliamentary delegation (including Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Prem Das Rai, Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant, Shri N.K. Premachandran, Ms. Sushmita Dev, Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, Shri Naresh Gujral, Ms. Kanimozhi Aravinthan, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Dr. Narendra Damodar Jadhav) visited New York as part of India's non-official delegation to the 73rd Session of the UNGA from 6-20 October 2018. During the visit, Parliamentarians attended various UN meetings/sessions in the General Assembly and

its Committees. Members of Parliament (MPs) also delivered statements on different occasions conveying India's position on various global issues being discussed at the UN like Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Human Settlements and Housing, advancement of women, rights of children, Information and Communication Technologists (ICTs) for sustainable development, globalization and interdependence, nuclear weapons & eradication of poverty.

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## **VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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The President-elect for the 73rd session of UNGA, Ms. Maria Espinosa, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, visited New Delhi from 10-14 August 2018. During the visit, she called on the Prime Minister. EAM held delegation level talks with her. 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. She also visited Dilli Haat and met with various NGOs engaged in the area of sustainable development.

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## **REFORM OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL**

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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 in the UN. EAM, during her speech at the UNGA session on [XXXX](#) highlighted the urgent need for reform when she said "the United Nations must accept that it needs fundamental reform. Reform cannot be cosmetic. We need to change both the institution's head and heart so as to make

it compatible to contemporary reality. Reform must begin today; tomorrow could be too late." The L69 group, with contribution from all its members including India, produced a 'Handbook on Security Council Reforms: 25 years of Deliberations' compiling all documents produced under the UNSC reform process in the last 25 years.

The G-4 Foreign Ministers (consisting of India, Brazil, Germany and Japan) held their annual meeting in New York on 25

September 2018 on the sidelines of the 73rd 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 to enhance its legitimacy, effectiveness and representativeness. The Ministers also stressed the need to initiate text-based negotiations in the IGN during the 73rd session.

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## INDIA AND PEACEKEEPING

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India continued to be the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping troops, having provided more than 200,000 troops and police personnel since 1950s. As on 31 October 2018, India is the fourth largest Troop Contributing Country (TCC) with 6,608 personnel deployed in 9 peacekeeping missions. As of date, 163 Indian Peacekeepers have sacrificed their lives while serving in UN missions.

India successfully operationalised the co-deployment of 120 troops from Kazakhstan as part of its contingent in United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). This is for the first time that such a co-deployment is taking place in UN Peacekeeping.

India endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping under the UN Secretary General's initiative of Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UN peacekeeping in order to address the changing realities.

Under-Secretary-General for UN peacekeeping operations Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix visited India in June 2018 and called on Raksha Mantri and met with senior officials in the Ministry of Defence. He also visited the Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in New Delhi and had an interactive speech at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

India continued its support to other countries on capacity building in peacekeeping. CUNPK held the 3rd UN Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) during July 2018 in association with the United States, which was attended by a total of 40 participants. For the first time, courses were offered in French for the benefit of Francophone African Countries. Another highlight of India US Cooperation in Peacekeeping was the launch on pilot basis the Joint Mobile Training Team (JMTT) in Zambia in February 2018.

To reaffirm India's commitment to zero tolerance to incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), Prime Minister endorsed the "Collective Statement of the Secretary-General's Circle of Leadership" on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations Operations in September 2018.

At the deliberations in UN, India continued to stress the need for serious and institutionalised consultations with TCCs in mandate formulation; need for prioritisation of mandates and allocation of adequate resources for implementation; necessity to remove all national caveats as they hinder performance; appropriate caution on the issue of 'robust mandates'; and legal safeguards for troops in offensive operations.

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## INDIA FRANCE CONSULTATION ON UN/ MULTILATERAL ISSUES

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The 2nd India-France consultations on UN/ Multilateral issues was held in New Delhi on 11 May 2018. The two sides exchanged views on UNSC Reforms, IGN, Terrorism, 1267

Committee listing, Peacekeeping and other issues pertaining to United Nations.

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## TERRORISM

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India continued to push for greater priority to be given within the UN system for 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 (CCIT), 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.

EAM, in her speech at the 73rd UNGA on 29 September 2018, described terrorism as the second existential threat to humanity. She highlighted that the demon of terrorism now stalked the world. She appealed to other nations to support CCIT so as to counter the threat of terrorism

A four-member Indian delegation, led by Special Secretary (Internal Security), Ministry of Home Affairs attended the

first UN High Level Conference of Head of Counter Terrorism Agencies that was held in New York on 28 - 29 June 2018.

In April 2018, India's membership in the Advisory board of the UN Counter Terrorism center was renewed for a term of 3 years. India participated in the 17th Advisory Board meeting in Riyadh to demonstrate its commitment to working with the UN and member states in combating terrorism.

India made a voluntary contribution of US \$ 550,000 to the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) for projects relating to combating terrorism.

India also continued to work closely with the UNSC's Sanctions Committee including the 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and also with the Al-Qaida and Taliban Monitoring Team in order to ensure strict compliance by member states of the sanctions regime.

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## HINDI AT UNITED NATIONS

The Permanent Mission of India in New York has been working with the UN for increasing the volume and frequency of content produced by the UN Secretariat in Hindi. As a

result, the UN Secretariat has increased the audio, video and text content in Hindi and started Hindi versions of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for disseminating information.

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## NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

EAM led the Indian delegation at the 18th Mid-term Ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Baku from 3-6 April 2018. During the meeting, EAM mentioned that NAM would always be a platform of choice

to pursue our intertwined goals on international peace and security and sustainable development. On the sidelines of the meeting, EAM met with her counterparts from Ecuador, Ghana and Venezuela.

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## THE COMMONWEALTH

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held in London during 19-20 April 2018 in which Prime Minister led the Indian delegation. Major announcements that were made by PM during the visit included (i) increase in India's contribution to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) from £1 million to £2 million; (ii) opening of a 'Commonwealth sub window' in the India-UN Development Partnership Fund with additional funding

of US\$ 50 million over 5 years; (iii) enhanced contribution by India to the Commonwealth Small States Offices in New York and Geneva, from US\$ 1,00,000 to US\$ 2,50,000 and US\$ 80,000 to US\$ 1,50,000 respectively; (iv) capacity building programmes at the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa in ocean and marine development areas and (v) a training scheme in cricket for 30 boys and 30 girls (under 16) at BCCI facilities in India for Commonwealth countries.

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## ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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India continued to be represented by Members of its Parliament in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) at various committee and plenary meetings held round the year, including APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development held in Cyprus, from 25 to 28 July

2018, APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs (SCPA) and Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) meetings from 29-31 October 2018 in Gwadar, Pakistan and the 2nd Executive Council and 11th plenary meeting of APA from 28 November-3 December 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey.

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## DEMOCRACY INITIATIVES

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India continued its support for the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) launched on 14 September 2005. India has contributed approximately US \$ 32 million to UNDEF till December 2018. India participated in the Governing Council and Executive Committee meetings of Community of Democracies convened in Santiago, Chile during 25-26 June 2018. India also renewed its membership in Community of

Democracies Governing Council. Community of Democracies (CoD) is a global intergovernmental coalition of States to bring together governments, civil society and the private sector in the pursuit of a common goal: supporting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world.



# 10

## DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Global peace and security is hinged upon a robust disarmament, non-proliferation and international security architecture. India has been actively engaged in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and international security and has developed a strong and credible narrative based on its experiences and engagements in various regional and multilateral forums. India's stand on disarmament issues was guided by its national security interests and tradition of close

engagement with the international community to promote cooperative efforts in dealing with global challenges in a changing geostrategic environment.

In 2018, 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.

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### FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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India reiterated its commitment to the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament at the 73rd session of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, which was held in New York during 8 October - 9 November, 2018.

India's resolution entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction", which was

first introduced in 2002, was again adopted by consensus this year. The resolution, which was co-sponsored by 90 countries, calls upon UN Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and to support international efforts in this regard.

India's resolution on 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 co-sponsored by 20 countries and was adopted with 120 votes in favour, 50 against and 15 abstentions.

India’s resolution on “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 adopted with 127 votes in favour, 49 against and 10 abstentions and was co-sponsored by 21 countries.

India’s resolution on the “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament” was adopted by consensus and was co-sponsored by 19 countries. The UNSG’s Report, mandated by Resolution last year, highlights recent developments in science and technology, including in Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems, Biology and Chemistry, Advanced Missile and Missile Defence Technologies, Space-based Technologies, Electromagnetic Technologies and Materials Technologies. The Resolution has proposed organising, along with United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), a one-day focused Seminar in Geneva to facilitate dialogue among relevant stakeholders on this important subject.

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## UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION (UNDC)

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The UNDC held its annual substantive Session in New York during 2-20 April 2018, adopted its agenda for the 2018-2020 cycle and deliberated on its two agenda items, namely

- (i) recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; and
- (ii) in accordance with the recommendations contained in

the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs) in outer space activities, preparation of recommendations to

promote the practical implementation of TCBMs in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space. India participated actively in the meetings of the UNDC.

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### CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT (CD)

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The Conference on Disarmament (CD) convened its sessions in 2018 from 22 January – 30 March, 14 May – 29 June and 30 July – 14 September. The CD established five Subsidiary Bodies on five items on its Agenda: (i) Cessation of the arms race and nuclear disarmament, (ii) Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters (iii) Prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS) (iv) Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (NSAs); and (v) New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons, comprehensive programme of

disarmament, transparency in armament, emerging and other issues relevant to the substantive work of the Conference. India shared its perspective on all four core issues on the CDs Agenda, including nuclear disarmament, Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), PAROS and NSAs. At the same time, India called for adoption of a Programme of Work by the CD in order to resume substantive negotiations. India also expressed its support for the commencement of negotiations in the CD of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable FMCT in line with India's commitment to achieve nuclear disarmament.

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### UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

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India has been coordinating with the UN 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 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 amendment thereto in October 2017 and March 2018 under the provisions of the United Nations (Security Council) Act 1947. India's National Implementation Report on the above

was submitted to the Resolution 1718 Committee.

In furtherance of its international commitments, India, supported by Germany and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), hosted the India-Wiesbaden Conference on 16-17 April 2018 on 'Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540'. The aim was to adapt the Wiesbaden Process to specificities of the region while being mindful of global inter-dependencies. The 'India-Germany Joint Outcome Document on Experiences and Lessons learnt' is posted on the website of the United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs.

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### BIOLOGICAL & TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BTWC)

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India had successfully chaired the Meeting of States Parties (MSP) to the BWC in 2017, which had led to the adoption of an Inter-sessional Programme. India participated actively in the five Meetings of Experts held in Geneva from 7-16 August 2018 as well as the Annual Meeting of States Parties from 4-7 December 2018. India presented two Working

Papers – (i) with the USA on "Strengthening implementation of Article-III of the BWC" and (ii) with France on "Proposal for establishment of a database for assistance in the framework of Article-VII of the BWC". On the sidelines of the Meetings of Experts, India organized a side-event on "Emerging Infectious Diseases: Detection, Response, Assistance and Challenges".



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## **CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)**

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As a member of the Executive Council (EC) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), India contributed to the issues of 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 States Parties during various sessions of EC throughout the year such as fourth special session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP) held during 26-27 June 2018; the

23rd Session of the CSP held during 19-20 November 2018 and the 4th Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) held during 21-30 November 2018, in The Hague, Netherlands. India voted against the decision of the 4th Special Session of CSP to establish on attribution mechanisms in OPCW as it did not meet India's concerns.

India has offered to mentor Afghanistan, under the Mentorship Program of the OPCW.

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## **CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)**

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India participated in the Meetings of Experts of Amended Protocol-II and Protocol-V of the CCW in Geneva from 11-13 June 2018. India also participated actively during the Annual Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW from 21-23 November 2018 as well as the Annual Conferences of Amended Protocol-II and Protocol-V on 20 and 19 November 2018 respectively. Along with Switzerland, India presented a Working Paper titled "Consideration of Developments in Science and Technology that may be relevant to the work of the CCW".

India successfully chaired the Meetings of the Group

of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) in Geneva from 9-13 April 2018 and 27-31 August 2018. The GGE was successful in adopting, by consensus, Possible Guiding Principles related to emerging technologies in the area of LAWS. The final meeting in August 2018 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 seven days in Geneva 2019 under the chairmanship of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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## **SEMINAR ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)**

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The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament in partnership with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) convened a one-day seminar on "Artificial Intelligence: Current Policy Reflections and Future Strategies"

on the sidelines of ITU's "AI for Good Summit" in Geneva on 18 May 2018, which focused on a cross-domain exchange on the development, use and promotion of AI.

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## **ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (APMBC)**

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India participated as an Observer at the 17th Meeting of States Parties of the APMBC held in Geneva from 26-30 November 2018.

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## **SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

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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 a comprehensive set of national, regional and global measures to achieve its goal. India continued to make

progress towards implementation of the UNPoA and the International Tracing Instrument. India actively participated in the third Review Conference on SALW in New York from 18-29 June 2018.

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## **PARTICIPATION IN GROUPS OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS (GGE)**

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In 2018, India participated in three GGEs - (i) High Level Expert Preparatory Group on FMCT in Geneva from 28 May - 8 June (ii) GGE on Nuclear Disarmament Verification (NDV)

in Geneva from 14-18 May and 12-16 November and (iii) GGE on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) in Geneva from 6-17 August.

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## **UNSG'S ADVISORY BOARD ON DISARMAMENT MATTERS (ABDM)**

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India's representative participated in the 69th and 70th Sessions of the UNSG's ABDM held in Geneva from 23-26 January 2018

and in New York from 27-29 June 2018 respectively.

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## **EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH (CERN)**

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India became an Associate Member of CERN in 2017 and participated in the sessions of the CERN Council, Finance

Committee and Scientific Policy Committee during 2018.

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## **INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

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India participated in the 62nd session of the IAEA General Conference held in Vienna during 17-21 September 2018. As in previous years, India continued to play an active role by engaging with States Parties during Board of Governors meetings held in March, June, September, and November, 2018. India also participated in the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) meeting held during 7-11 May and the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC) held during 19-20 November, 2018.

conferences and meetings held in Vienna throughout the year. Additionally, India also participated in the 27th IAEA fusion Energy conference 22 - 27 October at Gandhinagar, India.

India actively participated in a number of international

The IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology held during 28-30 November 2018 was attended by 54 minutes, high -level ranking officials and experts from 137 States and 15 international organizations, with approximately 1100 participants. The DG made a statement and India actively participated in the negotiations prior to the ministerial declaration before the conference.

## **MARITIME AFFAIRS**

India, in 2018, held annual Maritime Security Dialogues with Australia, France, Japan and the United States of America. In addition, informal consultations on Maritime Security were undertaken with the European Union. The dialogues covered issues of mutual interest, including exchange of perspectives on maritime security developments in the Indo-Pacific Region as well as prospects for further strengthening bilateral cooperation.

India has signed White Shipping Agreements with a number of countries taking the tally to 18 in order to enhance co-operation in Maritime Domain Awareness. In addition, India also signed an Ascension Agreement to the Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN), a multilateral construct comprising 30 countries. Further, India launched the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) on 21 December 2018.

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## **STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE (SOMS)**

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India has been an active member of Co-operative Mechanism set up in 2007 on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) under the International Maritime Organization's (IMO's) "Protection of Vital Shipping Lanes" initiative. Building on the earlier contributions, India participated in 20th and 21st

meetings of Aids to Navigation Fund (ANF) Committee held in Malaysia in May and September 2018. India also contributed a sum of Rs. 30 lakh for the ANF, which acts as a treasurer for Cooperative Mechanisms and provides a budget for planned maintenance of identified aids to navigation.

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## **CONTACT GROUP ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA (CGPCS)**

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India participated at the 21st Plenary Session of Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) held in Nairobi

from 12-13 July 2018. India, along with UAE and Seychelles, co-chaired the Working Group on "Operations at Sea".

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## **CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA)**

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India actively participated in CICA events throughout the year. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj attended the Special Meeting

of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 24 September 2018.

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## **ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF) AND ADMM PLUS**

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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. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. Dr. V. K. Singh (Retd.) attended the 25th ARF Ministerial Meet in Singapore on 4 August 2018.

India along with Myanmar is co-chair of the ADMM Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine and undertook its responsibilities at the Inter Sessional Meeting (ISM) while simultaneously participating in various workshops and events organized under the aegis of ADMM Plus. Raksha Mantri, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, led the Indian delegation to the annual ADMM Plus dialogue held in Singapore on 20 October 2018.

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## **NUCLEAR SECURITY CONTACT GROUP (NSCG)**

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The NSCG is an outcome of the Nuclear Security Summit process and India actively participated in the meetings of the Group held in 2018. India also participated in the International

Conference on the Security of Radioactive Material: The Way Forward for Prevention and Detection held in Vienna during 3-7 December 2018.

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## **EXPORT CONTROL**

As the Wassenaar Arrangement's (WA) 42nd Participating State, India continued to actively participate in meetings of the Experts Group (EG) in April and September 2018, General Working Group (GWG) in May and October 2018 and the Plenary in December 2018. The WA aims at preventing proliferation of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technology.

India became a member of the Australia Group (AG) as its 43rd Partner in January 2018, contributing to the realization of India's objectives of non-proliferation of chemical and biological weapons.

While India's application for membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) continues to be under consideration,

India has continued to update and implement NSG Guidelines on control over export of nuclear materials and technology. India, which joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in June 2016, continued to participate in MTCR meetings, including the Technical Experts Group Meeting held in Iceland in March and November 2018.

During the year, India's export control list of Specialised

Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies (SCOMET) was updated in March and July 2018 to harmonise it with the guidelines and control lists of the four multilateral export control regimes: the Wassenaar Arrangement, Nuclear Suppliers Group, MTCR and the Australia Group. A Standard Operating Procedure for issue of authorisation for export of Munitions were also revised in 2018.

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## THE HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

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India joined/subscribed to the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) in June 2016. In compliance with the commitments on transparency and confidence building measures, India regularly notified the HCoC through pre-launch notifications of India's ballistic missile and space launches and participated

in the 17th Regular Meeting of HCoC held during 28-29 May 2018 in Vienna.

India also submitted its annual declaration for the year ending 31 March 2018.

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## OUTER SPACE

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India actively participated at the meetings of the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees in Vienna. In June 2018, the international community gathered in Vienna for UNISPACE+50, which celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. As part of UNISPACE+50 initiative, India made the announcement on Capacity Building Programme on Small Satellite Realization named "Unnati" which stands for UNISpace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training by ISRO, providing excellent opportunities in developing countries to strengthen capabilities in assembling, integrating and testing small satellites. The programme is for a period of three years, benefitting 90 candidates from 45 countries. The first course involving 30 participants from 18 countries began on 15 January 2018 in Bengaluru.

Consequent to the adoption of UNGA Resolution 72/250 entitled "Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space" on 24 December 2017 a Group of Government Experts (GGE), with a membership up to 25 member states has been formed and tasked with considering and making recommendation on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. India is also part of this GGE and has participated in the first part of the UNGGE that took place in Geneva from 6-17 August 2018 (two weeks). The final meeting is scheduled to be held in March 2019.



# 11

## MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

### BRICS

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#### TENTH BRICS SUMMIT

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The Tenth BRICS Summit was held from 25-27 July 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme “BRICS in Africa: Collaboration with Developing Countries for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the Fourth Industrial Revolution”. President of South Africa, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, presided over the Summit proceedings. President of Brazil Mr. Michel Temer, President of China Mr. Xi Jinping, President of Russia Mr. Vladimir Putin, and Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, led their respective delegations to the Summit.

At the Johannesburg BRICS Summit, Leaders’ Restricted Session, Plenary Session, Meeting with BRICS Business Council, BRICS Leaders’ Retreat besides the Outreach/ BRICS Plus segments were organised. At the Summit, leaders held discussions on Strengthening Multilateralism, Rule of

Law and Global Governance; Global Peace and Security; Strengthening Economic and Financial Resilience, Fourth Industrial Revolution. Leaders’ Retreat was held on the theme “Reflections on a Decade of Cooperation and Joint Collaboration for a Future of Shared Prosperity and Inclusive Growth”.

The outcomes of the Summit included the **Johannesburg Declaration** in which strong sentiments were expressed by BRICS Leaders on Terrorism. BRICS Leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They recalled the responsibility of all States to prevent the financing of terrorist networks and terrorist actions from their territories.

Leaders called for early finalization and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism



(CCIT) and for a comprehensive approach to countering radicalization, recruitment, and travel of foreign terrorist fighters. Leaders called for blocking sources of terrorist finance, the supply of weapons, dismantling terrorist bases, and misuse of the Internet. Leaders also called for the implementation of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards on the financing of terrorism and proliferation.

Other elements in the Johannesburg Declaration were (i) Commitment to fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (ii) Commitment to the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, democracy, inclusiveness, and strengthened collaboration (iii) Work to conclude negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) towards the 24th Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP 24) (iv) Reform of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to be completed by

2019 (v) Strengthening of Women Parliamentarians' Forum; (vi) Strengthening of BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (ARP) in New Delhi (vii) Cooperation in law enforcement, extradition of fugitives, economic and corruption offenders, and asset recovery (viii) Need for comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council to enhance representation of developing countries at the UN (ix) Support to multilateralism (x) Centrality of World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Recalling the Johannesburg Summit's focus on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR), BRICS Vaccine Research Centre, BRICS Network of Science Parks and BRICS Energy Research Platform were initiated during the summit. In addition, a BRICS MoU on Cooperation in Regional Aviation and MoU on Environment were signed at the Summit. Further, BRICS MoU on Cooperation in Social and Labour Sphere, and a MoU on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and



Group Photo of Leaders of BRICS Nations at the Tenth BRICS Summit in Johannesburg (July 26, 2018)

Blockchain Technology in the Context of the Development of the Digital Economy have been signed during 2018.

In continuation of BRICS tradition of outreach at BRICS Summits, South Africa organized outreach wherein Rwanda (Chair African Union), Senegal (Chair - New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)), Gabon (Chair Economic Community of Central African States), Uganda (Chair East African Community), Ethiopia (Chair Intergovernmental Authority on Development), Togo (Chair Economic Community of West Africa States), Zambia (Incoming Chair of Common

Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), Namibia (Incoming Chair of Southern African Development Community), Angola (Chair - Southern African Development Community (SADC), and Chair of African Union Commission were invited. SADC Leaders from Mauritius, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Seychelles, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, and Madagascar were also invited. South Africa also invited Argentina (Chair G20), Egypt (Chair G77+China), Jamaica (incoming Chair Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and Turkey (Chair Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the Summit.

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## BRICS LEADERS MEETING ON THE MARGINS OF BUENOS AIRES G20 SUMMIT

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A customary informal meeting of BRICS Leaders was held on 30 November 2018 on the margins of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meeting was chaired by the President of South Africa Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa. 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, discussion comprised an exchange of views on a wide range of global political, security, economic, and global governance issues of importance and mutual concern.

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## BRICS FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ON UNGA MARGINS

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External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj attended the customary BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the margins of 73rd Session of UN General Assembly (UNGA) on

27 September 2018 in New York City. During the meeting, BRICS Ministers exchanged views on matters of global political, economic, and security significance.



## BRICS FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj attended the second stand-alone BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, on 4 June 2018. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Ms. Lindiwe Sisulu, chaired the meeting that was also attended by the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergey

Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China Mr. Wang Yi, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil Mr. Marcos Bezerra Abbott Galvao. BRICS Ministers exchanged views on matters of global political, economic, and security significance.

## BRICS SHERPAS' MEETING, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

The seventh and final BRICS Sherpas' meeting under South African's chairship was held in Durban from 4-5 December, 2018. The agenda for the meeting was handing over of chairship to Brazil (BRICS Chair for 2019) and discussion

on chairship priorities for the 11th BRICS Summit. The next BRICS Sherpas/Sous-Sherpas Meeting is likely to be held on 13-15 March 2019, venue to be confirmed.



Group Photo of Heads of BRICS Nations Family at the BRICS Outreach Event in Johannesburg (July 27, 2018)

## THE THIRTEENTH G20 SUMMIT

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation to the Thirteenth G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 30 November & 01 December 2018. The theme of the Summit was "Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development". The Summit focussed on the future of work, infrastructure for development, sustainable food future, and gender mainstreaming strategy across the G20 agenda.

Special emphasis to sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth was accorded at the Summit. The G20 Leaders'

Retreat on 'A Fair and Sustainable Future' was held on 30 November 2018.

The Buenos Aires Declaration welcomed the strong global economic growth but recognised that it has been less synchronised between countries. The Declaration includes references to (i) use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth (ii) use of monetary policy to ensure price stability (iii) commitment to improve a rules-based international order (iv) making social protection systems portable

(v) skills development & quality education especially of girls (vi) bridging the digital divide (vii) infrastructure as an asset class (viii) food security, sustainable agriculture (ix) stronger health systems, ending HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, use of traditional medicines (x) disaster resilient infrastructure (xi) implementation of Paris Agreement, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances; (xii) energy security, universal energy access by eradicating energy poverty (xiii) IMF 15th General Review of Quotas (GRQ) reforms by 2019 (xiv) cooperation in tackling economic crimes, return of offenders, and asset recovery.

Regulation of crypto-assets for anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism in line with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards, strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and call for full implementation of the Hamburg G20 Leaders Statement on Countering Terrorism, call for stepping up efforts in fighting terrorist and proliferation financing, and money laundering, and fighting exploitation of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes also appear prominently in Buenos Aires Leaders Declaration.



Group Photo of Prime Minister and G20 Members at Plenary Session of G20 Summit in Buenos Aires (November 30, 2018)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made a lead intervention at the G20 Leaders' Retreat on 'A Fair and Sustainable Future'. He also made floor interventions in the subsequent sessions at the Summit and effectively put forth India's point of view on various issues.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi mentioned the achievements attained by G20 in the last ten years. He spoke about the role played by G20 in carrying through the 14th General Review of Quotas of the IMF, operationalising the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS), and also the automatic exchange of information on tax matters. He also highlighted the role played by G20 cooperation resulting in restoration and revival of growth post-2008.

Highlighting the challenges faced by the global economy, especially the emerging economies, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke about oil price volatility, escalating trade tensions, and the collateral damage it causes to the least developed and emerging economies. He also highlighted the threat of increasing financial vulnerabilities mainly arising from monetary policies of advanced economies and the uneven pace of revival of the economies of various countries.

Emphasizing the need for a proactive and reformed multilateralism, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stressed on the need to activate various multilateral channels like the IMF, FATF, United Nations, and G20.

Highlighting the importance of stability in prices of crude

oil, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi pointed out that fluctuations in the prices of crude oil put immense pressure on budgetary and financial resources of emerging economies.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stressed that reforming the WTO is not only important but it is also necessary to carry forward the dialogue on trade and services and promoting global value chain in the agricultural sector. He also stressed that all countries should join automatic exchange within the timeline and start sharing information as India is already sharing information with more than sixty jurisdictions.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spelt out a nine-point agenda for global cooperation against fugitive economic

offenders. On terrorism, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stressed on the need to fully implement and operationalize the eleven-point agenda against terrorism issued as a part of Hamburg Declaration as a stand-alone document in 2017.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also explained the robust and inclusive growth policy interventions, reforms and initiatives like Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas, digital initiatives, and skilling programmes undertaken by India in recent years. He also highlighted the efforts made by India to harness transformative technologies like robotics, data analytics, education technology, financial technology (FinTech) industry etc.

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### G-20 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

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The Republic of Argentina, holding the G20 Presidency for 2018, hosted the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Buenos Aires on 20 & 21 May 2018. Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) led the Indian delegation to the meeting. Ministers held deliberations on issues of international importance viz. multilateralism,

global governance, fair and sustainable development, future of work, infrastructure development, and sustainable food future.

The first G20 Sherpa's Meeting is likely to be held in Tokyo on 19-20 January 2019.

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## IBSA (INDIA, BRAZIL & SOUTH AFRICA)

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### IBSA FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

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External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj met the Foreign Ministers of South Africa and Brazil in Pretoria on 04 June 2018 for the informal meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers. The Ministers exchanged views on furthering IBSA cooperation during the year, development cooperation and South-South Cooperation, including through their

multilateral Missions in the run-up to the Buenos Aires Plan of Action + 40 (BAPA+40) events. On this occasion, they adopted and jointly released the IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation to contribute to greater understanding of development cooperation as a common endeavour of the Global South.

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### NINTH IBSA TRILATERAL MINISTERIAL COMMISSION MEETING, NEW YORK

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The Ninth IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting was held in New York City on 27 September 2018. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation for the Meeting. During the meeting, Ministers reviewed IBSA cooperation over last one year and exchanged

views on furthering IBSA cooperation. The Ministers also exchanged views on various issues of global significance, including peace, security, countering terrorism, development cooperation and South-South cooperation. The Ministers agreed to continue to coordinate on South-South cooperation

in the run-up to BAPA+40 events. The Ministers further agreed to enhance IBSA cooperation at multilateral fora. The Ministers also discussed IBSA events planned for 2018-19 to mark the fifteenth anniversary of IBSA. The Ministers agreed

to host these events in all three countries as well as on the margins of multilateral events.

The first Gandhi Mandela Freedom Lecture is to be held in New Delhi on 25 January 2019.

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## **ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**

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India continued to engage with OECD under its stated policy of "Limited Sectoral Engagement".

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## **UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)**

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India continued its engagement in various UNCTAD meetings.



# 12

## SAARC AND BIMSTEC

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### SAARC

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External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj attended an informal meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers held on the sidelines of the 73rd UNGA Session in New York on 27 September 2018. Secretary of Economic Affairs led the Indian delegation at the 12th Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers on the sidelines of the annual meeting of ADB in Manila, the Philippines on 4 May 2018. India participated at other official and technical level meetings of SAARC including those of its regional centres/specialised bodies and sectoral meetings.

The 55th Session of the SAARC Programming Committee was held in Kathmandu on 6 July 2018 under the Chairmanship of Nepal. The Meeting discussed and finalised budget of the SAARC Secretariat for the year 2018. The 56th Session of the Programming Committee was held in December 2018 in Kathmandu.

India has been steadfast in its commitment to sharing the fruits of technological advances with like-minded countries in its neighbourhood. India's unilateral initiative of extending

its National Knowledge Network to the countries of South Asia has moved forward with the inauguration of the first leg of its extension to Sri Lanka on 15 January 2018 by Minister of Electronics & Information Technology Shri Ravishankar Prasad and Sri Lanka's Minister of Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure, Mr. Harin Fernando. Extension to other participating SAARC countries is under progress.

Subsequent to the completion of all procedural formalities such as Orbital Frequency Amendment Agreement for the South Asia Satellite (SAS) launched in May 2017 with the participation of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. A Utilisation Workshop is being organised in New Delhi on 11 December 2018 to deliberate upon the specific requirements of each participating Member State and to firm up utilisation plans for optimal usage of SAS.

India continued its support for South Asian University (SAU) which was established as a Center of Excellence in India. The Third Convocation of SAU was held in New Delhi on



7 June 2018, wherein 176 students were awarded degrees (this includes the first batch of six PhD students). India is committed to meet 100% of capital cost of the University, and construction of its permanent campus is ongoing.

The SAARC Disaster Management Centre (IU), Gandhinagar

continues to operate fully funded by India, and conducted workshops/training programs involving SAARC member States in the areas of Mainstreaming Disaster Management in Infrastructure Sector, Heat Wave Preparedness and Response in SAARC Region, Disaster reduction in SAARC Region and Care, Protection and Participation of Children in Disasters.

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## BIMSTEC

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The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) fulfils India's key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East'. BIMSTEC received a significant push at the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit held at Kathmandu on 30 & 31 August 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led Indian delegation for the Summit. The Summit provided a future road-map for intensifying regional cooperation in diverse sectors in a result-oriented manner, and for strengthening institutional mechanisms of BIMSTEC. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection was signed at the

Summit. India announced a number of initiatives to further BIMSTEC cooperation and capacity in diverse areas such as digital connectivity, economy and trade, security, disaster management, blue economy, agriculture, and health as well as activities to promote cultural and youth linkages.

The Summit was built upon the momentum generated by the BIMSTEC Outreach Summit hosted by India in October 2016 in Goa. Regional security cooperation got further boost with the holding of the 2nd Meeting of the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs in Dhaka in March 2018. India hosted Joint

Working Group meetings to take forward discussions on BIMSTEC Agreements and MoUs on promoting regional connectivity and trade facilitation.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj attended an informal meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers held on the sidelines of the 73rd UNGA Session in New York on 27 September 2018. India stressed on the necessity of having an environment of peace and security, and on delivering commitments made at various SAARC fora for meaningful regional cooperation to take place. India continued sharing the fruits of its economic and technological advances with the neighbourhood for enhancing regional cooperation. The first leg of the project of extension of India's National Knowledge Network to South Asian countries was inaugurated in Sri Lanka on 15 January 2018. A Workshop involving all participating countries is being organised on 11 December 2018 in New Delhi to discuss ways to ensure optimal utilization of the South Asia Satellite. Construction of the new campus of the South Asian University at New Delhi is also progressing well, expenditure for which has been fully borne by the Government of India.

The Fourth BIMSTEC Summit, preceded by 16th Foreign Ministers Meeting (29 August 2018) and 19th Senior Officials Meeting (28 August 2018) was held in Kathmandu on 30 & 31 August 2018. The Summit was attended by all Head of States and Head of Governments of the BIMSTEC Member States. The Indian delegation was led by Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi and included Minister of State (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Foreign Secretary and Senior Officers of Government of India. The theme of the Summit was "Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal region". The Kathmandu Declaration adopted at the Summit seeks to intensify regional cooperation in key sectors of security and counter-terrorism, disaster management, connectivity and trade, energy, agriculture and poverty alleviation, S&T, culture, tourism, and people-to-people contacts. The 4th Summit was instrumental in bolstering the institutional and administrative structure of BIMSTEC by providing directions for drafting of the organisation's Charter, strengthening the Secretariat and by creating the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee. The Summit further institutionalised regional cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism and security cooperation by instituting a mechanism of BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting. A MoU on BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection was signed at the Summit.

Prior to the Summit, a special Session of Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) was held in Kathmandu on 11 August 2018 to finalize the preparatory arrangements for the Summit. The 8th Joint Working Group meeting on Establishment of the Permanent BIMSTEC Secretariat was held on 10 July 2018 in Colombo to deliberate upon the administrative and institutional matters of the Secretariat.

The 2nd meeting of the BIMSTEC National Security



Prime Minister witness Signing Ceremony of BIMSTEC Convention (August 31, 2018)



Chiefs held in Dhaka on 21 March 2018, took forward the cooperation under BIMSTEC in the critical area of Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime. The meeting built on the advances made so far in the sector and considered the progress made in the six sub-groups in this area. The 8th meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 13-14 August 2018. The 10th meeting of BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (SGAML-CFT) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 19-20 November 2018. India organized BIMSTEC Regional Cyber Security Dialogue at IDSA, New Delhi from 5-7 December 2018.

The First BIMSTEC Military Exercise (BIMSTEC MilEx-2018) on the theme of Counter-Terrorism was held in Pune from 10-16 September 2018. A BIMSTEC Army Chiefs Conclave was also held on the sidelines of the MilEx. The closing ceremony was also attended by the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC, Ambassador M Shahidul Islam.

In keeping with the renewed focus on connectivity under BIMSTEC, India offered several initiatives to advance the Agenda for Action especially in the area of Transport & Connectivity and Trade Facilitation, which included holding of the first meeting of the Working Group to deliberate upon the BIMSTEC Framework Agreement on Transit, Transshipment and Movement of Vehicular Traffic (9-10 April 2018) and the first meeting of the Working Group to deliberate upon the BIMSTEC Agreement on Customs Cooperation (10- 11 May 2018). With a view to expediting the BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity Plan, a workshop to discuss the second draft and provide inputs for preparation of the final draft of BIMSTEC Master Plan on Transport Connectivity was held in Bangkok on 7-18 September 2018. The third meeting of the BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity Working Group (BTCWG) to finalize the Master Plan has been scheduled to be held in New Delhi in early 2019, subject to completion of internal processes by all Member States. To take forward regional cooperation in the field of digital connectivity and ICT Applications, the Indian Mobile Congress was held from 25-27 October 2018, with its theme 'New Digital Horizons Connect, Create, Innovate', aiming at building upon innovative ideas, forging lasting industry relationships, on the sidelines of which BIMSTEC Ministerial Conclave was organized which was

attended by Ministerial and Senior Officer level delegation from BIMSTEC countries.

The 21st meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) and meetings of the related Working Groups were held on 18-19 November 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This meeting was significant in building on the understanding among Member States to expedite discussions and finalisation of constituent agreements of the Framework Agreement on the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area.

Further, to deepen cooperation in combating the effects of Climate Change, India also hosted the First Governing Board Meeting of the BIMSTEC Center for Weather and Climate in Noida on 30-31 July 2018.

With a view to strengthen cooperation among various branches of government and build capacity in the region, India organized a training programme for Election Officials from BIMSTEC member countries from 26 -30 March 2018. To celebrate Constitution Day, the Chief Justice of India invited the Heads of Judiciary from BIMSTEC Member States who participated in the First Round Table of the Heads of Judiciary of BIMSTEC countries held on 25 November 2018 and Constitution day celebrations on 26 November 2018 in New Delhi.

Events continued to be organized to celebrate the 20th anniversary of BIMSTEC, focusing on promoting people-to-people contacts with the participation of think-tank, academia and the business community. The 'Dialogue of BIMSTEC Think Tanks on Regional Security' was organized by Vivekananda International Foundation in New Delhi on 13-14 November 2018. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of BIMSTEC the following events were organized:

- A Conference titled "Integrating BIMSTEC – 2018" was held in Gangtok, Sikkim on 23-24 April 2018 organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce.
- A conference titled "BIMSTEC at its 20: Towards a Bay of Bengal Community" was organized in Dhaka on 20th March 2018 by BIMSTEC Secretariat.
- A Conference titled Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation was organised by Delhi Policy Group in New Delhi (April 2018), Yangon (June 2018) and Colombo (August 2018).

- FICCI organised a conference and released a Knowledge Paper on 'Reinvigorating BIMSTEC: An Industry Vision for the Next Decade' on 26 April 2018 in New Delhi.

The third meeting of the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs is scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 21 March 2019. The meeting is expected to take forward regional cooperation in the critical area of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime among BIMSTEC Member States.

The first meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) is scheduled to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 17-18 January 2019 as Sri Lanka assumed the Chairmanship at the end of the 4th Summit held in Kathmandu on 30 & 31 August 2018. BPWC comprising of BIMSTEC National Focal Points, has been created on the directions of the BIMSTEC Leaders at the 4th BIMSTEC Summit and will be the principal coordinating body under the BIMSTEC

framework tasked with framing institutional procedures/mechanisms and coordinating all activities including financial and administrative matters under BIMSTEC. BPWC would submit its recommendations for the consideration of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting.

To deepen regional cooperation in the field of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime India would be conducting a Course on Counter Terrorism, Cyber Terrorism, Cyber Security, and Counter Transnational Crimes for National Security Officers of BIMSTEC Countries at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad from 18 February-1 March 2019. The Course would aim to build regional capacity and discuss regional methodologies to tackle the challenges of terrorism, transnational crime, money laundering, cyber-attacks inter alia.



# 13

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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### DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTRATION (DPA)

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Development partnership is a key instrument in 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 geopolitical, 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. In recognition of this, the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was created to effectively handle India's development aid projects through the stages of conception, launch, execution and completion. The DPA functions in close coordination with the Territorial Divisions in the Ministry, which continue to be the principal interlocutors with partner countries in identifying their developmental needs and 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 (ITEC) Programme. 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.

The Development Partnership Administration is functionally



divided into three pillars that correspond to three separate Divisions. DPA-I looks after the Lines of Credit Projects under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Under the Allocation of Business Rules, Bangladesh, Nepal & Bhutan is within the purview of Ministry of External Affairs. DPA-I also handles the LoC modalities relating to these countries. DPA-II focuses on capacity building and training of defence personnel and civilian training under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Colombo

Plan for Cooperative and Economic Social Development in Asia and Pacific. In addition, customised 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's mandate is to deal with implementation of grant assistance projects in India's neighbourhood including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka in consultation with the concerned Ministries/ Departments and agencies of the Government of India.

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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

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In the recent past, there has been expansion in the scope and reach of India's development assistance. The immediate neighbourhood, South-East Asia and Africa have been a traditional and strong focus of India's development assistance. Development cooperation with countries in India's immediate and extended neighbourhood reinforces

India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policy. It constitutes a growing dimension of the close and multi-faceted ties with these countries. The African countries are long-standing development partners reflected in the rich menu of development projects that India takes up jointly with these countries. In addition, India also has robust and

expanding development cooperation programmes with partner countries in the Caribbean, Latin America, East Asia, Central Asia and the Pacific Island Countries.

India's development projects taken up under grant assistance encompass a wide variety of sectors ranging from big infrastructure creation such as roads & bridges, waterways, transmission lines, power generation and hydropower to capacity building, education, healthcare, agriculture, and community development.

With Afghanistan, India has concluded a 'New Development Partnership' in September 2017 that further consolidates the close development cooperation between the two countries. India has been a steadfast partner in the reconstruction and national development of Afghanistan despite the daunting security environment. The focus of development assistance to Afghanistan has been on institution and capacity building and creation of assets that stimulate economic development and meet the needs of the Afghan people in the process of reconstruction. Several major landmark projects have been completed in last few years that include the new Parliament Building in Kabul in December 2015 and the Afghan-India Friendship Dam (earlier known as Salma Dam) in June 2016.

India has also quickly responded to emergent humanitarian needs of Afghanistan. In order to cope with the drought conditions in Afghanistan, India supplied 1.7 lakh tonnes of wheat between end-October 2017 and April 2018 in multiple shipments through Chabahar Port. In addition, 2000 tonnes of Chana Dal (Pulses) was also supplied to Afghanistan through Chabahar Port.

The Government of India (GoI)-funded High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) numbering in hundreds spread across the length and breadth of Afghanistan cater to locally identified needs, particularly in the areas of education, health, agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, renewable energy, flood control, micro-hydro power and sports.

Under capacity building, India runs a very large scholarship programme for Afghans with an average of 1200 slots on offer annually, including from 2018, dedicated scholarships for the children/dependents of martyrs of Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF). India has also been extending

active support to the Afghanistan National Agriculture Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU) that was established in Kandahar through mutual partnership with India's leading agricultural institution, the India Agricultural Research Institute.

With Myanmar, development cooperation has maintained steady momentum including in the implementation of cross-border projects aimed at enhancing connectivity, spurring economic growth, and accelerating development. These projects include the Trilateral Highway between India, Myanmar and Thailand under which 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. The Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project is another large connectivity initiative which will link ports on India's eastern seaboard and Sittwe Port in Myanmar, and thereafter to the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram. The original waterways component of ports and Inland Water Terminals has been completed and the remaining road infrastructure is under execution.

Besides connectivity, India is engaged in supporting capacity building in Myanmar that encompasses fields like IT, agriculture and healthcare. Prominent initiatives are the establishment of the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) in Mandalay, an Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) in Nay Pyi Taw and a recently completed Rice Bio-Park in Nay Pyi Taw. These projects help in skilling the population, enhancing yield and productivity, and improving livelihood opportunities. The supply and commissioning of state-of-the-art medical equipment to Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital is also complete.

With Nepal, India's long-standing development partnership has picked up momentum and several significant joint development initiatives have been completed. The Integrated Check Post (ICP) across the border at Birgunj in Nepal that will bring economic and people-to-people dividends was completed and inaugurated in April 2018. Similarly, development of ICP at Biratnagar in Nepal by India is currently under advanced progress. India will also develop ICPs at Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa across the border in Nepal. In Kathmandu, India has completed construction of

the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala in August 2018 highlighting the cultural linkages that bind the two countries. Two cross-border railway lines from Jayanagar in India to Janakpur and Kurtha in Nepal and from Jogbani in India to Nepal Customs Yard in Nepal have been completed in December 2018. Work on the remaining stretches of these links in Nepal is also being taken up. These projects will improve connectivity and promote the growth of the region.

In Sri Lanka, India's development projects are taken up based on close consultation with its Government so as to reflect the priorities of the people and Government of Sri Lanka. In the last few years, India has completed construction of the hospital at Dickoya and the restoration of Thiruketheeswaram temple at Mannar. India is, among other projects, currently assisting in the construction of a modern state-of-art cultural centre in Jaffna.

In Maldives, joint development projects are at different stages of execution. The setting up of the Composite Training

Centre at Mafillaafushi Island was completed in August 2015. Similarly, the renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Male was completed in June 2017. India is currently assisting with the construction of the Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES). More projects are anticipated to be taken up in the near future.

In Mauritius, India's development engagement is passing through a very active phase. India is extending financial and capacity support to Mauritius in the execution of its key national projects. Such projects include a first ever light rail transit Metro Express link that is expected to transform its public transportation network, a new Supreme Court building for its judiciary, a nearly 1000 units low income housing project, a specialised ENT hospital project as well as providing Education Tablets for 26,800 primary school students and their educators under the 'Early Digital Learning Program'. Pursuant to its success, the program is also being extended to other grades.

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## LINES OF CREDIT

Development partnership is a key instrument in India's foreign policy. Extension of Lines of Credit (LoC) on concessional terms is an important component of India's development cooperation policy in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Since 2005-06, 269 LoCs aggregating US\$ 26.42 billion have been extended to more than sixty countries in various sectors, of which US\$ 11.18 billion has been allocated for African countries and US\$ 14.47 billion for Asian countries, with the balance US\$ 0.77 billion for Latin America, Oceania and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. Aimed primarily at promoting bilateral cooperation, the LoCs enable borrowing countries to import goods and services from India and undertake projects for infrastructure development and capacity building as per their developmental priorities. In the process, it helps Indian companies and business enterprises to tap new markets and promotes the export of Indian goods and services.

LoCs are governed by the 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, the institutionalisation of a detailed monitoring mechanism, and empanelment of Indian consulting firms and EPC contractors. Exim Bank has completed empanelment of 111 consulting firms in various sectors. A total of 109 firms have been empanelled as EPC contractors. It may be mentioned that this is a continuous process through which companies are getting registered. Between April to November 2018, eleven LOCs have been approved with total value aggregating to US\$ 1.03 billion. Nine Projects aggregating US\$ 101.13 million have been completed in 2018-19 (April to November 2018).

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## NEW LINES OF CREDIT

Following new LoCs have been extended by the Government of India in the current year (April 2018-January 2019):

- LoC of US\$ 161.36 million extended to the Government of Burundi for Construction of new Parliament in Gitega

and two ministerial Buildings in Bujumbura and Burundi

- LoC of US\$ 147.43 million extended to the Government of Ethiopia for Mekele Industrial Park 400 kV Power Transmission Project
- LoC of US\$ 133.70 million extended to the Government of Ethiopia for a new 230 kV interconnection between Ethiopia and Djibouti, 230 kV Combolcha II – Semera Transmission Line along with associated substations extension at Semera, Nagad and Combolcha II
- LoC of US\$ 100 million extended to the Government of Mauritius for procurement of defence equipment
- LoC of US\$ 100 million extended to the Government of Rwanda for development of two SEZs & expansion of the Kigali Special Economic Zone (SEZ)
- LoC of US\$ 100 million extended to the Government of Rwanda for three Agriculture Project Schemes i.e. (i) Warufu Multipurpose Irrigation Project, (ii) Mugesera Irrigation Project, and (iii) Nyamukana Irrigation Project
- LoC of US\$ 64.50 million extended to the Government of Uganda for development of infrastructure for agriculture and dairy sector
- LoC of US\$ 141.50 million extended to the Government of Uganda for grid reinforcement and extension project
- LoC of US\$ 19.50 million extended to the Government of Zimbabwe for completion of Phase II upgradation of

Deka Pumping Station and River Water Intake System in Zimbabwe

- LoC of US\$ 23 million extended to the Government of Zimbabwe for upgradation of Bulawayo Thermal Power plant
- LoC of US\$ 38 million extended to the Government of Mozambique for construction of 1600 bore-wells with hand-pumps and eight small water systems in Mozambique
- LOC of US\$ 95 million extended to the Government of Mozambique for procurement of railway rolling stock including locomotives, coaches and wagons
- ● LOC of US\$ 33.29 million extended to the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo for financing installation of fifteen MW solar photo-voltaic power project at Karawa, province – North Ubangi
- LOC of US\$ 25.27 million extended to the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo for financing installation of ten MW solar photo-voltaic power project at Lusambo, province – Sankuru
- LOC of US\$ 33.29 million extended to the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo for financing installation of ten MW solar photo-voltaic power project at Mbandaka, Province – Equator
- LOC of US\$ 200 million extended to the Government of Uzbekistan for Housing and Social Infrastructure Project.

## COMPLETED LOC PROJECTS

- A LoC of US\$ 250 million was extended to Nepal in 2010-11 for undertaking infrastructure projects such as highways, airports, bridges and irrigation projects. A total of twenty-three projects have been included under this LoC, which includes nineteen road projects, three transmission line projects and one hydroelectric power project. Of the nineteen road projects, three have been recently completed. These are:
  - (i) Barjugad-Martadi section of Sanfebar-Martadi road (27.70 km)
  - (ii) Bardaghat-Paldanda-Tribeni road section (12.5 km)

(iii) Bharatpur-Chanuli section of Bharatpur - Rampur - Meghauri road (16 km)

- LoC of US\$ 25 million to Burkina Faso for rural electrification
- Supply of Buses to Burkina Faso under EBID LoC of US\$ 100 million
- Solar electrification of 30 villages and solar photovoltaic system of 7 MW in Niger under LoC of US\$ 34.54 million
- LoC of US\$ 25 million to Niger for Potable Water for Semi-Urban and Rural Communities



- Rih-Mindat telecommunication network project LoC of US\$ 6.2 million in Myanmar
- Supply of agricultural equipment and inputs to Togo under LoC of US\$ 13.10 million.

## INAUGURATION/COMMENCEMENT OF NEW LOC PROJECTS

Home Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singh along with the Prime Minister of Mongolia Mr. Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh participated in the ground breaking ceremony on 21 June 2018 for the Petrochemical refinery project in Mongolia under the Gol LOC of US\$ 1 billion extended to Mongolia.

The 'Rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur Section of Bangladesh Railway' project under the Government of India LoC of US\$ 862 million extended to Bangladesh, was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Chief Minister of West Bengal, and Chief Minister of Tripura via video conference on 10 September 2018.

On 18 September 2018, the construction of 3rd and 4th dual gauge track between Dhaka-Tongi section and doubling of dual gauge track between Tongi-Joydebpur section, including signaling works on Bangladesh Railway project under the Government of India LoC of US\$ 862 million, was jointly

inaugurated via video conference by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Ms. Sheikh Hasina.

Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. KP Sharma Oli laid the foundation stone of the Bhedetar-Rabi-Ranke road at Rabibazar, Panchthar District in Province-1 on 4 January 2019. The total length of the project is 100.367 km and the total cost is US\$ 32.6 million, being financed under the LoC of US\$ 550 million extended to Nepal. The road will connect Bhedetar town in Dhankuta District on Kosi Highway with the Ilam and Panchthar district with a nine meter-wide motorable road.

As part of the monitoring of ongoing LoC projects, bilateral reviews were conducted with all the countries on a 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.

## OTHER PROJECTS LIKELY TO BE COMPLETED IN 2018-19

**Project for procurement of 500 trucks and 600 buses for the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC):** First batch of 16.2 tonne trucks have been dispatched in December 2018 and the first batch of single decker non AC buses is currently under dispatch in January 2019. The entire project is expected to be completed ahead of schedule by March-April 2019.

**Project for supply of Twenty Container Carrier Wagons and Thirty Fuel Tank Wagons to Sri Lanka:** The first lot consisting

of ten Container Carrier Wagons and five Fuel Tank Wagons is expected to be shipped in February 2019.

**Project for supply of Six DMUs and Ten Locomotives to Sri Lanka:** First DMU and locomotive (prototype) were delivered ahead of schedule by RITES Ltd. to Sri Lanka Railways in December 2018. Trial runs are to commence in January 2019. The next set of two DMUs and two locomotives are expected to be delivered around March-April 2019.

## OTHER LOC INITIATIVES

**Unprecedented pace of sanction of a Gol LOC Project:** A request was received from the Government of Mozambique for a Gol LOC of US\$ 95 million for Railway Project on 12 December 2018. Due to the quota limitation for international debt for Mozambique, the LoC had to be sanctioned and LoC Agreement had to be signed by 31 December 2018.

By taking immediate steps and fast-tracking the detailed sanction process involving Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Ministry of Finance as well as EXIM Bank of India, the LOC was sanctioned on 27 December 2018 and the LOC Agreement was signed between Government of Mozambique and Exim Bank on 31 December 2018. Hence,

a process which usually takes a few months was completed within two weeks. This is the fastest ever LOC sanction and signing process since the inception of the LOC program.

**14th India-Bangladesh Bilateral Review Meeting:** The meeting was held on 12 & 13 December 2018 in New Delhi. GoI has extended LOCs worth US\$ 7.862 billion to Bangladesh for forty-seven projects spanning across various sectors such as railways, ports, roads, power & transmission lines, shipping, hospitals etc. The meeting helped both sides to monitor the progress of critical projects, identify potential bottlenecks in project implementation and resolve outstanding issues.

**Business Outreach Programme for Solar Projects under GoI Lines of Credit:** MEA in collaboration with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Exim Bank of India hosted a business outreach event on 7 August 2018 to make leading companies in the solar power sector in India aware of the business opportunities available to them under GoI LOCs. Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.) was the Chief Guest and made the Keynote Address.

As part of the monitoring of on-going LoC projects, bilateral reviews were conducted with several 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.

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## PROJECT PREPARATION FACILITY (PPF)

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A new mechanism called Project Preparation Facility (PPF) has been set up by the Government of India to provide free Indian consultancy support to the requesting Governments for formulation and design preparation of projects that may be considered for Government of India's Lines of Credit (LoCs). On receiving the request for availing this facility from any country, Ministry of External Affairs conveys it to the Exim Bank of India for implementation. Development Partnership

Administration (DPA) has received a very good response on this mechanism. PPF requests from fifteen countries, namely Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nauru, Mauritius, Seychelles, Rwanda, Kingdom of Lesotho, Central African Republic, Republic of Kiribati, Swaziland, Malawi, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Mali and Suriname, have been received till date for execution.

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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITH GRANT ASSISTANCE IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

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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.

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## SRI LANKA HOUSING PROJECT

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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 the construction of 50,000 houses for resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka has progressed well.

➤ The pilot project for construction of 1000 houses has already been completed.

- 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 44,766 houses.
- The construction of 4,000 houses in the Central and 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 1134 houses by the Sri Lankan Government. The

construction of the first lot of 1134 houses began in October 2016. As on 30 November 2018, 854 houses out of 1134 have been completed and 1st, 2nd and 3rd instalments have also been released to 1903, 1102 and 941 beneficiaries respectively. Estates have been identified for the remaining 2866 houses and identification of land/beneficiaries is under process by the Government of Sri Lanka. Construction of houses in

2866 lot has started in phases.

- An announcement was made by Prime Minister Shri Narendra 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. The Government of Sri Lanka is in the process of identifying the beneficiaries and land for the above 10,000 houses.

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN AFRICA

India's partnership with Africa is based on a consultative model of cooperation, sharing of development experiences and is focused 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 the establishment of Rural Technology Parks is under implementation. In IAFS-III, India gave a push towards enhancing cooperation with African countries by offering additional US\$ 10 billion in concessional credit (LoCs) and grant assistance of US\$ 600 million.

189 LoCs amounting to US\$ 11.35 billion in forty-one countries have been extended in Africa in varied sectors such as power plants, hydroelectricity, power transmission &

distribution networks, dams, roads, railways, ports, agriculture & irrigation, industrial units, skills development, civil construction etc. New sectors such as solar power projects and defence have also been included under the Gol LoCs.

The notable support extended to countries in Africa under grant assistance includes projects for construction of iconic Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centres in nine African Countries. Other projects include setting up of Gandhi-Mandela Centre of Specialisation for Artisan Skills in South Africa, upgradation and modernisation of Entrepreneur and Technical Development Centre (ETDC) in Senegal, establishment of Business Incubation Centre in Tanzania, supply of ambulances to Mali & Tanzania, supply of midibuses to Somalia and supply of medical equipment & CT Scan Machines to Liberia.

These LoCs and grant projects have led to strong development partnerships with countries in Africa that support and supplement our shared histories and cultural ties.

## CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH INDIAN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme is a visible symbol of India's role and contribution to South-South Cooperation, which constitutes capacity building partnership with a footprint in 161 partner countries from Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries. It is one of the major pillars of India's Soft Power Diplomacy. The ITEC Programme also includes capacity building extended by India under Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme

(SCAAP) and the Colombo Plan (CP). It has continued to strengthen in scope and outreach, with the inclusion of new partner institutions, advance courses in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, petroleum, forensics in order to showcase our strengths by partnering with more institutions of technical excellence like the Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Science etc. Given its popularity and in-line with the changing needs and technological advancements around

the world, new modalities like e-ITEC and ITEC-Onsite have been included in the bouquet of ITEC offerings as part of the high-level comprehensive review undertaken this year.

During 2018-19, 11051 civilian training slots were offered under the ITEC Programme to 161 partner countries 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 in more than eighty-five premier institutions conducting over 370 courses for working professionals in a wide and diverse range of skills and disciplines such as Agriculture, Food and Fertilizer; 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; IT and Business English; Journalism; Management and Leadership; Power, Renewable & Alternate Energy; Project Management; Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation; SMEs and Entrepreneurship; Sustainable Development and South-South Cooperation; Telecommunications; Textiles; Trade and International Market; Urban Planning and Women Empowerment.

As South-South co-operation is demand driven, more focus is on special courses, which are customised for the specific areas of training on the request of Governments of partner countries. In the year 2018 itself, forty special courses have been conducted. These courses include programmes ranging from mid-career training programme in field administration for civil servants and special training programme for judicial officers, customs officers, to areas like English communication, Yoga and Museology.

Besides following the commitments made under the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III), there has been a special focus on capacity building training in African countries, for which key thrust areas have been identified on the basis of a consultative mechanism. ITEC slots allotted to African countries have seen a quantum increase to 4790 in 2018-19 from pre-IAFS-III figure of 3382 in 2015-16. Also, as part of the commitment made by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the founding ceremony of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in March 2018, 165 Master Trainers from ISA member countries are being trained under ITEC in the field of solar energy.

The updated list of the courses and institutions is available on the ITEC Portal. ([www.itecgoi.in](http://www.itecgoi.in))

As in previous years, the programme drew large numbers of participants to the training courses conducted by institutions in India, both in Government and a few from 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 created a large network of alumni across the continents that have become ITEC torch-bearers in their respective countries and, in the process, developed a powerful cultural bridge between India and the country concerned. ITEC has acquired a strong brand name in the field of development partnership.

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## DEFENCE TRAINING PROGRAMME

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During 2018-19, 2196 defence training slots were allocated to partner countries. The courses were both of general and specialised nature, which included security and strategic studies, defence management, electronics, mechanical engineering, marine hydrography, counterinsurgency 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.

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## **DEPUTATION OF EXPERTS & STUDY VISITS**

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A deputation of experts under ITEC programme has served as a very important tool for sharing Indian expertise with the developing world. In the year 2018-19 (up to November 2018), a total number of fifty-two experts in various fields have been deputed to partner countries in areas of Information Technology (IT) and Telecom, Disaster Management, Archaeology, Ayurveda/Siddha, Cyber Capacity Building etc. ITEC experts in defence have also been deputed to partner countries. The deputation of Indian experts to partner countries is primarily driven by the demand from our partner countries. In order to service request for experts expeditiously, a standard

operating procedure has been finalized in conjunction with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) for deputing English teachers and similar discussions are underway with Ministry of Communication & Ministry of Health.

Ministry also facilitates study visits of experts & professionals from partner countries, based on their demand, to give exposure and to showcase India's achievement in relevant areas. During 2018-19, a study visit of a six-member team in the field of Small, Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and women empowerment from Uganda was conducted.

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## **PROJECTS**

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During 2018-19, in other development projects, India is extending its expertise and experience through Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for restoration and conservation of ancient cultural heritage monuments and temples in South-East Asia such as Ta-Prohm in Cambodia, Vat Phou in Lao PDR and Myson group of temples in Vietnam. India's strength in the field of IT is being shared with partner countries through the establishment of various centres of excellence in IT and imparting training to partner countries including Egypt, Morocco, Tanzania, Guyana,

Namibia, Jordan and Pacific Island countries. Technical know-how, requisite IT infrastructure and experts have been made available to Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat besides upgradation of their existing IT systems. During the year, a road in Bellevue, Grenada was constructed and Vocational Training Centre (VTC) project in Zanzibar and Business Incubator Centre (BIC) project in Malawi registered considerable progress while other VTC projects established in the past with Indian cooperation in Belize was taken up for upgradation, on request of the host country.

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## **DISASTER RELIEF**

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Cooperation on the humanitarian front was extended by India to the countries affected by disaster. Inter alia, medicines were made available to Mozambique, Syria, Yemen, Somalia,

Uganda, Tanzania, Madagascar, Swaziland and Kenya. Food items and other relief material were supplied to Bangladesh and Syria.

# 14

## ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

The Economic Diplomacy (ED) & States Division, as part of 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 2018-19. Efforts were made to ensure greater coordination between the MEA, central government ministries/departments, state governments, business chambers and missions/posts abroad with the objective of expanding the reach of India's exports, open new business opportunities for Indian enterprises overseas, enhance India's economic engagement in the immediate neighborhood and beyond, attract greater investments, promote tourism and culture, and make India an attractive business destination.

To enable the Indian Missions/Posts to intensify their economic engagement with the countries of their accreditation, ED & States Division under its "Market Expansion Activities" budget have extended funding to the tune of Rs. 16 crores. The funding has been utilized to help promote Indian exports through catalogue shows and buyer-seller meets, engage consultants to prepare market studies, organize business seminars to attract foreign investments, and undertake advocacy work to promote interests of Indian enterprises seeking business opportunities overseas. In addition, the ED Division has also processed proposals to the tune of ₹ 6 crores to support specific trade and investment promotion activities in India by apex business chambers in India.

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### BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY (BIT)

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ED Division is working closely with the Department of Economic Affairs on the issue of Bilateral Investment Treaties (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 Division has taken part in these negotiations



with Switzerland, Morocco, Iran and the UAE. Substantial contributions were made by this Division in terms of inputs and facilitating the talks and follow-up action. BIT with

Brazil has been concluded and this Ministry has advised the Ministry of Finance that the BIT should be signed after the new government is in place in Brazil.

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## SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS (SSAS)

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ED Division as the competent authority in the MEA to initiate and conclude negotiations on bilateral SSAs with other countries has signed and operationalised “comprehensive” Social Security Agreements (SSAs). As on date, India has signed and operationalised 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 operationalised. During the visit of 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.

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## ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS

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The first technical meeting between India and China on SSA was held in May 2018. (first P-5 country, mutually beneficial

for both countries, formal text based negotiations to resume in 2019).

The MEA as the “competent authority” for negotiating the SSAs is planning to enter into SSAs with several other countries like, South Africa, Philippines, Thailand, Mexico,

Peru, Cyprus etc. Informal consultations on SSA/Totalisation are ongoing with the United States of America.

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## INDUSTRIAL OUTREACH

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On the Industry front, the Division financed and co-organized the following events:

- Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) team meeting with MEA officers at JNB, New Delhi on 9 April 2018.
- India-Latin American and Caribbean Conclave with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 1 & 2 October 2018 in Santiago, Chile.
- Prabhav 2018 with Impact Investors Council (IIC) in New Delhi on 7 October 2018.
- India-West Africa Regional Conclave with CII on 8 & 9 October 2018 in Abuja (Nigeria).
- Gala Dinner and ASEAN-India Achievement and Excellence Awards Night for ASEAN-India Business Summit with ASEAN India Business Council (AIBC) on 27 November 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Visit of a TPCI's delegation on Infrastructure and Housing Sectors to Saudi Arabia on 27 & 28 November 2018.

- Indo ASEAN Business Conclave (IABC) with Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) on 28 & 29 November 2018 in Surat, Gujarat.

The Division also provided the logo support and other facilitation to the following:

- Logo support to India Smart Grid Forum for India Smart Utility Week 2019 to be held from 12-16 March 2019.
- Logo support to Network 18 for global natural resources conclave held from 20-29 May 2019.
- Logo Support to CII for organising South Asia Power Summit on 16 November 2019 in New Delhi.
- Logo support at National Mineral Development Corporation's (NMDC) International Conference on Minerals & Metals Outlook 2030 on 9 & 10 October 2018 at Taj Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi.

This Division provided its NoC to the Coordination Division for seventeen business events to facilitate grant of political clearance of the MEA.

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## BUSINESS FORUMS

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A business forum was organized during the visit of the President of Maldives in association with apex chambers at New Delhi on 16th December, 2018. A CEO Forum was also organised where CEOs of more than 30 leading Indian companies participated and deliberated on one to one basis.

A business forum was organized during the Mumbai leg of Prime Minister of Mauritius visit on 25th January, 2019 in association with all leading chambers. The Prime Minister of Mauritius is leading a business delegation and business forum has been planned accordingly, keeping in mind sectors like tourism, infrastructure etc.

ED & States Division also hosted a business event during the visit of the President of South Africa on 25th January, 2019. The event aims at stronger bilateral trade relations between the two countries and keeping in the mind the objective invitees include businessmen/investors who will be interested to take forward the investment and business growth in potential sectors.

Business events are planned during the visit of the President of Argentina on 18-19 February, 2019 in Delhi and Mumbai. The business forum would focus on discussions and B2B engagements to promote investment/trade between the two countries in all possible sectors.



## VIBRANT GUJARAT SUMMIT, 2019

The 9th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit is scheduled to be held on 18-20 January, 2019 in Gujarat, Gandhinagar. The summit will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The Summit will also have 'Africa Day' on 19th January, 2019 which will see the EAM in attendance as

well. ED & States Division is actively involved in the successful organisation of the Vibrant Gujarat event and taking lead in the events relating to business promotion including Africa Day.



Prime Minister and other dignitaries at the inaugural session of the 9th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Gandhinagar, Gujarat (January 18, 2019)

## PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS, 2019

ED & States Division is actively engaged in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas programmes. It is part of the steering

committee for the preparation and is holding two panel discussions during the event.

## SOLAR SEMINAR IN CHENNAI

The Economic Diplomacy and States Division, in collaboration with the EXIM bank will be organizing a solar seminar in Chennai on the 8th February 2019, aimed at informing the

solar energy stakeholders in India about the LOC mechanism. The program will see participation of over 200 solar companies.

## INDIAN MEDICAL TOURISM IN KUWAIT

Embassy of India in Kuwait is organising an event to promote Indian Medical Tourism in Kuwait in March, 2019 in association with CII, SEPC and local partner associations such

as IDF, IBPC. ED & States Division has allocated an additional amount of Rs. 5 lakh to EoI, Kuwait for organising this event under the budget head 'Market Expansion Activities'.

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### AYUSH

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ED & States Division is also planning an event for promotion of AYUSH in the month of February/March, 2019 from its IP&P Budget. The event will be held in one of the Indian

States that has traditionally been known and has created very good facility for cure/healing through AYUSH.

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### ENERGY

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ED Division coordinates India's joint association with the International Energy Agency (IEA). The Division has contributed to the biennial work programs developed between India and the IEA, including the Joint Statement and the Schedule of Joint Action (JS & SJA) for 2015-17, the statement of Intent (SOI) between NITI Aayog and the IEA, as well as the Joint Program of Work 2018-2021 between

the IEA and the Government of India. ED Division is also the primary coordinating agency facilitating Indian energy ministries engagements with the 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.

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### INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)

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ED Division along with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy worked towards the finalization of the Draft Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and spearheaded the efforts to gain support from the prospective member countries. The finalized ISA Framework Agreement, which seeks to establish ISA as a treaty-based organization was opened for signature at the 22nd Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-22) in Marrakech, Morocco from 7-18 November 2016.

The ISA Founding Conference was held on 11 March 2018 at New Delhi. Apart from the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and the President of France Mr. Emmanuel Macron, twenty-one Heads of State and Heads of Government, six Vice Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers, nineteen Ministers as Heads of Delegation attended the conference along with heads of multilateral banks, top representatives from UN agencies, corporate sector-particularly in Renewable Energy, civil society, academic and research institutions and think tanks from all over the world. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced India's commitment to extend nearly US\$ 1.4 billion worth of lines of credit (LOCs) which will cover twenty-seven projects in fifteen countries. These projects will include setting up of solar PV power plants, mini grid and off grid usage, irrigation, rural electrification, street lighting,

solar power for urban infrastructure including for health, hospitals, colleges, schools, government establishments, low income families etc.

Seventy-one countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA, while forty-eight of these countries have also ratified the Framework Agreement. The alliance will focus on rural and decentralised applications, access to affordable finance, island and village solar mini grids, rooftop installations, and solar e-mobility technologies. The objective of the ISA is to mobilize member countries, seek commitments from international organisations and mobilize private sector with the creation of a committee of business and the private sector. The ISA will also promote solar energy research and innovation by creating a network of Solar Resource centres in the member countries, under Solar Technology Applications & Resource Centre, establishing training programmes, developing partnerships fostering technology transfer and innovation, and by launching of Solar Awards & Fellowships. The ISA will also support the financing of new solar energy projects by creating a common guarantee mechanism and facilitating the development of a single window platform to bring together project developers and investors.

The first General Assembly of the ISA was held from 2-5 October 2018 in New Delhi. During the General Assembly,

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the proposal to open ISA to all countries was introduced. A Partner Country status will be granted to the States which fall outside the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, are members of the United Nations and are willing and able

to contribute to the objectives and activities provided in the Framework Agreement. The Ministry of External Affairs has notified the ISA under the United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947 (46 of 1947).

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## CIVIL AVIATION

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On the Civil Aviation front, the Division worked closely with the Ministry of Civil Aviation on bilateral air services negotiations. MEA also extends inputs on these issues and on requirement of flight operations or code share to promote tourism and to strengthen bilateral/multilateral relations.

ED & States Division is actively associated with the organisation of the Global Aviation Summit 2019 to be held at Mumbai on 15-16 January, 2019. This Division is participating in the informal talks planned with more than 12

countries spread on 3 days from 14-16 January, 2019. Air Services Agreement with Nigeria and Lao PDR are proposed to be signed during the event and MoU with Poland and UAE on civil aviation will also be initialed on the sidelines of the event.

MEA participated in the Bilateral Air Services Negotiations with Morocco, Philippines, Serbia, Indonesia, UAE, and France. Air Services Agreements with Serbia and Morocco were concluded and initialed.

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## DIASPORA OUTREACH

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The ED Division coordinated the day-long Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) Panel Discussion on the topic 'Role of Indian Diaspora in Capacity Building for Affordable Waste Management' on 14 July 2018 in New Delhi. 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 and Minister of Drinking Water

and Sanitation Smt Uma Bharti was the guest of honour during the course of the day-long panel discussions, several substantial ideas/suggestions were received which could help in connecting the 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.

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## 3RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)

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The ED Division, as a member of the inter-ministerial committee, co-organised the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB) in Mumbai from 22-27 June 2018. The meeting concluded on optimistic note to raise its lending capacity to boost prosperity and

security in Asia. The theme of the meeting was 'Mobilising Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration'. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and was attended by over 3,000 delegates from eighty-six member countries of AIIB.

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## PROJECTS EXPORT-EARNING FOREIGN EXCHANGE

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The Division processes cases received from ECGC Limited for Credit Insurance Cover under National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) Trust set up by Ministry of Commerce and Industry and administered by ECGC Limited. The fund has

been set up to support Indian Exporters doing projects/ contracts overseas in the field of infrastructure including supply. Support from NEIA is extended for medium and large project exports which are beyond underwriting capacity of

the Exim Bank and ECGC Ltd. Such proposals are approved and monitored by the Committee of Directions (COD) headed by Commerce Secretary. MEA is also a Member of the COD and ED & States Division in MEA handles the subject matter. During the period under report, MEA's no objection from political angle were given for eight overseas contracts worth Rs. 965 crore secured by Indian companies which included

two projects in Afghanistan and others mainly in African nations. The Division also represented MEA in the two COD meetings held during the period and provided substantial inputs on economic and political situations of the country and also inputs on our relations with these countries in order to take a balanced view on granting necessary credit/insurance cover support for the projects.

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### EXPORT OF SURPLUS SUGAR

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With the surplus production of sugar in the previous seasons and the estimated surplus from the current season that started October 2018, export of sugar has become essential to mitigate the liquidity crises of sugar mills thereby enabling them to clear the timely payment of cane price arrears of farmers. After a meeting chaired by Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Mr. Nripendra Misra on 9 October 2018, three delegations were formed which would visit Indonesia & Malaysia, China & Korea, and Bangladesh over different

periods of time to hold meetings with authorities in respective countries. MEA facilitated the visits, fixed up meetings with the concerned authorities and fruitful discussions took place. MEA is constantly in touch with different concerned Ministries and extending all possible support to ensure that sugar exports from India could be maximised. The Division has received communications from Indian Missions/Posts in other countries as well who are keen to import sugar from India.

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### 12TH SESSION OF THE INDIA-UAE JOINT COMMISSION

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EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation to the United Arab Emirates for co-chairing the 12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission on Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation held in Abu Dhabi on 3 & 4 December

2018. The JCM discussed various issues pertaining to our cooperation with the UAE in the areas of economic, trade and investments, consular, visas, employment and immigration.

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### ED WEBSITE

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The ED Division has been in the process of renovation of its website `www.indbiz.gov.in' (accessible on: <http://164.100.163.203>). The revamped website aims to be a one-stop source of all information on Indian economy and business environment in India for foreign enterprises, as well as Indian businesses going abroad and for Indian Missions and Posts. It will also provide an overview on advantages

of India, a general, economic, political and demographic profile of India, information on Indian States and Union Territories, sectoral opportunities and success stories, key state advantages, state agencies, Foreign Direct Investment updates, and the numerous ratings of India in Ease of Doing Business. The website is now undergoing final approvals before the launch in the near future.

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### GLOBAL MAPPING OF RESOURCES

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The ED Division had undertaken an exercise for the global mapping of Materials, Minerals, Technology and Skills in June 2018 based on the inputs received from Missions. The exercise has been further refined with a view towards making it more relevant to state governments with a view

towards alerting them to the possibilities, and matching their strengths and interests, while simultaneously expanding it to include possibilities for agricultural exports and employment opportunities abroad.

## DARPAN PROJECT ON DIGITISATION OF POSTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The ED Division worked with the Department of Posts (DOP), by Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) and

Ricoh (India) Ltd. (RIL) for the execution of the DARPAN Project on Digitisation of Postal infrastructure.

## MOIL EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN NOUVELLE GABON MINING SA (NOGA)

The Division assisted Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL) with their proposal for equity participation in Nouvelle Gabon

Mining SA (NOGA) for the development of a one million MT Ferroalloy smelter Complex in Gabon.

## 35TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP III OF UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)

The Division participated at the Working Group III of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

(UNCITRAL or Commission) from 23-27 May 2018 on the possible reform of investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS).

## INDUSTRIAL POLICY & NATIONAL POLICY ON SOFTWARE PRODUCTS

The Division collaborated on the proposed Industrial Policy and the National Policy on Software Products - 2018,

providing a strategic economic perspective to the evolution of the two proposed policies.

## INDIA'S STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC AGENDA FOR THE CLMV REGION

The Division participated at the CII Dialogue on India's Strategic and Economic Agenda for the CLMV Region in April 2018, and the CII Africa Committee 2018-19 and

ASSOCHAM India-Africa Dialogue in December 2018 outlining India's economic strategy for the respective regions.

## PRESENCE OF FOREIGN BANKS IN INDIA

There is an Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) constituted under the Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, which examines proposals of Foreign Banks looking for operations in India and Indian Banks desirous of opening offices abroad. These proposals are brought forward by the RBI for Government's view. MEA is member in the committee. In the current financial year, MEA extended its clearance from political angle to six proposals which include four from Foreign Banks and two from SBI to set up its offices abroad. This Ministry made substantial

contribution in terms of inputs and advocacy for permission to Bank of China to set up its branch in India. This proposal was going on for a long time without any decision.

This Division facilitated clearance from political angle for sixteen proposals of setting up of/ regularisation of existing Liaison Office (LO)/Branch Office (BO)/Project Office (PO) etc. The Division also participated in the quarterly meetings of the RBI to monitor the progress of the approval of such cases. Inputs by the Division have helped in expeditious clearance of the cases.

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## INPUTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS/COMMITTEES

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Additional Secretary (ED & States) represents MEA on several Boards/Committees as its Member/Director such as Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs (EPCES) (Ministry of Commerce & Industry), Project Exports Promotion Council (PEPC), India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), Invest India, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), WAPCOS. Other officers

of ED & States Division also represent MEA on Committees such as Fisheries subsidies, Coal Preparation Society of India (CPSI), Group constituted on Cartelisation/hoarding of pulses, Market Access Initiative (MAI). As part of these Boards/Committees, the ED & States Divisions regularly participate in their meetings and provide the necessary inputs and guidance of MEA.

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## PROMOTION OF EVENTS

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The ED Division also promoted events such as Higher Education Summit 2018, Pharma Medical Device Expo and continues to promote events as India Steel Expo 2019

to ensure maximum participation of stakeholders in these events.

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## ARBITRATION MATTERS

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Two dozen legal disputes/arbitrations were raised against the Government of India (GoI) by the foreign investors under various Bilateral Investment Protection Agreements (BIPAs), which India entered into with various countries in 1990 and early 2000. As Secretary (ER) from MEA is member of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) constituted to deal with these cases, ED Division has actively participated in these meetings as well as other meetings on preparation and finalisation of submissions of GoI.

The Division has attended such meetings in connection with Vodafone International Holdings under the India-Netherlands

BIPA; Vodafone under the India-UK BIPA; Cairn Energy and Vedanta both under the India-UK BIPA; Nissan Motors under the India - Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement; Louis Dreyfus Amateurs under the India - France BIPA; Ras-Al-Khaimah Investment Authority under the India-UAE BIPA; Khaitan Holdings under the India-Mauritius BIPA; Carissa Investments LLC under the India - Mauritius BIPA; Mascarenhas under the India-Portugal BIPA

ED Division also contributed to the subject, reform of the Investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanism undertaken by the UNCITRAL.



# 15

## STATES

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### FACILITATION OF SIGNING OF SISTER CITY/SISTER STATE & OTHER MOUS BETWEEN CITIES/STATE/UNION TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS AND FOREIGN ENTITIES

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States Division coordinated the signing of an MoU between the University of California, Berkeley, and the State of Arunachal Pradesh on 9 April 2018.

The Division facilitated the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on 18 May 2018 for signing a Twinning Agreement between Delhi and Seoul (Seoul Metropolitan Government).

The Division facilitated the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on 22 June 2018 for signing a Twinning Agreement between Panjim (Goa) and Victoria (Seychelles).

The States Division coordinated with the Ministry of Finance in clearing a proposal of the Government of Assam for implementation of Assam State Roads Project Phase-II with the World Bank's support.

The Division has facilitated the signing of the Extension of Twinning Agreement between the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and Moscow on 5 October 2018, after obtaining necessary clearances from the concerned territorial division.

The Division facilitated the Government of Meghalaya on the proposed MoU to be signed between the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Government of Meghalaya, and the Promotion of Animal Production of Wallonia - Proaniwal, Wallonia region, Kingdom of Belgium.

Besides these, various Agreements /MoUs are being processed. Some of them await clearances from state governments.





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## FACILITATING EXTERNAL OUTREACH OF STATES

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The States Division facilitated the holding of 'Tourism Road Show' of Jammu & Kashmir in New Delhi on 1 February 2018. The event was inaugurated by Shri K. J. Alphons, Minister of State for Tourism and was aimed at generating interest among the prominent tour operators of Delhi/National Capital Region (NCR) in the tourism potential of Jammu & Kashmir and Buddhist circuit of Ladakh; and also showcasing activities of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for promoting tourism. The Division propagated the event by writing to various Heads of Missions of foreign Missions extending an invitation to them to participate in the road show.

The Division participated in the 'Global Investors' Summit – Advantage Assam' which was held on 3 & 4 February 2018 in Guwahati. The Summit and Exhibition were aimed at showcasing economic and manufacturing strength of Assam. The Division facilitated the event by dispatching letters of

invitations, addressed to various foreign dignitaries, in close consultation with various territorial divisions in the Ministry.

The Division represented the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) at the 'Global Investor Summit, Magnetic Maharashtra: Convergence 2018' from 18-20 February 2018 in Mumbai. The Summit was planned across four key pillars of future industry, employment, infrastructure, and sustainability and was aimed at serving as a platform to seek the opinion of industry captains and think tanks on making Maharashtra a world-class destination.

The Division participated at the 24th edition of the Andhra Pradesh-Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit which was held in Visakhapatnam from 24- 26 February 2018. The theme of the Partnership Summit was "Charting India's Global integration Strategy' and its

sub-themes were India's role in world trade, ease of doing business, Government of India's flagship programs, Industry 4.0 Aerospace and Defence, Electric Mobility, Infrastructure Financing, skill development, and startups.

The States Division participated in all the Meetings of the North-East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)- Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) on 3 May 2018 and 11 May 2018 which were conducted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region - (DONER).

The Division participated in the 4th MEA State Outreach

Conference held in Gandhinagar on 30 August 2018 under Videsh Sampark Initiative of MEA.

The Division participated in the 5th MEA State Outreach Conference on 24 September 2018 under Videsh Sampark Initiative of the MEA.

This Division represented MEA at the Pondicherry Global Economic Summit 2018 & 5th World Tamils Conference from 1-15 October 2018 organised by the World Tamil Economic Foundation.

Officials of the States Division visited Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 7 & 8 December 2018 as part of the MEA State Outreach program.

## INTERACTION OF GOVERNMENTS OF STATES/ UNION TERRITORIES (UTS) WITH FOREIGN DIPLOMATS IN NEW DELHI

The States Division organized a meeting in Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan (JNB), New Delhi, on 24 May 2018, which was presided over by the Director-General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), and attended by thirty-one Resident Commissioners/Officers from various States/Union Territories of India. The interaction primarily focused on the difficulties faced by ICCR while organizing Summer/Winter camps for foreign students in different parts of India.

The Division also facilitated the holding of a meeting on 30 June 2018 at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra between visiting Indian Heads of Missions (HOMs) to various States and representatives of various state Resident Commissionerates to discuss the reports of visits to States by HOMs.

The Division conducted a briefing meeting on Karnataka State International Trade Fair for Organics & Millets (held from 18 - 20 January 2019) on 12 October 2018 at JNB, New Delhi, which was attended by officials from Government of Karnataka and Heads of Missions from foreign Missions in New Delhi.

The States Division also coordinated with Government of Karnataka in inviting the foreign Ambassadors to participate in the 'International Trade Fair-Organics & Millets 2019' from 18-20 January 2019 in Bengaluru, and has also requested them to send business/trade delegations from their respective countries.

The Division also coordinated with the Government of Jharkhand in inviting the foreign ambassadors for the meet and dinner program on 9 October 2018 with the Chief Minister of Jharkhand. This was in continuation of the State Division's earlier facilitation meeting of officials of Jharkhand and various foreign diplomats in New Delhi regarding Global Agriculture & Food Summit 2018 on 19 September 2018 at JNB, New Delhi.

The Division conducted a briefing meeting regarding the 23rd International Engineering & Technology Fair (IETF) 2019 scheduled from 3-5 February 2019 at JNB, New Delhi on 6 November 2018 which was attended by officials from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Head of Missions of various foreign Missions in New Delhi.

## ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGNERS IN DISTRESS WHILE IN INDIA

Under the "Assistance to foreigners in distress", the States Division immediately got in touch with authorities to take urgent steps to obtain police reports and assist foreigners in:

Maharashtra when a British national was allegedly molested at Mumbai Airport on 22 January 2018 and in Uttar Pradesh when two Swiss tourists were allegedly maltreated at Agra.

On 27 January 2018 a Nigerian national was arrested; on 03 January 2018 in Kanpur a Spanish national was robbed in Varanasi; on 05 January 2018 a Ukrainian national died; on 23 January 2018 at Vrindavan a Thai national died during treatment; on 8 February 2018 in Varanasi a Japanese national was robbed; on 13 December 2018 in Varanasi a Singaporean national was allegedly robbed; on 29 January 2018 a Mauritian national died during treatment; on 12 February 2018 in Vrindavan an Iranian national died; on 18 February 2018 in Mathura British national was critically hospitalized. The Division also contacted authorities to assist foreigners in Haryana when a South Korean lady was allegedly subjected to misbehavior and molestation by a group of men on 10 February 2018 in Gurugram.

It also coordinated with the State Government of Kerala on

the issue of missing Latvian national Liga Skromane in Kerala after the victim's family members tweeted seeking External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj's assistance for help. Subsequently on 3 April 2018 Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy & States) visited Kerala to discuss the matter, following which a special team to probe the case was constituted by the State Director General of Police and a reward of Rs. ₹2 lakhs was also announced for giving information about the missing Latvian national.

Apart from this, the States Division has also forwarded many petitions, addressed to EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj to state authorities for their redressal and forwarded police reports received from states, pertaining to foreign nationals, to respective territorial divisions in the Ministry.

## **FACILITATION OF FOREIGN HEADS OF MISSIONS/ DIPLOMATS BASED IN INDIA DURING THEIR VISIT TO STATES/UTS**

In close cooperation with Territorial Divisions, State Resident Commissions and state authorities, the Division facilitated visits of Diplomats from foreign embassies of Denmark, France, Ghana, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, United

Kingdom, Australia, China, Cyprus, Gaborone, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Netherlands, and Russia in India to various states and union territories.

## **FACILITATION OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS' VISITS TO STATES**

In close cooperation with Territorial Divisions, State Resident Commissions and state authorities, the Division facilitated visits of Presidents/Vice Presidents/Prime Ministers/Ministers/Governors/Mayors and other dignitaries from

Afghanistan, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, European Union, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Nordic Countries, and the UAE to various states and union territories in India.

## **'STATE FACILITATION ABROAD' FUND TO MISSIONS/POSTS FOR PROMOTION OF STATES/UTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRY OF ACCREDITATION**

The States Division, after taking the inputs from various Missions/Posts abroad, and keeping into consideration the availability of funds under the head - 'State Facilitation Abroad' in financial year 2018-19, issued sanctions on 30 May 2018 amounting to Rs. ₹5 crore to 105 Indian Missions/Posts abroad to undertake 'state specific activities'.

The Division facilitated the visit of Shri Chandra Mohan

Patowary, Minister in the Government of Assam to Guangzhou, China, on 12 & 13 August 2018 to promote Assam as an investment destination.

It facilitated the visit of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Chandrababu Naidu along with Andhra Pradesh delegation to New York on 25 & 26 September 2018 who interacted with potential investors and companies who are doing business

with the State at New York. He also attended the Industry round table hosted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, US- India Business Council (USIBC) and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) on 26 September 2018.

The Division also facilitated visit of Vibrant Gujarat delegation led by Shri Arvind Aggrawal (Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) to Chicago on 1 October 2018. Our consulate at Chicago in collaboration with US India Strategic Partnership

Forum (USISPF) hosted a multi-sector road show, as a precursor to vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019. About 150 people attended the event.

To promote trade and investment, the Division facilitated participation of companies mainly from Gujarat/Karnataka/Maharashtra to participate in the 4th Sudanese International Oil Seeds Conference on 18 November 2018 in Khartoum, Sudan.

### **'STATE FACILITATION AND KNOWLEDGE SUPPORT FUND' FOR FACILITATION AND SUPPORT OF VISITS/ EVENTS AND PROGRAMS CONDUCTED IN THE STATES**

The Division issued a sanction amounting to Rs ₹6.5 Lakhs to Branch Secretariat, Hyderabad for organizing one day 'Conference on Economic Diplomacy, Development and Decentralised Cooperation' on 06 May 2018 in Hyderabad on 'state specific activities' which was inaugurated by Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.).

The Division sanctioned Rs. ₹10 lakhs to Head of Branch Secretariat, Guwahati and Rs. ₹50,000 to Passport Office, Ranchi to undertake 'state specific activities'.

The Division sanctioned Rs. ₹12 Lakhs to World Tamils Economic Foundation to organise Pondicherry Global Economic Summit 2018 and Fifth World Tamils Conference on 11-15 October 2018. The Division also represented the

Ministry in the event.

The Division sanctioned sum of Rs. ₹5 Lakhs Associated Chamber of Commerce (ASSOCHAM) and Industry of India for organising event on Food Processing, Agribusiness, Dairy, the 12th Global FAD 2018--Technology-Investment-Safety on 14th September 2018 at Ahmedabad.

The Division sanctioned a sum of Rs. ₹62,51,700 on 20 November 2018 to M/s Practice Strategic Communications India Pvt. Ltd. towards payment of Q3, 1st year (January-March 2018) and Q4, 1st year (April-June 2018) for original content creation, info-graphic design, developing, and hosting of the website of ED & States Division.

### **STATE FAMILIARIZATION/ SPECIALIZATION OF IFS OFFICERS**

The Division facilitated the familiarisation visits of Indian Head of Missions to various States in India on 27-28 June 2018 before the Head of Missions Conference 2018. States were requested to appoint (i) Nodal Officers to facilitate the visits of Indian Head of Missions (HOMs); (ii) to make arrangements for reception, accommodation and transport; and (iii) fix appointments for the visiting Indian HOMs with Governors and Chief Ministers of States. Meeting with Chief Secretaries of States with Principal Secretaries of various departments in the States were also requested.

The Division 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 and ensuring their safety and safe arrival home.

The Division brought to the notice of state authorities of Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh about the nefarious activities of agents who were recruiting sailors on the pretext of providing them jobs on the ship. The state authorities were also requested to take suitable action against such agents so that such illegal acts are not repeated in future.



# 16

## COUNTER TERRORISM

The issue of terrorism found prominent mention in various bilateral and multilateral meetings at all levels in the wake of various incidents of terrorism that occurred in different parts of the world during the year. During all such interactions, India reiterated its commitment to combating the menace of terrorism globally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. India's call for zero tolerance to terrorism, rejection of any justification for any act of terror, delinking terror from religion, need for all countries to unite in the fight against terrorism found greater acceptance among the international community and is reflected in a number of outcome documents issued after bilateral summit meetings with various countries and at regional and multilateral fora.

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 plurilateral groupings through the mechanism of JWG-CT. The JWG-CT meetings provide a forum for counter-terrorism

cooperation enabling sharing of information, experience, and assessments regarding global terrorism including cross border terrorism, training and capacity building including in relevant technologies and equipment, strengthening of multilateral efforts in the fight against terrorism and terrorist financing, expediting mutual legal assistance requests, facilitating agency-to agency cooperation and emphasizing the importance of early adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) under the auspices of the United Nations (UN). During the year 2018, India held Counter Terrorism Dialogues with Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Russia, Tunisia, UK, US, Uzbekistan, Netherlands and with European Union, BRICS, and BIMSTEC.

India has been at the forefront of global counter-terrorism efforts and taking part in all major global initiatives against international terrorism. As part of India's continuing commitment to strengthen multilateral efforts to counter terrorism and support the work of the newly established UN



Office for Counter Terrorism (OCT), a voluntary contribution of US\$ 550,000 was announced. As a founding member of Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), which was established in 2011, India regularly participates in the GCTF meetings. India participated at a senior level in the thirteenth and fourteenth meeting of GCTF Coordination Committee held in Tokyo in March 2018 and in New York in September 2018 and also in the 9th meeting of GCTF Ministerial Plenary held in New York on 27 September 2018. India also participates regularly in Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meetings of which India is a member since 2010. Ministry of External Affairs' representatives participated in FATF meetings held in Paris in June and October 2018.

A delegation led by Minister of State (MoS) for External

Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) also participated in the international conference on combating the financing of Daesh and Al-Qaeda held in Paris on 25 & 26 April 2018. MoS Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) participated in the High-Level International Conference on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism held on 4 May 2018 in Dushanbe. Ministry's representative also participated in the Regional Meeting on the Nexus between Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism Initiative held in Singapore on 22 & 23 March 2018; Conference on 'Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking in the context of Fighting International Terrorism' held in Moscow on 3 & 4 September 2018; and the 2nd meeting of GCTF Initiative on addressing the challenge of returning families of foreign terrorist fighters held in Bali, Indonesia on 7 & 8 May 2018.

# 17

## GLOBAL CYBER ISSUES

Cyber Diplomacy Division, within the Ministry of External Affairs, deals with international cyber issues both at bilateral and multilateral levels. The main objective of such engagements is to safeguard India's cyber interests while following a multi-stakeholder approach.

As a key member of the United Nations, India participated in discussions leading to the adoption of two resolutions in the United Nations (UN) First Committee of the General Assembly – one establishing the sixth UNGGE (United Nations Group of Governmental Experts), the other establishing a new open-ended group on developments in the field of information security. These Groups are expected to continue studying these issues with a view to promoting common understanding, existing and potential threats in the space of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States as well as norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour of States, confidence-building measures and capacity-building.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), as part of India's multi-stakeholder team, participated in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) 63rd meeting in Barcelona held in October 2018. India also held bilateral cyber dialogues with Brazil and United Kingdom and a Joint Task Force on cybersecurity with Sweden in 2018. India and USA renewed their agreement for cooperation in cybersecurity issues. Bilateral agreements were signed with the Kingdom of Morocco and Seychelles for cooperation in the area of cybersecurity.

In December 2018, India participated in the 5th India-EU Cyber Dialogue, held in Brussels, and the 1st India-Netherlands Cyber Dialogue, held in The Hague. In February 2019, India will participate in the next round of meeting of Group of Experts of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on International Information Security in Beijing, the 3rd India-Japan Cyber Dialogue in Tokyo and the 3rd India-Australia Cyber Dialogue in New Delhi and the 5th Indo-German Consultations on International Cyber Issues.



# 18

## BOUNDARY CELL

The Boundary Cell 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 also continued to prepare consolidated overall requirements of budget grant and monitor the same pertaining to the maintenance, delineation and demarcation of international boundaries.

# 19

## POLICY PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The Policy Planning and Research Division continued its mandate of undertaking continuous analysis of our principal foreign policy objectives and providing research based perspectives on various regional and global developments to the the Ministry. This was done both in-house and through proactive outreach to various Indian think tanks and research organisations.

The Division also organised conferences in partnership with major think tanks and academic institutions, with the aim to develop platforms in India where discussions on

contemporary foreign policy issues can take place among leading strategic experts and policy makers around the world.

The Division also developed institutionalized dialogues on policy planning with our important diplomatic partners for exchange of views on long term strategic planning and priorities. India's participation in important diplomatic conferences in India and abroad was also organised, to present India's perspective as well as to benefit from exchanges between experts and policy makers at such conferences.

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### RESEARCH PAPERS AND POLICY BRIEFS

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In the domain of policy and research, the Division undertook several studies and focused on preparing research papers, policy briefs and situation reports related to global developments and current international affairs in general and India's foreign policy in particular.

To enable personnel in Missions abroad and within the Ministry to develop perspectives on a wide range of issues and keep them abreast with discourses in academia and the strategic community, the Division disseminates regular daily reports, issue briefs and event reports of various seminars and conferences conducted by think-tanks and academia.



Other initiatives taken by the Division are as follows:

- Liaison with think tanks and institutions of repute to organize seminars and discussions on topics of importance to foreign policy.
- Participate in various seminars/conferences conducted by think tanks in different parts of India. Preparing a monthly compendium of reports providing key summary of the proceedings for dissemination within the Ministry and Missions abroad.
- Monitoring and compiling of news, events and developments in international affairs in the form of Daily Reports for consumption within the Ministry.
- Continuation of the initiative to organize presentations

on specific topics by our Ambassadors posted abroad on their visits to India and by renowned subject matter specialists visiting India.

- Regular meetings with leading scholars, authors and representatives from various think tanks, academic institutes from India as well as those visiting from abroad are also held to obtain important inputs from them on subjects of interest to India's national interests as well as to disseminate India's perspectives on important foreign policy matters.
- Initiating an 'Ambassador Lecture Series' by Heads of Missions posted in New Delhi followed up by a discussion on the bilateral ties between India and the countries that the Ambassadors represent.

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## POLICY PLANNING DIALOGUES

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The Division held Policy Planning Dialogues with diplomatic partners to share assessments on strategic perspectives and priorities.

- Policy Planning Dialogue with Germany on 09 October 2018 in New Delhi.

- Policy Planning Dialogue with Japan on 18 July 2018 in New Delhi
- Policy Planning Dialogue with Iran on 04 September 2018 in New Delhi.

The Division also undertook informal policy planning consultations with delegations from France, Australia, Israel, Germany, UK, Poland, South Korea and Japan.

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## PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

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The Division supported and facilitated India's participation in major international conference including India-China Think Tank Forum, India-US Forum, Global Technology Summit, West Asia Conference by Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis (IDSA), India-Indonesia Interfaith Dialogue (03-05 October 2018) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia and Paris Peace Forum (11-13 November 2018, Paris)

The PP&R Division also supported Track 1.5 and Track 2 interactions including the 17th India-Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue (31 October 2018, Seoul); 4th India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue (15-16 October 2018, in New Delhi), the 1st India-Canada Track 1.5 dialogue (29 October - 2 November 2018, Ottawa) and the India-Pakistan Track 2 Neemrana Dialogue (28-30 April 2018).

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## ORGANISING OF CONFERENCES, DIALOGUES, MEETINGS, AND SEMINARS

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The PP&R Division carried forward its work with Indian think tanks in order to organise 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 IV.

The Raisina Dialogue is the Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) flagship geo-political and geo-strategic conference organised by the PP&R Division in partnership with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). The fourth edition of the Raisina Dialogue was organised on 8-10 January 2018 with theme "World Reorder: New Geometries, Fluid Partnerships, Uncertain Outcomes". It was inaugurated on 8 January 2019 by Prime Minister of Norway Ms Erna Solberg in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Over 600 delegates from ninety-two countries participated in the Dialogue.

The third edition of the Indian Ocean Conference was held

on 27 & 28 August 2018 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The partner institutions were India Foundation, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Sri Lanka and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies. Its theme was "Building Regional Architectures", and the Conference was inaugurated by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and her Vietnamese counterpart Pham Binh Min, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The second edition of the India-US Forum was convened by the Division in collaboration with Ananta Centre on 6 & 7 April 2018. The Forum brought together participants including Members of Parliament and US Congress, business and political leaders, eminent media personalities, senior officials and thought-leaders to discuss the various dimensions of the India-US partnership. It addressed major issues in political and trade relations, security cooperation as well as innovation, technology, and environment and energy.

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## AUGMENTING HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

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The PP&R Division has continued to strengthen its resources. The year 2018-19 saw a significant increase in the financial outlay for organizing seminars and conferences, thus enabling

the PP&R Division to expand its activities as mentioned. The number of Consultants in the Division now stands at seven.



# 20

## PROTOCOL

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

**Protocol I** section, under the charge of Deputy Chiefs of Protocol (Ceremonial) is mandated to handle incoming visits of Head of States/Head of Government, Vice-Presidents and Foreign Minister, outgoing visits of President, Vice President and Prime Minister, entertainment (official lunches, dinners and receptions on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs) and ceremonial functions, airport passes, access to ceremonial and reserve lounge, etc.

**Protocol-II** and Protocol Special sections, both under the charge of Deputy Chief of Protocol (Privileges) deal with various issues related to privileges and immunity of the diplomatic missions based out of India like issuance of diplomatic/official identity cards in respect of foreign representations in Delhi and in different states of the country; finalising agreement for

gainful employment and subsequently, processing requests of permission of gainful employment for family members of members of diplomatic missions and consular posts in India; permission to foreign diplomats for enrolment in Indian Universities; security arrangement for foreign representations and their residences in India; privileges and immunities to international organisations recognised under Article 3 of United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947; issues related to tax exemptions on the principle of reciprocity; forwarding of court summons issued by various courts in respect of diplomats/officials and diplomatic missions in India and processing requests of purchase/registration/sale of motor vehicles & custom duty free imports.

**Protocol-III** section's work domain includes exchange of messages and communications on national days, arrangements for presentation of credentials, appointment of new consuls general in India as well as honorary consuls; preparation of credential papers of Head of Missions (HOMs) and commission of appointment of consuls general;



arrangements for first arrival and final departure of heads of foreign diplomatic missions; permissions for creation of new posts (civil and defence) in foreign diplomatic missions/posts in India; issuance of letters to airport authorities for airport passes to diplomatic missions in India; arrangement for simultaneous interpretation on Independence Day as well as other arrangements viz. invitations to HOMs and other diplomatic officers in addition to the arrangements made during Republic Day and Beating Retreat functions; handle court cases and complaints received from local staff working in foreign diplomatic missions; handle the arrangements for nomination of chief guests for National days of Diplomatic Missions in New Delhi and other related Protocol work.

**Protocol Housing Section** is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Hyderabad House in cooperation with the horticulture, civil and electrical wings of CPWD. This includes repair and maintenance works of electrical/civil/horticulture. In addition, this section also handles processing of payment to ITDC on account of their administrative, management and

operational expenditure; matters relating to purchase/sale/allotment of land, built up property, lease etc. in respect of all diplomatic missions and international organizations in Delhi which involves communication with state governments for land allotment, signing of perpetual lease deed etc.; disputes/court cases between landlords and diplomatic Missions in Delhi and other states; running and operation of the VVIP Receptorium at Air Force Station, Palam with the help of Military Engineering Service (MES) and CPWD and assisting the diplomatic missions regarding services like NDMC, MCD, DDA, MTNL etc. Further, for last few years, this section has been coordinating with various stakeholders on upcoming second Diplomatic Enclave project in Dwarka, New Delhi.

In 2018, Protocol-I Section handled 151 incoming/outgoing visits at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister (as on 3 December 2018)

The Division coordinated ASEAN India Commemorative Summit (AICS 2018) in January 2018 and the Indian Solar Alliance (ISA 2018) in March 2018.

In addition, Protocol-I handled 317 entertainment functions (as on 3 December 2018) and facilitated an average of 139

requests per week for airport passes, lounges (ceremonial and reserved) and exemption from frisking.

## **CLASSIFICATIONS AND NUMBERS OF VISITS**

<b>Visit Head</b>	<b>Number</b>
State Visits By Head Of State/Head Of Government/Vice President And Equivalent	13
Official/Working Visits By Head Of State/Head Of Government/Vice President And Equivalent	53
Private/Transit Visits By Head Of State/Head Of Government/Vice President And Equivalent	4
Official Visits By Foreign Ministers And Equivalent	37
Outgoing Visits Of President, Vice President And Prime Minister	26
Outgoing Visits of Minister of External Affairs	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>151</b>

## **CALENDAR OF VISITS**

### **State Visits by Head Of State/Head Of Government/Vice President And Equivalent**

<b>S No.</b>	<b>Dignitary</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1.	State Visit of PM of Israel	14-17 January 2018
2.	State Visit of PM of Cambodia	24-28 January 2018
3.	State Visit of PM of Canada	17-24 February 2018
4.	State Visit of President of Islamic Republic of Iran	15-17 February 2018
5.	State Visit of King of Jordan	28 February-2 March 2018
6.	State Visit of President of Vietnam	2-4 March 2018
7.	State Visit of President of France	9-12 March 2018
8.	State Visit of President of Germany	22-26 March 2018
9.	State Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal	6-8 April 2018
10.	State Visit of the President of Seychelles	22-27 June 2018
11.	State Visit of the President of Republic of Korea	8-11 July 2018
12.	State Visit of the President of Uzbekistan	30 September-1 October 2018
13.	State Visit of President of Maldives	17-18 December 2018
14.	State Visit of PM of Bhutan	27-29 December 2018



Official/Working Visits By Head Of State/Head Of Government/Vice President And Equivalent

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Visit of PM of Lao PDR (ASEAN - INDIA Commemorative Summit)	25-26 January 2018
2.	Visit of PM of Vietnam (ASEAN - INDIA Commemorative Summit)	25-26 January 2018
3.	Visit of PM of Thailand (ASEAN - INDIA Commemorative Summit)	25-26 January 2018
4.	Visit of State Councilor of Myanmar (ASEAN - INDIA Commemorative Summit)	25-26 January 2018
5.	Visit of PM of Malaysia (ASEAN - INDIA Commemorative Summit)	25-26 January 2018
6.	Visit of President of Indonesia (ASEAN - INDIA Commemorative Summit)	25-26 January 2018
7.	Visit of President of Philippines (ASEAN - INDIA Commemorative Summit)	25-26 January 2018
8.	Visit of Sultan of Brunei (ASEAN - INDIA Commemorative Summit)	25-26 January 2018
9.	Visit of PM of Singapore (ASEAN - INDIA Commemorative Summit)	25-26 January 2018
10.	Visit of PM of Cambodia (ASEAN - INDIA Commemorative Summit)	25-26 January 2018
11.	Visit of PM of Bhutan	1-4 February 2018
12.	Visit of Aga Khan	20 February to 1 March 2018
13.	Visit of President of Bangladesh	12 March 2018
14.	Visit of President of Equatorial Guinea (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
15.	Visit of President of Djibouti (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
16.	Visit of President of Rwanda (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
17.	Visit of President of Togo (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
18.	Visit of President of Gabon (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
19.	Visit of President of Niger (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
20.	Visit of President of Venezuela (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
21.	Visit of President of Bangladesh (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
22.	Visit of President of Nauru (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
23.	Visit of President of Mali (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
24.	Visit of Governor General of Australia (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
25.	Visit of President of Sri Lanka (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
26.	Visit of President of Guyana (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
27.	Visit of President of Burkina Faso (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
28.	Visit of President of Comoros (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
29.	Visit of President of Seychelles (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
30.	Visit of President of Ghana (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
31.	Visit of President of Ghana (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
32.	Visit of PM of Tuvalu (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
33.	Visit of PM of Fiji (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
34.	Visit of PM of Vanuatu (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
35.	Visit of PM of Chad (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
36.	Visit of VP of Cote d'Ivoire (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
37.	Visit of VP of Suriname (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
38.	Visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi (ISA Summit)	10-11 March 2018
39.	Visit of Prime Minister of Netherlands	24-25 May 2018
40.	Visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh	25-26 May 2018
41.	Queen Maxima of Netherlands as Secretary General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development (UNSGSA)	28-30 May 2018
42.	Visit of PM of Bhutan	5-7 July 2018
43.	Visit of Former PM of Nepal	6-9 September 2018
44.	Visit of Former President of Sri Lanka	10-13 September 2018
45.	Visit of President of Afghanistan	19 September 2018
46.	Visit of King of Bhutan (Demise of former PM)	17-19 August 2018
47.	Visit of Queen Mother of Bhutan	21-24 September 2018
48.	Visit of President of Russia	4-5 October 2018
49.	Visit of PM of Sri Lanka	19-21 October 2018
50.	Visit of PM of Italy	29-30 October 2018
51.	Visit of First Lady of South Korea	4-7 November 2018
52.	Visit of Former President of South Africa	16-19 November 2018
53.	Visit of HRH Princess of Thailand	25-30 November 2018

**Private/Transit Visits By Head Of State/Head Of Government/Vice President And Equivalent**

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Visit of PM of Mozambique	18-23 June 2018
2.	Visit of PM of Sri Lanka	2-3 August 2018
3.	Visit of President of Sri Lanka	29 August-02 September 2018
4.	Visit of Prime Minister of Lesotho	29 October - 05 November 2018

### Official Visits By Foreign Ministers And Equivalent

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Visit of FM of Maldives	10-12 January 2018
2.	Visit of PRs of Georgia and UAE	14-17 January 2018
3.	Visit of FM of Bangladesh	16-19 January 2018
4.	Visit of FM of Guyana	29 January-- 02 February 2018
5.	Visit of PRs from United Nations (Group 2)	4-10 February 2018
6.	Visit of FM of Uzbekistan	11-12 February 2018
7.	Visit of FM of Bhutan	20-23 February 2018
8.	Visit of FM of Canada	21-24 February 2018
9.	Visit of FM of Malta	5-8 March 2018
10.	Visit of FM of Egypt	22-24 March 2018
11.	Visit of DPM and FM of Serbia	1-4 May 2018
12.	Visit of Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation	7-8 May 2018
13.	Visit of Foreign Minister of Ethiopia	9-10 May 2018
14.	Visit of Foreign Minister of Iran	28 May 2018
15.	Visit of FM of UAE	24-30 June 2018
16.	Visit of FM of Ghana	16-19 July 2018
17.	Visit of FM of Singapore (Delhi Dialogue)	17-20 July 2018
18.	Visit of FM of Myanmar (Delhi Dialogue)	18-20 July 2018
19.	Visit of FM of Switzerland	9-12 August 2018
20.	UNGA President elect	10-14 August 2018
21.	Visit of FM of Moldova	11-14 August 2018
22.	Visit of UN Permanent Representatives	22-28 August 2018
23.	Visit of Secretary of State of United States of America	4-6 September 2018
24.	Visit of FM of Sao Tome & Principe	7-8 September 2018
25.	Visit of FM of Nepal (Demise of former PM)	17-19 August 2018
26.	Visit of former president of Afghanistan(Demise of former PM)	17-19 August 2018
27.	Visit of Minister of Law of Pakistan (Demise of former PM)	17-19 August 2018
28.	Visit of acting FM of Sri Lanka(Demise of former PM)	17-19 August 2018
29.	Visit of Secretary-General of the United Nations	1-4 October 2018
30.	Visit of FM of Bangladesh (Demise of former PM)	17-19 August 2018

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
31.	Visit of FM of Tanzania	13-17 October 2018
32.	Visit of FM of Croatia	20-22 October 2018
33.	Visit of First Lady of South Korea	4-7 November 2018
34.	Visit of FM of Romania	24-27 November 2018
35.	Visit of FM of Maldives	24-27 November 2018
36.	Visit of FM of Gabon	28-30 November 2018
37.	Visit of FM of Mozambique	28 November- 2 December 2018

**Outgoing Visits Of President, Vice President And Prime Minister**

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Visit of PM to Switzerland (WEF)	22-23 January 2018
2.	Visit of PM to Jordan, Palestine, UAE and Oman	9-12 February 2018
3.	Visit of President to Mauritius and Madagascar	11-15 March 2018
4.	Visit of President to Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini and Zambia	7-12 April 2018
5.	Visit of Prime Minister to Sweden, UK and Germany	16-21 April 2018
6.	Visit of Prime Minister to Wuhan, China	26-28 April 2018
7.	Visit of Vice President to Guatemala, Panama and Peru	6-12 May 2018
8.	Visit of Prime Minister to Kathmandu	11-12 May 2018
9.	Visit of Prime Minister to Russia (Sochi)	20-21 May 2018
10.	Visit of Prime Minister to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore	29 May – 02 June 2018
11.	Visit of PM to Qingdao, China	09-10 June 2018
12.	Visit of the President to Greece, Suriname and Cuba	16-25 June 2018
13.	Visit of Prime Minister to Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa (BRICS)	23-27 July 2018
14.	Visit of President to Cyprus, Bulgaria and Czech Republic	2-9 September 2018
15.	Visit of Prime Minister to Nepal (BIMSTEC Summit)	30-31 August 2018
16.	Visit of Vice President to United States of America	8-9 September 2018
17.	Visit of Vice President to Serbia, Malta and Romania	14-20 September 2018
18.	Visit of President to Tajikistan	7-9 October 2018
19.	Visit of Vice President to Belgium	17-20 October 2018
20.	Visit of Prime Minister to Tokyo and Yamakashi, Japan	27-30 October 2018
21.	Visit of Vice President to Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi	31 October-6 November 2018

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
22.	Visit of Vice President to France (Armistice Centenary and Paris Peace Forum)	9-11 November 2018
23.	Visit of Prime Minister to Singapore	14-15 November 2018
24.	Visit of Prime Minister to Maldives	17 November 2018
25.	Visit of President to Australia and Vietnam	18-24 November 2018
26.	Visit of Prime Minister to Argentina (G-20)	28 November-2 December 2018

### Outgoing Visits Of Minister Of External Affairs

1.	Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore	4-8 January 2018
2.	Nepal	1-2 February 2018
3.	Saudi Arabia	6-8 February 2018
4.	Japan	28-30 March 2018
5.	Azerbaijan	4-6 April 2018
6.	China	21-24 April 2018
7.	Mongolia	25-26 April 2018
8.	Myanmar	10-11 May 2018
9.	South Africa	3-7 June 2018
10.	Italy, France, Luxembourg and Belgium	17-23 June 2018
11.	Manama, Bahrain	14-15 July 2018
12.	Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Uzbekistan	2-5 August 2018
13.	Vietnam and Cambodia	27-30 August 2018
14.	Moscow, Russia	13-14 September 2018
15.	New York, USA	22-27 September 2018
16.	Tajikistan	11-12 October 2018
17.	Qatar and Kuwait	28-31 October 2018
18.	Lao PDR	22-23 November 2018

**Credential presentation by foreign Heads of Mission during 1 April 2018 to 30 November 2018**

SL No.	Country	Name of Ambassador/High Commissioner	Date of Credential Presentation
1.	Bahrain	Ambassador Mr. Abdulrahman Mohamed Ahmed Al Gaoud	17 April 2018
2.	Lebanon	Ambassador Mr. Rabie Narsh	17 April 2018
3.	Argentina	Ambassador Mr. Daniel Chuburu	17 April 2018
4.	Iraq	Ambassador Dr. Falah Abdulhasan Abdulsada	17 April 2018
5.	Azerbaijan	Ambassador Mr. Ashraf Farhad Shikhaliyev	31 May 2018
6.	Lesotho	High Commissioner Mr. Bothata Tsikoane	31 May 2018
7.	Cyprus	High Commissioner Mr. Agis Loizou	31 May 2018
8.	Samoa (Non-resident)	High Commissioner Ms. Faalavaau Perina Jaqueline Sila-Tualualelei	31 May 2018
9.	Jamaica (Non-resident)	High Commissioner Senator Aubyn Hill	31 May 2018
10.	Slovak Republic	Ambassador Mr. Ivan Lancaric	11 July 2018
11.	El Salvador	Ambassador Mr. Ariel Andrade Galindo	11 July 2018
12.	Ecuador	Ambassador Mr. Hector Cueva Jacome	11 July 2018
13.	Uruguay	Ambassador Mr. Alvaro A. Malmierca	11 July 2018
14.	Fiji	High Commissioner Mr. Yogesh Punja	11 July 2018
15.	Kenya	High Commissioner Mr. Willy Kipkorir Bett	11 July 2018
16.	Iceland	Ambassador Mr. Gudmundur Arni Stefansson	20 September 2018
17.	Netherlands	Ambassador Mr. Marten van den Berg	20 September 2018
18.	Guinea	High Commissioner Ms. Fatoumata Balde	20 September 2018
19.	Lithuania	Ambassador Mr. Julius Pranevičius	20 September 2018
20.	Luxembourg	Ambassador Mr. Jean Claude Kugener	20 September 2018
21.	Kuwait	Ambassador Mr. Jasem Ibrahim J.M. Al-Najem	18 October 2018
22.	Belgium	Ambassador Mr. François Delhayé	18 October 2018
23.	Portugal	Ambassador Mr. Carlos Jose de Pinho e Melo Pereira Marques	18 October 2018
24.	Cambodia	Ambassador Mr. Ung Sean	18 October 2018
25.	Vietnam	Ambassador Mr. Pham Sanh Chau	13 November 2018
26.	Latvia	Ambassador Mr. Artis Bertulis	13 November 2018

SL No.	Country	Name of Ambassador/High Commissioner	Date of Credential Presentation
27.	Jordan	Ambassador Mr. Mohamed Salam Jameel A.F El-Kayed	13 November 2018
28.	Sri Lanka	High Commissioner Mr. Austin Fernando	13 November 2018

**Final Departure Status of Foreign Heads of Missions between 1 April 2018 to 30 November 2018**

SL No.	Mission	Name of Head of Mission	Date of Final Departure
1.	Macedonia	Ambassador Dr. Toni Atanasovski	4 April 2018
2.	Cyprus	High Commissioner Mr. Demetrios Theophylactou	5 May 2018
3.	Slovak Republic	Ambassador Mr. Zigmund Bertok	20 May 2018
4.	Kenya	High Commissioner Ms. Florence Imisa Weche	4 July 2018
5.	Cambodia	Ambassador Mr. Pichkhun Panha	27 July 2018
6.	Kuwait	Ambassador Mr. Fahad Ahmad Alawadhi	31 July 2018
7.	Israel	Ambassador Mr. Daniel Carmon	31 July 2018
8.	Belgium	Ambassador Mr. Jan Luykx	30 August 2018
9.	Luxembourg	Ambassador Mr. Sam Schreiner	31 August 2018
10.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ambassador Dr. Sabit Subasic	1 September 2018
11.	Jordan	Ambassador Mr. Hassan Mahmoud Mohammad Al Jawarneh	1 September 2018
12.	Portugal	Ambassador Mr. Joao da Camara	11 September 2018
13.	Afghanistan	Ambassador Dr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali	22 September 2018
14.	Vietnam	Ambassador Mr. Ton Sinh Thanh	29 September 2018
15.	Bulgaria	Ambassador Mr. Petko Doykov	29 September 2018
16.	Latvia	Ambassador Mr. Aivars Groza	13 October 2018
17.	Egypt	Ambassador Mr. Hatem Elsayed Mohamed Tageldin	26 October 2018
18.	Tajikistan	Ambassador Mr. Mirzosharif Jalolov	26 October 2018
19.	Namibia	High Commissioner Mr. Pius Dunaiski	28 October 2018

20.	Sri Lanka	High Commissioner Ms. Chitranganee Wagiswara	31 October 2018
21.	Lao PDR	Ambassador Mr. Southam Sakonhninhom	09 November 2018
22.	Brazil	Ambassador Mr. Tovar da Silva Nunes	15 November 2018
23.	Maldives	Ambassador Mr. Ahmed Mohamed	24 November 2018

**List of Resident Missions/Trade offices/Consulate Generals/Deputy High Commissions/Honorary Consuls approved from 1 April 2018 to 30 November 2018**

- **Resident Missions:** Moldova
- **Trade Offices:**
  1. Republic of Korea Ahmedabad
- **Cultural Centre:**
  1. Denmark - New Delhi
- **Consulate Generals/ Deputy High Commissions:**
  1. Australia - Kolkata
  2. United Arab Emirates - Mumbai
- **Honorary Consulates General/ Honorary Consulates:**
  1. Belgium - Kolkata
  2. Colombia - Bengaluru
  3. Czech Republic - Mumbai
  4. Brazil - Hyderabad
  5. Ireland - Kolkata
  6. Kazakhstan - Mumbai
  7. Niger - Kolkata
  8. Chile - Mumbai
  9. Fiji - Kolkata
  10. Malawi - Mumbai
  11. Luxembourg - Mumbai
  12. Czech Republic - Bengaluru



- |     |                |   |         |
|-----|----------------|---|---------|
| 13. | Guatemala      | - | Kolkata |
| 14. | Romania        | - | Chennai |
| 15. | Mali           | - | Mumbai  |
| 16. | Czech Republic | - | Chennai |
| 17. | Indonesia      | - | Kolkata |

**Month-wise list of newly created posts in Foreign Diplomatic Missions in India from 1 April 2018 to 30 November 2018:-**

Annual Report for Creation of New Posts from 1 April 2018 - 30 November 2018	
April	07
May	21
June	02
July	12
August	11
September	11
October	09
November	00
TOTAL	73

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## CONSULAR, PASSPORT AND VISA SERVICES

### PASSPORT SERVICES

The Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV) Division of the Ministry provides passport services in India and abroad. The issuance of passports has emerged as one of the most noticeable statutory and citizen-centric services rendered by the Ministry. 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 thirty-six 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 ninety-three Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 263 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK)

(in association with the Department of Posts) as extended arms of the Passport Offices. There are 356 Passport Kendras functioning as on 2 January 2019. For Indians living abroad, passports and Emergency Certificates 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 six and half years of its successful operations.

Besides the PSKs and the POPSKs, a 24x7 National Call Centre has been set up which provides real-time status and up-to-date information in seventeen 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 2018, 6.56 crore passport service related applications have been processed and 6.46 crore services rendered through the PSP system. More than 63,000 appointments at the PSK and 14,000 applications at

the POSPK are being released daily against which the footfall is over 50,000.

### Passport India Portal

An online portal <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 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 1.7 crore daily hits on the portal.

### Growth in Passport services

During 2018, the Ministry processed more than 1.21 crore passport and passport related applications in India compared with 1.17 crore during 2017 showing a growth of 4%. The thirty-six Passport Offices, Headquarters and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands received 1,21,74,758 passport and passport related applications including Police Clearance Certificates, against which 1,12,54,707 passports (inclusive of 449 Diplomatic passports, 18,009 Official passports) were issued. Also, 5,112 Surrender Certificates (SC), 3,315 Identity Certificates (IC) and 1,946 Line of Control (LoC) permits were issued. The 184 Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued approximately 11,63,026 passports. Thus, the Government of India, in total, issued 1,24,17,733 passports in the year 2018. As on December 2018, over 7.96 crore citizens held valid passports. India today is placed third behind China and the United States in terms of global passport issuance.

The revenue of the Government on account of passport fees has registered 110.42% growth since 2011-12. The total revenue generated from all passport services between April-December 2018 is Rs. ₹1,945.89 crore as compared to Rs. ₹1,778.36 crore during 2017-18 and Rs. ₹1,030.58 crore in 2011-2012.

### mPassport Seva Mobile App

The mPassport Seva Mobile App with additional facilities to apply, pay and schedule appointments for passport services was launched on 26 June 2018. This App is available in Android and iOS platforms. In the year 2018, 2.23 lakh applications were filed using mPassport Seva Mobile App. Citizens would not require access to a computer and printer to apply for passport services. The mPassport Seva App will now support enhanced set of passport services such as:

- i. New User Registration
- ii. Sign In to Registered User Account
- iii. Application form filing to apply for Passport and Police Clearance Certificate
- iv. Pay for Passport Services v. Appointment Scheduling
- v. Application Availability Status vii. Document Advisor
- vi. Fee Calculator

### Applying for passports anywhere in India

With effect from 26 June 2018, an applicant can apply for passport from anywhere in India. One lakh applications were filed under this scheme during the year 2018. This citizen-friendly initiative will enable applicants to choose the Passport Office (PO) and thus the desired Passport Seva Kendra (PSK)/ Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) under the PO where they wish to submit their application irrespective of whether the present residential address specified in the application form lies within the jurisdiction of the selected Regional Passport Office (RPO) or not. The Police Verification (PV) would be conducted by the Police Station in whose jurisdiction the address mentioned in the form falls and the passport will also be dispatched at the same address.

### Noticeable Improvements in service delivery

There has been noticeable improvement in passport service delivery in the country with the implementation of the Passport Seva Project and through the continuous efforts being made by the Ministry. Securing online appointments for submission of passport applications at PSKs has become easier and convenient.

As on 2 January 2019, appointments were available the next day at 253 Passport Kendras, between two and seven days at fifty-six Passport Kendras, and beyond seven days at forty-seven Passport Kendras.

Countrywide, on the basis of December 2018 figures, 16% of normal passports were issued within three days; 31% within seven days; 48% within fourteen days; 67% within twenty-one days and 83% within thirty days (excluding the time taken for police verification).

In case of Tatkaal passports, 46 % were issued on the same day; 78% within two days and 93% within three days. If the police verification time is included in the end-to-end delivery process, 83% of normal passports were issued within a month.

### Volume of applications:

Top five states in terms of number of passport applications received were Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh accounting for more than 60% of total applications.

Top five Passport Offices in terms of number of applications received: Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, and Delhi.

Top five districts in terms of number of applications received: Pune, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Mallapuram, and Thane.

### Passport Seva Camps and Melas

With an aim to cater to the ever increasing demand of passports and at reaching out to people located far away from PSK, Passport Seva camps were organized at multiple locations. So far, 272 Passport Seva Camps have been organized till December 2018 at various locations across the country. More than 15,40,777 lakh applications have been processed at these Camps. It is yet another citizen-centric measure in taking IT-driven public services closer home.

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 380 in 2014, 398 in 2015, 138 in 2016, 444 in 2017, this year till December 2018, 232 Passport Melas have been organised at which a total 1.02 lakh passport applications were processed in these melas.

### Outreach of passport services

Up to May 2014, there were seventy-seven PSKs operating in the country. The present government has opened another sixteen PSKs including in all the North Eastern States, taking the total number of Passport Seva Kendras to ninety-three (Appendix VIII).

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in association with the Department of Posts 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 407 POPSK out of which 263 have become functional till 2 January 2019. More than 15.62 lakh passport applications have been received at these POPSKs during 2018. The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for operationalising the remaining POPSK at the earliest (Appendix IX).

### Integration of Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad into the Passport Seva Project

The process of integrating the Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad into the Passport Seva Project commenced in October 2018. The aim is to provide a centralized passport issuance platform and application for the Indian citizens living abroad and seeking Passport-related services. As part of the pilot project, the High Commission of India in London launched the Passport Seva Project on 24 October 2018 followed by the Consulates General of India at Birmingham and Edinburgh respectively. Embassy of India in Washington DC, Consulates General of India at New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston, and Atlanta launched this Project in November 2018. The Ministry aims to complete the integration of all Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad at the earliest.

### Police Verification

Police Verification (PV) plays an important role in the timely issuance of passports. The Ministry has engaged closely with the Police Departments across States/Union Territories (UTs) to speed up police verification. The all-India average for the number of days taken to complete the police verification is nineteen and about 80% of the PVs get completed within the desired time limit of twenty-one days. Some States/UTs have consistently maintained low Police Verification processing times. For example, under the new system, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana completed police verification in (four days) on an average, followed by Haryana and Kerala (eight days), Chandigarh (ten days), Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Puducherry (twelve days) and Goa (thirteen days). Constant efforts by the Ministry have resulted in more and more Districts switching over to the preferred District Police Headquarters Verification Model. Thus far, 730 out of the 764 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 twenty-one days, resulting in easing getting passport and other related services by the citizens accordingly. 116 DPHQs covering 2,934 Police Stations were using mPassport mobile application as on December 2018. A total of 32,25,132 applications have been submitted through the mobile app till December 2018.

### Functional Enhancements/Simplification of Procedures for realizing Minimum Government Maximum Governance

The policy regarding issue of passports to surrogate children was reviewed and the requirement of registered surrogacy agreement has been done away with. Previously, registered surrogacy agreement was mandatory for issue of passport to surrogate children. Now, this provision has been relaxed and passport to surrogate children can be issued on submission of notarized surrogate agreement in addition to other required documents.

Issue of passport on Out-of-Turn basis under Tatkaal scheme

has been made simple. The documents required under Tatkaal scheme have been relaxed and now there is no requirement of Verification Certificate as required earlier for issue of passport under Tatkaal scheme.

The Police Verification process has been revamped in such a way that the Police is required to check only the criminality and nationality part of the applicant leading to simplification of the process.

The validity of Emergency Certificate has been extended from a period of three months to six months.

### Student Connect Initiative

The 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 this initiative, joint MEA and TCS teams continue to spread awareness through presentations and Q&A sessions with students of various educational institutions across India. The initiative has been welcomed and praised by several educational institutions for providing a platform to young generation for getting their passport in an easy and convenient manner.

## PASSPORT SERVICES OVERSEAS



Passport Seva Divas on 26 June 2018

During 2018, 184 Indian Embassies/Consulates abroad issued approximately 11,63,026 lakh passports. Two countries, namely UAE and Saudi Arabia, contributed to 40% of the total services abroad (location-wise, Dubai, Riyadh, Kuwait, Muscat, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, and Doha accounted for 60% 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 80% of total passport services rendered abroad.

### Passport Seva Divas

The 6th Passport Seva Divas and Passport Officers' Conference were organized by the MEA on 26 & 27 June 2018 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan, New Delhi. The high-level segment of the Conference was held on 26 June 2018. The event was presided over by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj, Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), and Shri Manoj Sinha, Minister of State for Communications (Independent Charge).

In their addresses, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and MoS Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) congratulated the Passport Officers on achieving the goals set and delivering more than 1.17 crore passport and passport related services during the

year 2018. They advised all Passport Officers to renew their commitment towards continuing to deliver passport and its related services to the citizens with greater dedication, consideration and in a transparent and professional manner.

On this occasion, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj launched a new scheme by which an applicant can apply for passport from anywhere in India. She also launched the mPassport Seva Mobile App with additional facilities to apply, pay, and schedule appointments for passport services.

The MEA and Department of Posts announced their ambitious plan to reach out to citizens across India by opening a POPSK in every Lok Sabha Constituency where there was no PSK or POPSK. This would ensure that there is at least one PSK or POPSK available in every Lok Sabha Constituency.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, in recognition of the outstanding services rendered to citizens, gave away Passport Seva Puraskars to the best performing Passport Offices and the personnel of the Service Provider. As Police verification is an important component of passport issuance, awards were also given to the Police Departments of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana in recognition of their efforts in speedy police clearances. The Police Departments of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Maharashtra were awarded for implementation of mPassport Police App in their respective states.



Passport Seva Divas on 26 June 2018

### 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, MEA 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 seventeen 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 handled approximately 14,500 calls per day during 2018 (out of which 54% were in Hindi, 23% in English and 23% in Regional languages). The Passport portal has also an email-based help desk, where suggestions and grievances can be logged. Citizens can also monitor the status of their passport application/grievance online through this portal.



Officials of PSP Division with EAM and other Dignitaries during Passport Seva Divas 2018

A Public Grievance Redressal Cell (PGRC) has been established in the PSP Division under the supervision of Joint Secretary (PSP) & CPO, who is also designated as the Director of Public Grievances of the Ministry for Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). 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 and Central Vigilance

Commission, etc. In addition, all Passport Offices (POs) handle public grievances through the CPGRAMS website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (<https://pgportal.gov.in>) and Passport grievances i.e. Service Request Number (SRN) received through Passport portal. Information and Facilitation Counters, Public Grievance Cell, complaint/ suggestion boxes and Help Desks have been set up at strategic locations in POs and PSKs to assist applicants and to attend to grievances/ complaints expeditiously. The



name, address and phone number of the Public Grievance Officer are also displayed in the POs/PSKs and on website of the POs. There is a Public Grievance redressal mechanism in all POs to enquire into and redress any complaints from citizens in a timeframe.

Under CPGRAMS, 9,281 grievances were received during the period 1 January to 30 November 2018 (inclusive of pending 182 of 2017) out of which 8,663 grievances were disposed off. During this period, 39,434 public grievance petitions (inclusive of 30,153 received by email, post, fax, related to grievances/inquiries and CPGRAMS as mentioned above) were received out of which 38,680 grievances were disposed off. The latest position on their application, along with directions for further action, is posted on the website, which can be accessed by the public.

### 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 7,000 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. Like previous years, 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. In order to intensively go through the entire process of passport services rendered to the public by various PO, PSK, and POPSK located under the jurisdiction of the respective PO, inspection at Dehradun, Lucknow, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru, Jalandhar,

Vishakapatnam, Surat, Pune, Coimbatore, and Madurai were carried out. After the inspections, Passport Offices were advised to take suitable follow up action 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 17 June 2014, a Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) portal has been created online in all Passport Offices. During the year 2018, a total number of 4,231 online RTI applications were received out of which 3,908 were 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 person's u/s 11 of the Passports Act. Joint Secretary (PSP) & Chief Passport Officer is the Appellate Authority, for these cases. In 2018, twelve appeal sessions took place at which forty-one appellants attended the proceedings.

### 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) at Andaman & Nicobar Islands and 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 2,13,084 passports during 2018 (inclusive of 3,212 for Andaman and Nicobar Islands).

### E-Passports

In accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) recommendations to incorporate biometric data in the Machine Readable Travel Documents, India has also decided to upgrade its existing passports and issue chip enabled e-passports to citizens with advanced security features and better printing and paper quality. The Government has given its approval for procurement of electronic contactless inlays for manufacturing of e-passports to India Security Press (ISP),

Nashik. In this regard, the ISP has been authorized to float a Global three-stage tender for procurement of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)-compliant electronic contactless inlays along with its operating system which is required for manufacture of e-passports. Manufacture of e-passport with advanced security features and better printing and paper quality will commence on the successful completion of the tendering and procurement process by ISP, Nashik.

The personal particulars of the applicants would be digitally signed and stored in the chip. In case, anyone tampers with the chip, the system shall be able to identify it resulting in the failure of the passport authentication. Access of information is protected in a way that the chip cannot be read without physical possession of the passport. Thus e-passport provides greater protection against fraudulent practices and tampering.

## 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 interoperable 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.

## VISIT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES TO RPO/PSK/POPSK

The close interest of the Parliament in Passport services was affirmed by a large number of Parliament Questions (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 Offices at Bengaluru on 16 February 2018; Dehradun on 9 June 2018; Delhi on 14 June 2018; Lucknow on 8 September 2018; and Bhubaneswar on 30 October 2018 to review the implementation of Official language in the Ministry of External Affairs and its offices.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs visited the Passport Seva Kendra at Guwahati and Gangtok between 25 May - 1 June 2018. 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.

A Study visit by the Committee on Government Assurances (2017-18) was undertaken to Kolkata on 24 August 2018 to review implementation of the Parliamentary Assurances by the MEA pertaining to opening of new Passport Seva Kendras and complaints on exploitation of students by agents and middlemen.



Parliamentary Committee on Government Assurances Meeting held at Kolkata



First Sub-Committee of Parliament on Official Language at Bhubaneshwar

## 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.

As on 1 December 2018, the sanctioned strength of CPO is 2,741. It includes recently created thirty-two posts of Junior

Hindi Translators, nine posts of Senior Hindi Translators and three posts of Assistant Director (Official Language). In addition, fifteen Technical and six supporting staff man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project. There are presently twenty-eight vacancies at Group 'A' level, 235 at Group 'B' Gazetted level, 509 at Group 'B' non-Gazetted, and Group 'C' level totalling to 772. The Staff Selection Commission has been indented to send the dossiers to fill seven vacancies of Group 'B' non-Gazetted level and 134 of Group 'C' level. The vacancies at Group 'A' level are filled up by taking officers on deputation from other Government Departments. Ministry has also deployed 361 Data Entry Operators and sixty Office Assistants (Multi-Tasking Staff) against the vacant non-Gazetted posts for smooth functioning of the Passport Offices through an Outsourced Agency to bridge the gap between the sanctioned strength and the working strength of the non-Gazetted posts.

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 Government of India (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

Regular meetings of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) were held in the CPO during 2018. Two Assistant Passport Officers were promoted to the post of Deputy Passport Officers, fifty-seven Senior Superintendents were promoted to the post of Assistant Passport Officers, 110 Superintendents were promoted to the post of Senior Superintendents, twenty-one Assistant Superintendents were promoted to the post of Superintendents, 373 Junior Passport Assistants were promoted to the post of Senior Passport Assistants, five Stenographers (Grade-III) were promoted to the post of Stenographers (Grade-II)

and seven Office Assistants were promoted to the post of Junior Passport Assistants. Fourteen officials were granted Minimum Assured Career Promotion (MACP) on and 377 officials in various grades were also been confirmed in service by the DPC.

During the year, twenty-five Assistant Superintendents and thirty-five Office Assistants joined Central Passport Organisation through Staff Selection Commission (SSC). Ninety-three vacancies in the Junior Passport Assistant grade have been indented to Staff Selection Commission (SSC).

### Training of CPO officials and creation of Human Resources Development (HRD) Cell

With a view to empowering the officials of Central Passport Organization (CPO) cadre for more effective delivery of services in a time-bound manner, training programmes are being regularly organized by the HRD Cell of the PSP Division. These programmes significantly contribute to strengthen MEA's role as a training facilitator that brings into focus training as a very important aspect of human resource management particularly in an area of vast public demand for expeditious disposal of passport related matters.

Mid-Career Training Programmes for the officials of CPO Cadre were planned for the year 2018-19. During the period, a five-day training programme was organized in January 2018 for forty-six Assistant Superintendents. Thereafter, training programmes were organized for Senior Passport Assistants of CPO in two phases. In the first phase, four batches of five-day training courses were organized from March to May 2018 at which a total of 162 participants were trained. In the second phase, seven batches of five-day training programmes were organized from July to October 2018 at which a total of 372 participants were trained. A five-day training programme for nineteen Junior Hindi Translators was organized from 3-7 December 2018 followed by a five-day training programme for twenty-three Stenographers from 17-21 December 2018. The total number of officials of the CPO cadre imparted training between August 2016 and November 2018 is 1,322.

Training programmes have been planned for about twenty-six newly recruited Assistant Superintendents and 200 Senior Superintendents and Assistant Passport Officers during 2019.

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## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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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.

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## **VISAS**

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### **Visa Issuance by Missions/Posts abroad**

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 31, 80,561 visas during the period from January 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018. Apart from regular visas, 21, 82,532 electronic Tourist Visas (e-TVs)/e-Visas were issued during the aforementioned period.

### **Simplification of visa regime**

- (a) With a view to liberalise and simplify the visa regime of India, the Government has decided to extend the facility of 5 years Tourist and Business visas to the nationals of most of the countries. A new category of Permanent Residency Status has been granted to foreign investors.
- (b) Permitting submission of application for employment and business visas from anywhere in the world (earlier employment and business visa applications could be submitted only in the country of origin or country of domicile).
- (c) Permitting clubbing tourism with any type of visa. A foreign national (other than a Pakistan national) coming to India on any type of visa is allowed to avail activities permitted under Tourist Visa.
- (d) On Student Visa, number of entries in an academic year has been increased from three to four.

### **Facilities for promoting cruise tourism**

To promote cruise tourism, immigration facilities have been provided at five major seaports i.e. Mumbai, Cochin, Mormugao, Chennai and New Mangalore where e-Landing

Permits are granted to passengers for their on-shore sight-seeing. The condition of biometric enrolment for such tourists arriving at these ports has been suspended till December, 2020 to ensure faster immigration clearance so that cruise tourists can spend maximum time on shore.

### **Visa-on-Arrival**

Visa-on-Arrival was introduced for Japanese nationals in March 2016 with double entry for a period not exceeding 60 days for business, tourism, conference and medical purposes for entry through 6 designated international airports in India i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. The Visa-on-Arrival facility on the same terms and conditions has been extended to South Korean nationals' w.e.f. 1.10.2018.

### **Visa Issuance by CPV Division**

The Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV) Division has issued 5597 visas to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders during the period from January 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018. The CPV Division also issued 9071 visa notes during the aforementioned period to Indian Government officials going to join Indian Missions/Posts abroad on transfer and official engagements.

### **e-Tourist Visa (e-TV)**

E-Tourist Visa (e-TV) has now been extended to the citizens of 166 countries/territories. A foreign national can apply for an e-Visa online, up to 120 days prior to the expected date of arrival in India. The e-Visa facility is available at 26 designated international airports and 5 seaports in India.

# 22

## OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

Consistent efforts have been made by the Ministry to generate awareness on safe and legal migration. The major developments with respect to this division are as follows:

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### WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF INDIAN WORKERS

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The resident Indian community in the Gulf region is nearly 9 million strong. Around 70% of them are blue-collar workers. Conscious of the fact that our low and semi-skilled workers are vulnerable and at times are subjected to exploitation and harassment by foreign employers as well as unscrupulous recruitment agents, Ministry has further strengthened the ecosystem that supports migrant workers in all stages of migration cycle pre-departure, in countries of destination as well as on return.

The Ministry continued to make robust efforts towards ensuring a safe, orderly, legal and humane migration process. This included a broad-based institutional framework for welfare and protection of migrant workers and awareness generation through Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) programmes. It is important that migrant workers should migrate safely with an enhanced skills set. The message being: “Surakshit Jaaye, Pratikshit Jaaye, Vishwas ke Saath Jaaaye”

The Ministry focused on the following towards creating necessary awareness and sensitizing migrant workers on their rights and responsibilities:

- (i) **Development of Manuals and Handbooks with standardised content:** Comprehensive manuals for Training of Trainers for PDO and handbooks for emigrants with a standardised content have been developed in Hindi, English, Bangla, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu languages under the aegis of India Centre for Migration (ICM). E-books have also been developed.
- (ii) **Rolling out of Pre-Departure Orientation Programmes:** Pre Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) programmes are aimed at enhancing soft skills of our migrant workers in terms of culture, language, tradition and local rules and regulations of the destination country, to sensitise migrant workers about pathways to safe and legal migration and



various government programmes for their welfare and protection. For the first time ever, One-day Pre-Departure Orientation Training programmes were rolled out by the Ministry in Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi and Lucknow under a

standardised format. Over 30,000 migrant workers were imparted PDOT through the year. The initiative has been a success and will be expanded further.



External Affairs Minister at Indian Community Organizations working for Indian Nationals in Distressed Situation (May 05, 2018)

(iii) **Expanding collaboration with States:** Comprehensive emphasis was given in expanding Ministry’s collaboration with States. A consultation meeting was held with major labour-sending states and Assam on 3 July 2018 to sensitize them about the institutional framework on emigration related matters and expanding the PDO programs by the State Governments. In this context, the Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops were organized by the Ministry in collaboration with India Centre for Migration (ICM) and state governments aimed at generating awareness and to sensitise participants about the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration and welfare and protection measures of the Ministry for the migrant workers. TOT programmes are aimed at capacity building of States to enable them to take the PDO programmes at the grass-root level in the major labour

sending districts. The participant comprised of officials from the Labour/Employment/Skill Department, local media, and academia.

During the last one-and-half years, 14 such workshops have been organized. Awareness Generation and Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops have been conducted in eight states i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Rajasthan, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in coordination with the concerned Departments of the State Government. Proposals have been received from State Governments for designation of the centers suggested by them as PDO centers for imparting PDO training to migrant workers.

During year 2018-19, a total of six such workshops were held as per the following details:

S. No.	State	City	Partners	Dates	No. of trainees certified
1.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	ICM, IOM & RSLDC	29-30 May 2018	112
2.	Punjab	Chandigarh	ICM, IOM & Dept. of NRI Affairs	8-9 June 2018	68
3.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	ICM and RSLDC	28-30 August 2018	29
4.	Bihar	Patna	ICM and Labour Dept, Bihar	25-26 September 2018	36
5.	West Bengal	Kolkata	ICM and Labour Dept, West Bengal	26-27 November 2018	41
6.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	ICM and Labour Department, Kerala	11-12 December 2018	23
				<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>

**Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY)**

The Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is among the key priorities of the Ministry towards enhancing skill-set of potential emigrants. The scheme, a [partnership between the Ministry and Ministry of Skill Development and Training (MSDE)] is aimed 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. 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). Presently, sixteen such Centres have been set up in different parts of the country. Their performance is under review by the MSDE.

**Migration and Mobility Partnerships**

Migration and Mobility Partnerships has been an important pillar of cooperation aimed at harnessing our demographic dividend and fostering mobility for our students and professionals.

A Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement was signed between the Government of India and the Government of the French Republic on 10 March 2018 during the State visit of the French President Mr. Emmanuel Macron to India. The Agreement represents a major milestone in enhancing people-to-people contacts, fostering mobility of students, academics, researchers and skilled professionals and strengthening cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between the two sides. The Agreement is a testimony to India’s rapidly expanding multi-faceted relationship with France and symbolizes



the increasing trust and confidence between the two sides. The Agreement is initially valid for a period of seven years, incorporates provision for automatic renewal and a monitoring mechanism through a Joint Working Group.

The India-Denmark second Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting was held on 8 & 9 August 2018 at Copenhagen under the framework of India-Denmark Memorandum of Understanding on Labour Mobility Partnership. During the JWG meeting, both sides agreed to facilitate and encourage exchange/movement of students, interns, researchers, tourists, highly qualified professionals in sectors like health, etc which would assist in further deepening the existing cooperation in mobility between the two sides.

The High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) matters has been an important feature of India-EU bilateral partnership. As a follow up to the signing of India-EU Joint Declaration on Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility

(CAMM) in March 2016 and India-European Union (EU) HLDMM in Brussels in April 2017, both sides agreed to move forward through technical collaboration and undertaking projects on areas of mutual interest under CAMM. The EU side has identified International Labour Organization (ILO) and Brussels based International Center for Migration and Policy Development (ICMPD), whereas Indian side has identified India Center for Migration (ICM), a think-tank of MEA on international migration related issues, as the implementing partners for the project. The first meeting of Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Technical Project was held on 1 June 2018 in New Delhi. The focus areas inter alia include matters 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 Member States, easier access for our professionals/work force to EU markets and to push for greater mobility through liberalization of services and cooperation on irregular migration.

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## COOPERATION ON LABOUR AND MANPOWER RELATED ISSUES

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The Labour and Manpower Cooperation MOUs/Agreements are in place with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates) and Jordan that provide the overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower related issues. Discussions were held with visiting delegations on various aspects of labour and manpower cooperation related

issues. A comprehensive MOU on cooperation in recruitment of domestic workers with Kuwait was initiated during the visit of External Affairs Minister to Kuwait on 31 October 2018. India also actively participated in regional consultative processes notably the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and Colombo Process.

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## INDIAN COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND (ICWF)

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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. The revision of ICWF guidelines w.e.f. 1 September 2017 have provided Indian Missions and Posts abroad greater flexibility in swiftly addressing to requests for assistance by Indian nationals abroad. The guidelines cover three key areas: (i) assisting Overseas Indian nationals in distress situations (ii) support for community welfare activities and (iii) improvement in consular services.

During the course of the year, ICWF was effectively used in

rendering assistance to Indian nationals in Amnesty schemes in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Around 1700 distressed Indian workers of Kuwaiti company Kharafi national were also extended assistance through the Fund. The 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. Since its inception, there are over 1,30,000 beneficiaries of the Fund. Around 90,000 Indian nationals have benefitted from the Fund since 2014.

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## REVAMPING OF PRAVASI BHARTIYA BIMA YOJANA

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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 comprehensively revamped w.e.f. 1 August 2017 in consultation with concerned stakeholders, had been made simple and more beneficial for emigrant-workers and is aimed at expeditious settlement of claims. Over 330,000 PBBY policies were issued to ECR category workers during the year.

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## INDIA CENTRE FOR MIGRATION

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The India Centre for Migration (ICM) is a research think-tank of the Ministry on all matters related to international migration. As a part of its commitment on issues concerning international migration, the ICM organized various capacity building workshops on safe and legal migration in collaboration with State Governments. During the course of the year, ICM positioned itself as a resource hub on all PDO programmes. Comprehensive Manual on Pre-Departure Orientation for Migrant Workers were rolled out in six different languages viz. English, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Bengali.

Likewise a Handbook on Pre-Departure Orientation containing valuable information for Migrant Workers has also been developed. The initiatives taken in this regard have been appreciated by all the stakeholders and ICM is keen to increase such activities in the coming years. Apart from collaborating with international organizations like ILO, IOM and different academic institutions, ICM was also designated as implementation partner of the Indian side for the India-EU technical project for the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM).

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## OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS DIVISION - II

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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.

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## PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

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Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated once in every two years to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots in India. During the Convention, selected overseas Indians are also honoured with prestigious “Pravasi Bharatiya Samman” Awards, to recognize their contribution in various fields both in India and abroad.

Traditionally, PBD is celebrated from 7-9 January, however, in reverence to the sentiment of larger Indian Diaspora, PBD was organized on 21-23 January 2019 to enable foreign participants to participate in Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj on

24 January 2019 and to witness Republic Day Parade at New Delhi on 26 January 2019. An “Indian Handicrafts and Cultural Bazaar” and an Exhibition, titled Ancient India: Modern India” would be parallel to PBD Convention at the venue to portray significant developments and progress made by the Government of India, highlighting specific schemes and initiatives launched by the Government and various State Governments.

Three PBD Conferences were held during the year on themes: ‘Indian Diaspora’s role in capacity building of Artificial Intelligence in India’, Role of Indian Diaspora in

capacity building for affordable waste management' and 'Role of Indian Diaspora in capacity building for affordable solar

power'. Their recommendations and action taken reports would be presented in the PBD Convention.

## PROMOTION OF CULTURAL TIES WITH DIASPORA (PCTD)

Under PCTD, OIA-II Division provides grants to Indian Missions and Consulates to support their initiatives aimed at strengthening ties with the Overseas Indian Community; to preserve, maintain and showcase their Indian heritage and culture. Grants are provided to think-tanks and other organizations in India which organize events pertaining to

the overseas Indian community. Missions/Posts were asked to organise events to encourage more participation in Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention. Financial assistance to 14 Missions/Posts has been given in this connection.

## BHARAT KO JANIYE QUIZ (BKJ)

The first round of the second edition of Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz was organized all over the world for three categories of participants viz. NRIs, PIOs/OCIs and Foreign Nationals in November 2018; around 40,000 people registered for the quiz. The third category (foreign nationals) was later added following announcement by Prime Minister at the Heads of Missions' Conference in July 2018. The winners

of the first round were awarded gold/silver/bronze medals by our Missions abroad in January 2019. Top ten rankers of the second round from each category were subsequently invited to India for Bharat Ko Janiye Yatra and participated in the third and fourth rounds of the Quiz. The winners of the fourth round were awarded medals by Prime Minister during PBD Convention 2019.

## KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME (KIP)

With an aim to help PIO youths familiarise with their roots and contemporary India's art, culture and heritage and provide them an exposure to the country of their origin, Know India Programme was launched by the Ministry in 2003. During the year 2018-19, the Government of India has announced ten Know India Programmes including six regular KIPs, two Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojanas, one Golden Jubilee edition

and one Bharat Ko Janiye Yatra. The Government has already conducted 49 editions of KIP with the participation of 1652 youth diaspora till date. As a special gesture, in addition to participants of Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana, 50th (Golden Jubilee), 51st and 52nd KIP groups would also be attending the PBD Convention 2019.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR DIASPORA CHILDREN (SPDC)

Scholarship Programme for Diaspora children was introduced in 2006-07 to make higher education in Indian Universities/Institutes in different fields (except Medical and related courses in India) accessible to the Diaspora children and promote India as centre for higher studies. Presently, under the scheme, 150 scholarships are awarded to PIOs/NRIs/Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries up to an amount of US\$ 4000 per annum for pursuing undergraduate courses

in Central universities in India, institutions accredited "A" grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council and recognised by University Grants Commission and other institutions covered under the DASA Scheme. The Ministry has finalised 106 candidates for receiving scholarship for the academic year 2018-19.

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## **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AND MEDIA PLAN**

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Ministry has 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 to 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.

Advertisements on 'Safe and Legal Migration' were published in two leading dailies of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana,

Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Punjab, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal once a week on Saturdays during the month of September 2018. Awareness campaign was also telecast in Hindi and eight regional languages on prime channels/DD News for one month from 16 July-16 August 2018. This campaign was also extended from 17 August - 17 September 2018. This campaign was also run once again to ensure sufficient outreach for one month beginning 11 December 2018 on Doordarshan, Lok Sabha TV, Rajya Sabha TV and also on private channels.

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## **NRI MARITAL DISPUTES**

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The OIA-II Division in recent years has launched several initiatives aimed at the welfare and protection of Indian women married to NRI spouses, with a citizen centric approach, proactively, in various ways. From 1 April-30 November 2018, the Ministry has addressed 912 complaints by way of providing them counselling, guidance and information about procedures and mechanisms. During

the year, the Integrated Nodal Agency, which is headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, has held eight meetings and has issued five Look Out Circulars against the erring spouses. The INA is functioning as an effective body and providing a single window timely solution to the problems of affected women.

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## **MEA-STATE OUTREACH CONFERENCES**

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MEA in recent years has launched several initiatives aimed at welfare and protection of the overseas Indian community and strengthening our engagement with the Indian Diaspora worldwide. With this objective, MEA initiated State Outreach Programmes under the banner "Videsh Sampark" in 2017,

which is an in-depth dialogue between Ministry and the State governments. Under Videsh Sampark initiative, during the year 2018, the Division held State Outreach Programmes in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

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## **OE AND PGE DIVISION**

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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 the Middle East, 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. Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders require emigration clearance when going abroad for employment to the 18 designated ECR countries.

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 Bareilly 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' for safeguarding the interests and welfare of 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	2015	2016	2017	2018 (as on 30.11.2018)
1.	Delhi	185632	101000	62536	49230
2.	Chandigarh	36815	30317	44294	24653
3.	Jaipur	47573	31957	13205	15290
4.	Rae Bareli	16468	18937	7068	5465
5.	Hyderabad	48760	39006	41839	38741
6.	Cochin	24079	16932	12392	10134
7.	Trivandrum	18772	8872	2453	1836
8.	Mumbai	353591	231609	170787	132414
9.	Chennai	41665	27491	26567	24976
10.	Kolkata	10797	14817	9883	9540
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>784152</b>	<b>520938</b>	<b>391024</b>	<b>312279</b>

Now 'Seafarers' from India also have to register on the e-Migrate system, before proceeding for overseas

deployment since September 2017. This has brought down the complaints pertaining to seafarers.

## TRENDS IN MIGRATION

During the year 2018 (as on 30 November 2018), 3.12 lakh workers emigrated from India after obtaining emigration clearance. Country-wise numbers of emigration clearances

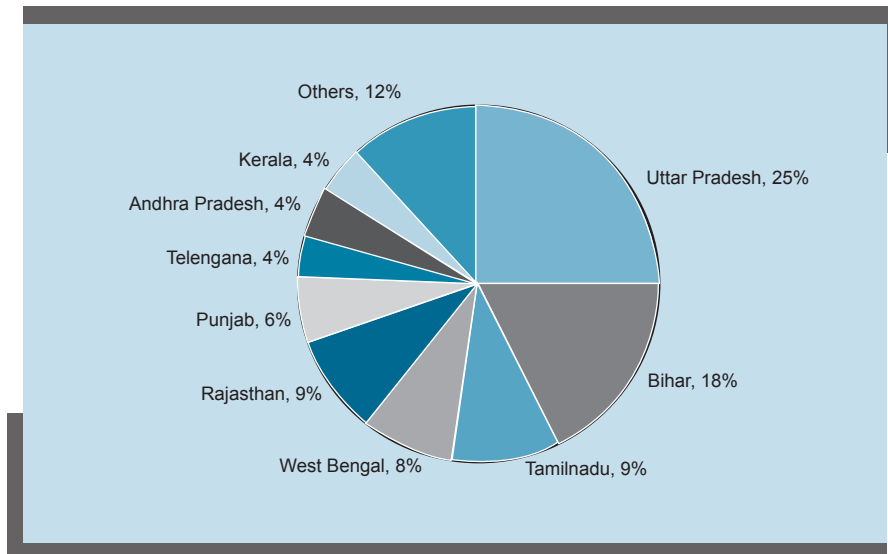
given for emigration to major ECR countries during the current year are given in the table below.

## WORKERS EMIGRATED (IN LAKHS)

SL. No.	Name of Countries	Year-2018 (30.11.2018)
1.	Saudi Arabia	0.66
2.	UAE	1.03
3.	Kuwait	0.52
4.	Qatar	0.32
5.	Oman	0.32
6.	Bahrain	0.09
7.	Malaysia	0.16
8.	Others	0.02
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.12</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 2018 (30 November 2018) are depicted in the pie chart below.



## 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 destinations countries. Some of them are as follows:

- (a) To safeguard the Indian Nurses 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 Order with additional Terms and Conditions to be followed by both Foreign Employer and Indian Recruiting Agent.
- (b) Of all emigrant workers, housemaids and female (ECR) workers are the most vulnerable categories. To safeguard their interest, the following measures have been taken:
  - Age restriction of 30 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\$2500 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 (RA) (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 2018 to 30 November 2018, a total of 324 complaints were forwarded to the concerned State Governments. The State Governments/Police authorities in turn, after investigation seek prosecution sanction from the Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs 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 Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs. From 1 January 2018 to 30 November 2018, fifteen 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 traffick 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 under Chapter 3.5(f) of CBI Crime Manual for taking action in the matter.

A Conference chaired by External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj was organised on 10 January 2018, in New Delhi in which NRI Ministers from most of the States, including Chief Minister of some states, 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 his/her 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 2018 to 30 November 2018 in respect of Recruiting Agents are as under:

Sl. No	Name of activity	Status
1	Fresh Registration Certificate Issued	109
2.	Renewal of Registration Certificate done	258
3	Deficiency Letters issued	245
4	Bank Guarantees released on closure of Agency	83

5	Approval granted for change of address, branch office, name of office bearers etc	122
6	Action against registered Recruiting Agents-issue of Show Cause Notice (SCN)	61
7	Prosecution Sanction/Letter to State Government against illegal agents	15
8	Numbers of complaints referred to State Governments	324

## **PRAVASI BHARATIYA KENDRA (PBK)**

The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK), consisting state-of-the-art auditorium, multi-purpose halls, Conference and seminar halls, and twenty-four guest rooms primarily meant for OCI/PIO card holders, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2 October 2016. The Kendra, located at the heart of the Capital (15A, Rizal Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi), is a tribute to the overseas Indian community; and commemorates their migration to various parts of the world, the challenges they faced abroad, their achievements and contributions.

High level meetings/ conferences take place regularly at PBK. To name a few, all PBD Sessions and meeting of Steering Committee of PBD, closing ceremony of the year long celebrations commemorating 70 years of India-Russia diplomatic relations, 9th HOM Conference, International Day of Yoga, Launch of the book titled 'Exam Warriors' authored by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, 1st PIO Parliamentarians Conference, celebration of 4th Anniversary of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, India-US-Japan trilateral DG level talks, United Nations Environment Programme's Champions of the Earth Award Ceremony 2018 conferring the Award on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, several high level events of Niti Ayog and Election Commission of India, among other high level events organised by the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, have taken place at PBK. A total of 193 events have taken place at PBK during the period from January to November 2018, including two President of India level events, four Vice President level events, and three Prime

Minister level events. Around fifteen events are scheduled for December 2018.

An interactive digital museum namely, 'Mahatma Gandhi Ek Pravasi' is being exhibited on the first floor of the Kendra depicting life of Gandhiji in South Africa and his return to India; his role in independence movements and his journey of becoming a mass leader in India. Thus far, the museum has witnessed more than 6000 footfalls from over eighty one countries including over thirty five Ambassadors / High Commissioners/ foreign delegations. Also, more than 4100 students from various schools and colleges in and around Delhi have undertaken educational tours of the exhibition.

The PBK Library is a valuable repository of writing and literature about the Indian Diaspora. It has collection of over 3500 books; some related to the trials and tribulations of the Diaspora, their histories, genealogies, evolution, empowerment, education and the present status. It also has a special corner of literature from major Diaspora countries, their current publications and magazines. Literature in all national languages is available at the library including periodicals, books and digital material. With an emphasis on digital material, the library provides access to major digital knowledge networks in India. Work stations are available in the Library for on-site study/ reading.

Over time, the Kendra is developing into a hub of activities for sustainable, symbiotic and mutually rewarding economic, social and cultural engagement between India and its Diaspora.





# 23

## ADMINISTRATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

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### ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

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Administration Division's constant endeavour is to optimise manpower utilisation by managing the human capital of the Ministry both at Headquarters and 186 Indian Missions/Posts abroad. To this end, the Division oversees cadre management which involves 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 Government of India (GoI) rules and regulations including for local employees for Indian Missions and Posts.

In pursuance of the Cabinet approval in March 2018 for the opening of eighteen new Missions in Africa during 2018-21, six Missions have been identified to be opened in the first phase. Of these, Mission in Rwanda has already been opened and Missions in Djibouti and Equatorial Guinea will be opened shortly. Preparatory administrative and establishment related work in respect of Missions in Republic

of Congo, Burkina Faso and Guinea are already underway.

The current sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4225 (Appendix V) with almost 53% of these posts being in Missions and Posts. The total strength is distributed across different cadres of the Ministry 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 2018-19 (Appendix VI). The Ministry ensures adequate opportunity for persons with disability for their suitable representation among its personnel in line with Government of India (GoI) rules. Ministry also takes officers on deputation from other GoI Ministries/State Governments and specialized agencies to meet its diverse functional requirements.

The Ministry pays focused attention to the training of all



its cadres along with specialised modules on international law, cyber-security, gender budgeting, accounting, consular and passport services, effective use of social media, etc., as required. Close attention is paid to the 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 VII).

The Division continued to actively utilise 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. Aligned with Government's digital drive initiative, Employees Information System module was introduced during the year and the Ministry continued to use the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) application for executing all its payments.

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## ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION

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Establishment Division looks after the maintenance and upkeep of all office buildings and residential complexes of the Ministry; purchase and supply of office equipment, furniture and stationary; and matters related to purchase and supply of special procurement items and official vehicles for Missions and Posts abroad.

Ministry has actively participated in various Swachh Bharat activities during the year 2018-19. Ministry organised

'Swachhta Pakhwada' from 1-15 January 2018 in all its offices in India and all Indian Missions/Posts abroad. "Swachhta hi Sewa" events were also held between 15 September - 02 October 2018. Shramdaan was conducted in MEA hostels at Chanakyapuri and Dwarka complexes besides in Missions/Posts abroad. To maintain cleanliness and proper upkeep of all its premises in Delhi, weekly Swachhta Inspection was conducted from 16 July - 10 August 2018 by all MEA Secretaries, including Foreign Secretary. All MEA personnel

were also advised to observe fifteen minutes of 'Swachh Time' every day. Many toilets in South Block office were renovated during the year and the remaining are currently under renovation. Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) works in a number of office rooms was also carried out including the installation of compactors to effect space saving and to improve the working environment. Special focus was given for review and weeding out of files/records and disposal of obsolete and unused items/equipment etc.

With a view of phasing out single-use plastic from the Ministry, a plastic audit of the Ministry has recently been carried out by a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) M/s Chintan Environmental Research & Action Group. Its report is under examination and Ministry shall shortly come out with its action plan and guidelines to ban/curtail the use of single-use plastic items in all MEA buildings in India and abroad.

An "Office allotment and inventory Management Portal" is under the process of creation so as to better manage the resources/items in various offices and rooms. The Online Stationery Platform is now fully functional allowing for online requisition of stationery items. Designation based nameplates were installed in all offices in South Block to maintain uniformity.

During the period from 1 April 2018 - 30 November 2018, forty-eight proposals for replacement/purchase of official vehicles in our Mission/Posts abroad were processed and sanctioned by the Ministry. Ministry is in the process of getting approval from Ministry of Finance for designating MB E 450 4M as the approved model of flag car, following

discontinuation of the production of MB E 400 4M. Ministry has also simplified the process of reimbursement on the purchase of newspaper and magazines for residences of the entitled officers. Efforts are ongoing to install video conference facilities in all the remaining Indian Mission and Posts.

Following Government's decision to set up a repository for gifts received from domestic sources, necessary guidance was provided to the concerned department and best practices of MEA's Toshakhana were also shared with it. With a view to augment the shortfall of Object d'Art (OdA) items for display in Missions/Posts and at Headquarters, a number of items from Toshakhana were transferred to OdA Cell.

In 2018-19, in addition to the regular maintenance of the MEA Hostels & Residential Complexes, facilities like construction of badminton court, upgradation of solar water heaters, refurbishing of children's park and demarcation and painting of parking areas were completed. "Swachhata hi Sewa" was observed from 15 September - 2 October 2018 and areas surrounding the residential complexes were cleaned and garbage bins installed during this period. LED lights have been installed in all the Housing complexes. As a result of consistent efforts, a quota of fifty flats has been allotted to MEA pool by Directorate of Estates to cater to the housing requirements arising due to the redevelopment of two MEA complexes. The new policy of mandatory application under General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) while seeking MEA pool accommodation has also been adopted during the period of report.

## GLOBAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT (GEM)

A plot of land has been acquired for construction of Videsh Bhawan in Hyderabad. In Hamburg, a built-up property for Chancery has been acquired. Acquisition of property for Chancery for Missions/Posts in Nairobi and Munich is in the final stages. Properties for Chancery have been identified for acquisition in Mexico City, Kyiv and Bishkek. GEM Portal is likely to be launched in 2018.

There are two new construction projects in Phuentsholing and Kabul followed by nine ongoing construction projects namely, Nicosia, Tashkent, Addis Ababa, Islamabad, Port

Louis, Port of Spain (MGICC), Wellington, WHS (Port Louis) and Khartoum. There are six construction projects which are nearing completion namely, Warsaw, Abuja, Dar-es-Salaam, Bahrain, Dhaka and Kathmandu.

During the period under report, comprehensive renovation of the Chancery in Bangkok has been completed. Various R & M works at Embassy Residences in Accra, Kingston, Brussels, Capetown, Harare, Seoul, Kathmandu, Berlin, Brasilia, Bratislava Consul General (CG)'s Residences in Houston, Hong Kong (Bharat Bhawan), Frankfurt and Chancery in

Beijing, PMI, New York, Jakarta, Herat, Jalalabad have been approved and are being carried out. Major renovation projects at Atlanta, Belgrade, Dar-es-Salaam, Harare, Moscow, New York, Ottawa, Washington, Yangon, Paris, Port Louis, Port of Spain, Washington and Warsaw are in various stages of development ranging from appointment of consultant, preparation of architectural drawings and awarding of works to contractors to actual ongoing renovation. Renovation of

Chancery in Dublin is going on at full swing.

Renovation works at Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) / Protector of Emigrants (POEs) at Hyderabad, Lucknow, Bareilly, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram have been awarded to Central Public Works Department (CPWD).

Interior Renovation and Refurbishment of Receptorium at Air Force Station (AFS) Palam is also going on in full swing.

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## WELFARE DIVISION

Welfare Division looks after the general welfare of all employees of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). During the ongoing year, the MEA lost five employees for whom necessary assistance was rendered by the Section and ex-gratia payment from MEA Staff Benefit Fund was made to the bereaved families.

Welfare Section handled death cases and cases of compassionate appointments. Nine such applicants under the compassionate appointment category were appointed in the Ministry as Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) & Junior Secretariat Assistant (JSA) through a selection committee constituted for the purpose.

Five wards of MEA officials were accorded admission to MBBS Course and thirty-three wards were accorded admission to engineering courses. The selection of the candidates was done in a transparent and time-bound manner, through a committee constituted for this purpose.

Thirty three seats in Kendriya Vidyalaya were utilized by the children of officers and staff of Ministry and other central

government officials posted in Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

Apart from above, various activities viz. organizing fundraising campaigns, the participation of MEA personnel in Inter-Ministry Sports tournaments etc. blood donation camp and organ donation awareness camp were organized by Welfare Division. Welfare Division also assisted Indian Missions/ Posts abroad to set up recreational clubs by providing Grant-in-aid.

The Welfare Division coordinated with Yoga Instructors of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga for conducting Yoga Classes at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan (JNB), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Hostel, K.G. Marg, MEA Housing complexes at Chanakyapuri and Dwarka.

In addition, Welfare Division extended usual help and assistance to officials of MEA returning from Missions to Headquarters for admission of their wards to various public/private schools, obtaining Aadhar cards and PAN cards, etc.

# 24

## RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND CHIEF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

During the year, the Ministry continued efforts towards full implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. In keeping with the 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 and disposal of RTI applications has been implemented in 184 Missions/Posts abroad by aligning them with the RTI web portal.

A total of 1946 RTI applications and 160 First Appeals seeking information under the RTI Act, 2005 have been

received in the Ministry during the period from 1 April 2018 to 30 November 2018 and have been disposed satisfactorily. Applications, in general, covered subject such as foreign relations, administrative issues, Haj pilgrimage, bilateral visits and expenditure incurred on the same.

All the Central Information Commission (CIC) hearings have been attended to by the concerned Central Public Information Officers (CPIO) and a representative of the RTI Cell, the Ministry has received no adverse ruling/remarks from the CIC. Quarterly returns have been filed with CIC as required, on schedule.



# 25

## 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 of External Affairs (MEA), in coordination with National Informatics Centre (NIC) as per the standard norms of Government of India. eG&IT Division is also providing all Information Technology (IT) related support to the MEA 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 MEA 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 MEA and Missions/Posts abroad.

A number of e-governance and automation projects have also been undertaken by the MEA that is in consonance with the aims and objectives of Digital India. Automation and networking are being exploited as tools to achieve synergy at all levels of functioning in the MEA and render efficient services to government officials. eG&IT Division has fully implemented several e-governance projects and some of them are still being implemented. The following e-governance projects have been implemented:-

- **Foreign Service Institute (FSI) Alumni Portal (<https://fsialumni.gov.in>).** The portal helps in registration and management of the alumni of the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi, thereby enabling connection between the MEA and the foreign diplomats who have undergone training at FSI under various programmes.
- **E-Audit Portal (Audit Para Management Portal).** This portal facilitates the online reporting and monitoring of various audit paras raised by the Comptroller and





Auditor General (C&AG) and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to various spending units within the MEA like the Divisions and the Missions/ Posts.

- **Revamped Know India Programme (KIP) Portal (<https://kip.gov.in>)**. This portal facilitates the flagship diaspora engagement programme of the MEA by providing information to the users regarding KIP schemes, enabling them to register for the programme and follow their applications. This site was revamped to include modalities for application of newly introduced KIP schemes like Self-Financing KIP and Golden Jubilee KIP.
- **Revamped Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) website (<https://pbdindia.gov.in>)**. The existing website of the PBD 2017 was revamped to provide user registration module for the latest edition of PBD and to reflect updated information about the same in an enhanced design format.
- **Diplomatic Identity Card Registration and Issuance System**. This portal is intended to streamline the process of issuing identity cards to foreign diplomats posted in India while improving the security features in the existing identity cards, making their validation easier. The project has been completed and is awaiting formal launch by the Protocol Division.

Further, the eG&IT Division has undertaken numerous projects that help in improving the internal working of the MEA. These projects are in the nature of infrastructure management software, personnel management software etc. Some of these projects are Online Inventory Management System for Establishment Division, Personnel Management System for Bureau of Security, Annual Performance Appraisal System 2.0 etc.

In addition to the aforementioned implemented e-governance projects, the development work on Integrated Mission

Accounting System Version 2.0, Property Management Website for Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and Global Estate Management Portal are under advance stages of finalisation.

The implemented e-governance projects are rendering the benefits of e-Governance services to MEA officials, other government officials, Non Resident Indians (NRIs) / Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), and beneficiaries of bilateral/trilateral goodwill programmes.

The MEA has consistently pursued a focused approach to optimize Information and Communications Technology (ICT) initiatives for harnessing the dividends of Digital India. This has also resulted in proportionate growth of IT assets in the MEA and ever increasing dependency and reliance on IT applications, thereby necessitating the management of cyber threats. The initiatives taken in this direction are as follows:

- **Upgradation of IT Infrastructure in MEA Buildings:** There has been an upgradation of networking infrastructure in Patiala House and South Block buildings of the MEA.

The security infrastructure at all the buildings of the MEA has been under review and steps are being taken for its constant updation.

- **Cyber Capacity Building:** An online course on cybersecurity has been organised for MEA officials to increase awareness about cybersecurity in the MEA and enable them to manage and mitigate cyber threats. The third online course on cybersecurity is in progress and eighty officials have enrolled for the course.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Panel Discussion on “Role of Indian Diaspora in Capacity Building of Artificial Intelligence in India” was held on 14 June 2018 in Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi wherein Artificial Intelligence experts from India and abroad were invited to present their views on the scope of Artificial Intelligence and its implications for India and to also suggest ways for India to enhance its capacity in the domain.



# 26

## PARLIAMENT AND COORDINATION DIVISION

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### PARLIAMENT DIVISION

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Parliament Division is the Ministry's interface with Parliament and the nodal point of the Ministry for all Parliament-related work. The work includes liaison with all Divisions of the Ministry 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 a Parliament session, the Division also compiles briefs on important issues likely to be raised in Parliament during the forthcoming session for the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the 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 the Ministry's interaction with other Parliamentary Committees.

#### Meetings of the Consultative Committee

During the period from April 2018 to December 2018, the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj chaired two meetings of the Consultative Committee for External Affairs:

- (i) The second meeting (of 2018) of the Consultative Committee was held on 9 August 2018 on the subject "New Initiatives of MEA regarding Consular Services".
- (ii) The third meeting (of 2018) of the Consultative Committee was held on 27 December 2018 on the subject "MEA initiatives for Outreach to States".

A meeting of the Consultative Committee is expected to be held during the period from January to March 2019.



### **Sittings of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs**

Eight meetings of the Ministry were held with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs during the period from April 2018 to December 2018:

- (i) A briefing meeting was held on 2 April 2018 on the topic “Issues relating to migrant workers including appropriate legislative framework and skill development initiatives for prospective emigrants” with particular emphasis on ‘Safety and Security of Indian Workers in Conflict Zones’.
- (ii) A briefing meeting was held on 4 April 2018 on the topic “India-Sri Lanka Relations: Trade and Security including issues of fishermen”.
- (iii) A briefing meeting was held on 14 May 2018 on the topic “India’s engagement with SAARC countries”.
- (iv) Oral evidence from the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs was presented before the Standing Committee on External Affairs on 18 July 2018 on the topic “Issues relating to migrant workers including appropriate legislative framework and skill development initiatives for prospective emigrants”.
- (v) An oral evidence meeting was held on 2 August 2018 on the topic “Issues relating to migrant workers including appropriate Legislative framework and skill development initiatives for prospective emigrants.”
- (vi) A briefing meeting was held on 26 October 2018 on the topic “Indo-Pak Relations in view of new regime in Pakistan.”
- (vii) A briefing meeting was held on 14 December 2018 on the topic “India-Sri Lanka Relations- Trade and Security including issues of fishermen.”

(viii) A briefing meeting was held on 19 December 2018 on the topic "India's strengthening ties with Japan: possibilities ahead."

A sitting of the Standing Committee is expected to be held during the period January to March 2019.

### Meetings of other Committees of Parliament

(i) Oral evidence from the representatives of the Ministry

of External Affairs was presented before the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha, on 23 April 2018 regarding pending Assurances.

(ii) An oral briefing by the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs was held with the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Lok Sabha, 11 June 2018 regarding the Rules/Regulations framed under the Passport Act, 1967.

## 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 MEA 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 the period from April 2018 to December 2018, the Coordination Section issued 2,316 political clearances for such visits.

The Division also handles work relating to the grant of diplomatic clearances for foreign non-scheduled military flights and visits by foreign naval ships. During the period from April 2018 to December 2018, the Section issued 406 clearances for foreign non-scheduled Military flights and thirty-four clearances for visits of foreign naval ships.

The Coordination Division processed approvals for the participation of Indian sports teams and sportsmen in international events abroad, and visits of foreign sports persons/teams to India. Eighty-two such cases were processed for clearance from April 2018 to December 2018.

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 registration and grant in aid to Indo-foreign friendship cultural societies, located in foreign countries.

From April 2018 to December 2018, the Division issued clearances for 1,228 conferences/seminars etc in India. In addition, 120 requests for training/research in India by foreign students/scholars were processed.

The Division coordinates the work relating to the grant of Padma Awards, Gandhi Peace Prize, Tagore Award, Presidential Award of Certificate of Honor to scholars of Indian classical languages etc. Nominations for these awards are obtained by the Division from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and the recommendations of the Ministry conveyed to nodal ministries.

Coordination Division also coordinates the observance of Anti-Terrorism Day (21 May), Sadhbhavana Diwas (20 August), Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (31 October) and Quami Ekta Week (19-25 November) in the Ministry and in Missions/Posts abroad.

Coordination Division also coordinated the Ministry's participation in the Prime Minister's monthly PRAGATI video-conferences on grievance redressal and the review of programmes and projects. It coordinated the Ministry's responses for the Cabinet Secretariat's e-Samiksha Portal. The Coordination Division processed the Ministry's inputs on draft Cabinet notes, Parliament related work, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) 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 with respect to applications solicited from fifty-seven friendly neighbouring and developing countries for MBBS, BDS, B.E., B. Tech., B. Arch. and B. Pharmacy programs in various central institutions/colleges in India under the Self Financing Scheme against seats allocated to the MEA by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Persecuted religious minority migrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan based in India have also been included within the purview of this scheme from academic year 2016-17.

Details of applications with respect to foreign nationals received/processed in the Student Cell for selection against nominated seats during the period from April 2018 to December 2018 are given below:

- (i) Seven applications were received from Nepal and two from persecuted religious minority migrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan based in India for nominations with respect to five post-graduate medical (MD/MS) seats at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi for the academic year 2018-19. All five seats were allotted to Nepal.
- (ii) Ninety-one applications including one from a persecuted religious minority migrant from Pakistan, based in India, were received for nomination/selection with respect to

sixty-eight B.E., B. Tech., B. Arch. & B. Pharmacy seats for the academic year 2018-19. Forty-five seats (including one from a persecuted religious minority migrant from Pakistan) were allotted.

- (iii) 290 applications including twelve from persecuted religious minority migrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan, based in India, were received for nomination/selection against thirty-three MBBS/BDS seats for the academic year 2018-19. Twenty-six seats were allotted to foreign nationals and seven seats were allotted to persecuted religious minority migrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan based in India.

359 cases of political clearances with respect to foreign students for elective-trainings, observer-ships, short/long term training and research projects were also processed when approached by the nodal ministries/departments of the Government of India.

During the period from April 2018 to December 2018, 1,308 cases relating to political clearances with respect to foreign students/nationals appearing in post-graduate entrance examinations were handled by the Education Section. The Section also issued 106 political clearances with respect to foreign students/nationals for admission at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, during the academic year 2018-19.

# 27

## EXTERNAL PUBLICITY & PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DIVISION

In a rapidly evolving communications environment, the External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division (XPD) Division continued to constantly strive to promote a better understanding of our foreign policy priorities to the outside world. This is achieved through our extensive engagement with the media and by enhancing the public diplomacy footprint both in India and abroad. The mantra has been 'people-centric', which is to take the foreign policy domain down to the grass root level, with a series of existing and new initiatives. The digital media and modern tools have been leveraged to maximise our desired objectives.

The Division pioneered three special initiatives during this time. Under the Students and MEA Engagement Programme (SAMEEP), IFS officers go back to their schools or universities and deliver a presentation on the role of the Ministry of External Affairs and on Indian foreign policy. Separately,

XPD Division also launched the 'Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwar' (Foreign Policy at your Doorstep) under which special outreach sessions in State capitals were held for engaging regional media. To cater to curious young minds abroad, the Division launched 'Bharat Ek Parichay' to create a separate India Corner in libraries abroad which will be stocked with fifty-one book titles carefully selected about India.

XPD Division played a nodal role in the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi in India and abroad. Of special note was the launch of a video medley of the Mahatma's favourite hymn, Vaishnava Jana To, performed by singers from 140 countries around the world. The medley was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Swachh Bharat Conference on 2 October 2018. In a unique and ambitious initiative, a LED projection on Mahatma Gandhi was screened in capitals across the world on 2 October.





These efforts have played a critical role in creating awareness of the Ministry and the Government's foreign policy as

proactive and effective, leading to tangible outcomes while enhancing India's stature in the world.

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## ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MEDIA

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### 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 more than fifty visits abroad, to ensure projection of the highlights of the visit. The Division also played a critical role in ensuring media coverage of incoming visits of world leaders and other foreign dignitaries to India.

### Summits/Conferences & Outreach coverage

The Division successfully organised coverage of Delhi Dialogue X on 18 & 19 July 2018 and India-US 2+2 Dialogue on 06 September 2018 in India as well as media coverage of summits that were held during the outgoing visits of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This included the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 in UK on 17 & 18 April 2018; 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in China on 9 & 10 June 2018; Shangri La Dialogue in Singapore on 01 June 2018, BRICS 2018 in South Africa from 25-27 July 2018, East Asia Summit

in Singapore from 4-15 November 2018; G20 in Argentina from 29 November – 01 December 2018.

### EAM's Annual Press Conference

XPD Division organised External Affairs Minister's (EAM) Annual Press Conference in May 2018 which was open to all Indian and Foreign Media. Almost 150 journalists from a number of media houses participated. During the event, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj also launched a coffee table book on four years of the Government's achievements "Unprecedented Outreach, Unparalleled Outcomes." EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj hosted an "Annual Media Lunch for India and Foreign journalists on 14 December 2018.

### Videsh Aaya Pradesh Ke Dwar Initiative

XPD Division launched a new initiative for engagement with the regional media outlets with the objective of widening the footprint of the foreign policy initiatives of the Government.

Three editions of 'Videsh Aaya Pradesh Ke Dwar' (Foreign Policy at your Doorstep) were held in Hyderabad on 22 March 2018, Guwahati on 17 July 2018 and Jalandhar on 28 September 2018. The initiative has also enabled XPD Division to work with Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) in the States to set up a mechanism for regular engagement with regional media.

### Familiarization Visits FY 2018-2019

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. A total of 119 journalists visited India from twenty-five countries during this period from China, Russia, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh, nine countries of ASEAN and eleven Francophone countries in Africa. Division is hosting four more media delegations from South Africa, South Korea, Afghanistan, and Mongolia till March 2019.

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## DIGITAL OUTREACH

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### MEA Website

The MEA's website communicates India's stand on its foreign policy and bilateral relations. The present portal is user friendly, scalable, flexible, consistent and compliant to standard specifications. Knowing the impact, it has on information dissemination, the website has been designed uniformly for Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad. MEA portal serves as the single stop gateway for all visitors looking for MEA announcements; Information on Indian Foreign Policy and relations with other nations; services offered by MEA and its affiliated organisations; links to important Indian websites, information on all Missions/Posts and links to their websites; Public Diplomacy outreach (audio-video content and other print media publications); information on important events like Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, Kailash Mansarovar Yatra etc.; all outgoing and incoming visits of President/Vice President/Prime Minister, Foreign Minister; Indian Treaties Database etc. The MEA web portal is also accessible to visually impaired and hearing disabled visitors. Since its formal launch in September 2012, the web portal has registered more than four crore views and has completely

transformed the digital image of the Ministry. A native mobile app of website (MealIndia) is available in Android and IOS platform, which has more than 2,10,000 downloads <http://mea.gov.in/mea-mobile-app.htm>. The icons of MEA Social Media handles are displayed on right margin of home page for easy access.

### Social Media Platforms

Having acquired a uniform digital identity, the MEA's presence on social media platforms has been constantly growing.

- (a) The followers of MEA India's Facebook page have increased and today the number stands at two million. Missions and Posts abroad have also entered the online space and communicate directly with the local population of the host countries as well as the Indian Diaspora. Today around 172 Indian Missions and Posts 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.

- (b) Twitter is a critical medium for breaking news. Official Spokesperson's twitter account (@MEAIndia) and the Indian Diplomacy Twitter account have showcased an increase of 9.3% in followers to 32.80 lakh. The platforms are used to tweet on India and India's foreign policy. During bilateral/multilateral engagements, Twitter is updated on real-time basis.
- (c) MEA's YouTube channel has a total of 43,634 subscribers with 10,78,332 views and the total minutes viewed at 25,25,591. The figures for Indian Diplomacy YouTube channel are 59,072 subscribers; 21,93,282 views and 74,65,945 total minutes viewed. The combined membership shows a total growth of 48% from previous year.
- (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 an

overwhelming growth of 155% in number of followers to 1,54,250 in the short time that it has been active.

- (f) MEA has also made an entrance on LinkedIn last year and already has 1,645 followers in this short span of time.

The popularity and success of MEA's effort to expand its reach in social media is demonstrated by the continuous growth of followers it witnesses after having established a digital footprint.

- (g) Talks on Mahatma Gandhi - Satya Vaarta: On the occasion of 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, MEA has hosted Satya Vaarta on its YouTube platform which showcases speeches and discussions by people from all over the world influenced by the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and their relevance in modern context.
- (h) LED projection: Story lines and visuals designed on the topic "Relevance of Bapu's message in contemporary world" were projected in more than 100 countries on iconic buildings such as Piccadilly Circus of London, Burj Khalifa, the Wien Museum in Vienna, Buda Castle in Budapest, Palazzo Senatorio in Rome, Prambanan Temple in Indonesia, Museo de Arte in Peru amongst others, taking Mahatma Gandhi's message across the world.

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## **PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND OUTREACH**

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### **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.

Two documentaries were completed during the year namely: Islam and Indian heritage of pluralism, animated film on logo

of World Hindi Conference 2018.

Documentary films: What MEA does, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Rescue Operations by Government of India, Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, India's Foreign Policy, India's Development Cooperation Initiatives, India's Role in UN peacekeeping, Celebrations of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi were also commissioned and are in various stages of production.

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.

An ad-campaign on Safe and legal Migration was run on various media channels in India and was also run on social channels by our mission and posts abroad. An animated film on Hindi logo for World Hindi Conference 2018 was also launched by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and publicized on various media channels in India and social channels by our Mission Posts abroad.

XPD Division extended support to all Missions in commemorating events around national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. This was in the form of making available films, photographs, etc.

In addition to the above, a digital catalogue for documentaries is also being created to facilitate missions for viewing and accessing documentaries.

### Distinguished Lecture Series

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 253 education institutions. The lectures span the length and breadth of the country- from Kashmir to Trivandrum, Kangra to Trichy, Gandhinagar to Mizoram, Jharkhand to Nagaland covering topics as diverse as - India's Act East Policy, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), India's Multilateral engagements, geo-political developments in West Asia, Disarmament and International Security, Cultural and Economic Diplomacy to India and the United Nations. So far, total of 252 lectures have been conducted.

### SAMEEP – Students and MEA Engagement Programme

SAMEEP is an outreach initiative of the XPD division to reach out to the student community in different cities and towns across India. The objective of this program is to familiarise school and college students with the role and functions of MEA, key elements of India's Foreign Policy and success stories and achievements on the foreign policy front. This programme involves visits of Ministry's officers to schools and colleges in their hometown/state during leave, purely

on a voluntary basis; their interaction with the students and sharing with them their experiences of working with the MEA as well. So far twenty-seven such programs have already been organised in Jalandhar, Trichy, Delhi, Sonapat, Imphal, Port Blair, Malappuram, Bangalore, Bijnor, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Solan, Nanded, Bahadurgarh, Ahmedabad, Ulhasnagar, Kalyan, Hassan, Malappuram and Kolkata.

### Globalising the Mahatma Gandhi's favourite hymn

'Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye Je' the famous Gujarati hymn penned by the 15th century poet Narsimha Mehta was one of the favourite bhajans of Mahatma Gandhi who included it into the roster of prayers routinely sung before his meetings. To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, starting 2 October 2018, an exercise was undertaken by the Ministry to have this hymn recorded by famous artists from all over the world. So far, prominent local artists/groups from more than 155 countries have lent their voice to this favourite hymn of the Mahatma. A medley version featuring forty-one countries was released by the Prime Minister on 2 October. Two more fusion videos have been made from the videos of Europe/Eurasian and African countries, which were also screened on 9 January 2019 during the book launching event of "Coffee Table Book on Vaishnav Jan To" by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. One more fusion video from the Arab countries is in the making.

### Books and periodicals

#### (a) Book Committee

The Book Committee is a Public Diplomacy initiative to promote India's cultural diversity, its heritage, its ethos, religions, geography, etc. As part of the 40th Book Committee, 338 titles were selected from among the categories: Indian Classics, Foreign Policy & Affairs, Technology & Popular Science, Hindi & Sanskrit, Art & Culture, Religion & Spirituality, Children's Books, and Politics & Economics. Books are being procured and will be shared with the respective Missions/ Posts in the due course of time.

#### (b) Bharat Ek Parichay

The programme propagates knowledge and understanding of India through establishing dedicated space at libraries of

our Missions/Posts and educational institutions abroad, by sharing a set of fifty-one books comprising twenty known Indian Classics, twenty-one titles in Indian official languages and ten titles as recommended by each Mission/Post abroad. Also, India-themed appurtenances: gift boxes, coasters, bookmarks, and show-cards are being shared for gifting and distribution purposes abroad to increase the outreach.

(c) India Perspectives

The flagship magazine of the Ministry continues to be available in sixteen languages viz. 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 on the website of the Ministry: [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in).

(d) Bapu @ 150

To celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Missions/Posts were dispatched copies of Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography: *The Story of My Experiments with Truth – An Autobiography* (English), and *Satya Ke Prayog – Aatmakatha* (Hindi), for distribution at talk-events organized at schools abroad.

(e) Coffee-Table Books

A Coffee-Table Book, titled: 'Unprecedented Outreach Unparalleled Outcomes', on the completion of four years of the MEA was released in Hindi and English by the EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj.

# 28

## FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

The training programmes at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) have been reviewed, revised, and revamped in terms of content as well as methodology. The focus now is on case study method of teaching and hands-on practical training for imparting essential knowledge and required skills. There

is also a greater emphasis on mandatory mid-career training programmes (MCTPs) at different levels. In 2018, the largest number of training programmes for foreign diplomats were held since the inception of FSI.

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### INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE (IFS) OFFICER TRAINEES

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The IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2017 batch joined FSI for induction level training after completing their Foundation Course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in December 2017 for a six-month-long training, which ended in June 2018.

The training programme of OTs included modules on theories of international relations, foreign policy, bilateral relations with India's neighbouring countries and big powers, and multilateral organizations. Modules on finance, accounts, administration, establishment, consular work, passport and

visa, international law, protocol, economic and commercial diplomacy, defence diplomacy, cybersecurity, domestic policy, hospitality and media management were also incorporated. Soft power and communication skills were also stressed upon.

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.



A Valedictory function was organized on 31 May 2018, presided over by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj. The EAM's Gold Medal for the Best OT of the 2017 Batch, the MoS Silver Medal for Overall Personality, the Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Dissertation, the trophy for Best Committee, and trophies for Best Sports-persons were awarded on the occasion to deserving OTs.

The 2018 batch of IFS Officer Trainees are currently attending the Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie. The thirty-nine Officer Trainees and two Bhutanese diplomats have begun their training at FSI from 10 December 2018 onwards.

### Mid-Career Training Programme-I

Mid-Career Training Programme-I for sixteen Deputy Secretary (DS)/Under-Secretary (US) level officers was conducted from 9-27 July 2018 as per the following schedule:

S. No.	Period	Module	Name of Institute
1	9-11 July 2018	Foreign Policy	Foreign Service Institute
2.	12-14 July 2018	Cyber Security	Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar
3	16-20 July 2018	Management	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
4	23-27 July 2018	Trade Diplomacy & Domestic Policy	Foreign Service Institute
5	19-20 September 2018	State visit	In the allotted State

**Mid-Career Training Programme-II**

Mid-Career Training Programme-II was conducted for forty-

three IFS officers of 2003 and 2004 batches from 3-28 September 2018 as per the following schedule:

S. No.	Period	Module	Name of Institute
1	3-7 September 2018	Foreign Policy	Foreign Service Institute
2.	10-14 September 2018	Management	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
3	15-17 September 2018	Cyber Security	Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar
4	19-20 September 2018	State visit	In the allotted State
5	22 September 2018	Interactive Session on "Indian Diaspora, Multilateral Diplomacy and View from Wall Street"	Consulate General of India, New York City, USA
6	24-28 September 2018	Diplomacy	Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA

**Mid-Career Training Programme-III**

Mid-Career Training Programme-III for twenty-six IFS officers

of 1992 and 1993 batches was conducted from 3-20 July 2018 as per the following schedule:

S. No.	Period	Module	Name of Institute
1	3-6 July 2018	Foreign Policy	Foreign Service Institute
2.	9-13 July 2018	Management	Indian School of Business, Hyderabad
3	16 - 20 July 2018	State Attachment	In the allotted State

**Training Programmes for Commercial Representatives**

A training programme for Commercial Representatives (CRs) from the European Union (EU) was conducted from 25-29 June 2018. Twenty CRs from the EU participated in the programme at FSI.

A training programme for Commercial Representatives (CRs) from Gulf, West Asia & North Africa, Eurasia, and South Asia regions was conducted from 12-16 November 2018 at FSI. Fifteen CRs from the region participated in the programme at FSI.

**Training Programme for Defence Attaches**

A training programme was conducted for nineteen Defence Attaches from 8-12 October 2018 at FSI.

**Indo-US Advanced Licensing and Enforcement Exchange**

Indo-US Advanced Licensing and Enforcement Exchange was conducted for seventy-nine officers from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, and the Ministry of External Affairs from 29 October-2 November 2018 at FSI.

**Training Programme for Programme Directors of ICCR**

A training programme was conducted for fourteen Programme Directors of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on 30 & 31 October 2018 at FSI.

**Non-Representational Grade Training Programme**

Promotion-related training courses for Section Officers/Private Secretaries/Assistant Section Officers/PAs/Steno/



SSA/JSA continued to be conducted on a regular basis. Apart from existing basic training courses (six-day module) in Gol Rules & office procedure, Right to Information Act (RTI) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) specific subjects like IFS (PLCA) Rules, Finance, Budget, Consular, Passport & Visa work etc., Accounts training for two days, IMAS (Integrated Mission Accounting System) for five days and IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, and Foreigner's Registration & Tracking) for two days are imparted on quarterly basis. A five-day module for Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) is also conducted quarterly.

In 2018, the following training courses were organised as part of the training for Non-Representational Grade (NRG) officials from MEA:

- Basic Training Module from 13-20 April 2018 attended by twenty-one participants.
- MTS Training Programme from 26 April-3 May 2018 attended by thirty-five participants.
- IVFRT Training Programme from 1-4 May 2018 attended by fifty-eight participants.
- Accounts Training Programme on 28 & 29 May 2018 attended by 106 participants.
- 69th I-MAS Training Programme from 30 May-5 June 2018 attended by twenty-eight participants.
- 69th I-MAS Training Programme from 6-12 June 2018 attended by twenty-five participants.
- 69th I-MAS Training Programme from 13-19 June 2018 attended by twenty-seven participants.
- Promotion-related Training Programme for Section Officers and Private Secretaries on 14 & 15 June 2018 attended by twelve participants.
- 69th I-MAS Training Programme from 20-26 June 2018 attended by twenty-five participants.
- Typing Test for ASOs on 5 July 2018 attended by twenty-three participants.
- Promotion-related Training Programme for ASOs, ASOs (Cypher), PAs, SSAs, JSAs & Stenos on 9 & 10 July 2018 attended by sixteen participants.
- Basic Training Module from 18-25 July 2018 attended by twenty-six participants.
- IVFRT Training Programme from 1-7 August 2018 attended by 103 participants.
- Accounts Training Programme on 23 & 24 August 2018 attended by seventy-nine participants.
- 70th IMAS Training Programme from 27-31 August 2018 attended by twenty-eight participants.
- 70th IMAS Training Programme from 4-10 September 2018 attended by twenty-six participants.
- 70th IMAS Training Programme from 11-17 September 2018 attended by twenty-four participants.
- MTS Training Programme from 17-24 September 2018 attended by twenty-nine participants.
- Typing Test for ASOs on 26 September 2018 attended by sixteen participants.
- 70th IMAS Retest on 27 September 2018 attended by twelve participants.
- IVFRT Training Programme from 8-11 October 2018 attended by sixty-nine participants.
- MTS Training Programme from 29 October-2 November 2018 attended by twenty-two participants.
- Accounts Training Programme on 13 & 14 November 2018 attended by fifty-nine participants.
- 71st IMAS Training Programme from 15-22 November 2018 attended by twenty-eight participants.
- 71st IMAS Training Programme from 26-30 November 2018 attended by thirty participants.

### Training Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

FSI conducted the following training programmes for foreign diplomats in 2018:

- 2nd Special Course for Somali diplomats from 9 May-8 June 2018, which was attended by twenty-one diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for The Gambian diplomats from 20 June-20 July 2018, which was attended by twenty diplomats.
- 1st Familiarisation Programme for Resident Heads of Mission (HOMs) from Latin American countries from 20-24 August 2018, which was attended by seventeen HOMs.

- 1st Special Course for Nigerian diplomats from 30 July - 10 August 2018, which was attended by twenty-two diplomats.
- 66th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) from 12 September-12 October 2018, which was attended by fifty-one diplomats.
- 1st India-China Joint Course for Afghan diplomats from 15-26 October 2018, which was attended by ten diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Tunisian diplomats from 29 October-09 November 2018, which was attended by fifty-one diplomats.
- 4th Special Course for Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) diplomats from 14-20 November 2018, which was attended by twenty-three diplomats.
- 12th Special Course for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) diplomats from 14 - 27 November 2018, which was attended by fourteen diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Myanmar diplomats from 14-27 November 2018, which was attended by ten diplomats.
- 3rd Special Course for Bangladesh diplomats from 19 November-02 December 2018, which was attended by twenty-five diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Iranian trainees from 26 November-8 December 2018, which was attended by twenty-four persons.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece on 18 June 2018
- The Diplomatic Institute of Suriname on 20 June 2018
- Department of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles on 24 June 2018
- The Emirates Diplomatic Academy of UAE on 25 June 2018
- National Institute of Diplomacy of Cambodia on 29 August 2018
- Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MADS) of Malta on 17 September 2018
- Centre for Foreign Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & East African Cooperation (MFAEAC) of Tanzania on 16 October 2018

### Know India Programme and other programmes

In addition to the training programmes for Indian officers/officials and foreign diplomats, FSI also conducted orientation programme for the participants of the Know India Programme (KIP), students from ASEAN countries, and delegates from the Singapore Diplomatic Academy (SDA). KIP is for Indian diaspora youth. The main purpose of KIP is to reconnect Indian diaspora youth with their Indian roots, heritage, and culture and to promote awareness about different facets of contemporary India.

The following programmes for KIP participants and ASEAN students were conducted by FSI in 2018:

### Memoranda of Understanding

In 2018, FSI signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the following foreign institutions:

- ADA University of Azerbaijan on 4 April 2018
- Diplomatic Academy of Guatemala on 7 May 2018
- Foreign Training Institute of Ethiopia on 9 May 2018
- Strategic Studies and Training Department of Myanmar on 10 May 2018
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands on 23 May 2018
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Somalia on 5 June 2018
- One-day Orientation Programme for students from ASEAN countries on 10 May 2018 attended by 214 participants.
- Orientation Programme for a delegation from the Singapore Diplomatic Academy on 17 September 2018 attended by thirty-eight participants.
- 47th Know India Programme on 28 September 2018 attended by forty participants.
- 48th Know India Programme on 29 October 2018 attended by forty participants.
- 49th Know India Programme on 22 November 2018 attended by forty participants.



# 29

## NALANDA DIVISION

The international footprint of Nalanda University increased in 2017 and 2018. At present, it has around 378 students which includes 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, the United Kingdom, the United States, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. The ideals of Nalanda are bound to attract more students in the years to come.

The year 2018 marked the consolidation of the University's management for opening new schools. The University is currently mandated to offer a total of seven Schools and presently the University is offering post-graduate programmes in four Schools: School of Ecology and Environment Studies; School of Historical Studies; School of

Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions; and School of Languages and Literature/Humanities.

The first phase of construction of the Nalanda University's permanent campus is in progress. The work on tender package 1A for construction of internal roads and earthwork for water bodies was completed in April 2018. The work on tender package 1B (construction of administrative and academic buildings) is underway and expected to be completed in early 2019 (five buildings) and others in early 2020. The work on tender package 1C (construction of residential buildings) was started in September 2018. 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.



# 30

## IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGE POLICY AND PROPAGATION OF HINDI ABROAD

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has a well organized programme for promotion and propagation of Hindi Abroad, which is implemented through its Missions & Posts abroad.

The 11th World Hindi Conference was successfully organized in Mauritius from 18-20 August 2018 in association with the Government of Mauritius. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Mauritius Shri Pravind Kumar Jugnauth. Delegates from forty-five countries participated in the conference.

With an objective to promote Hindi worldwide, a World Hindi Secretariat is setup in Mauritius under a bilateral agreement with the Government of Mauritius. The Budget of the World Hindi Secretariat is shared equally by both the countries. The newly constructed building of the World Hindi Secretariat, entirely financed by the Government of India, was inaugurated by the President Shri Ramnath Kovind in March 2018.

The MEA regularly organizes programmes for popularizing Hindi abroad with the involvement of its Missions & Posts, cultural organizations and associations, including Hindi Pakhwada in September and the World Hindi Day on 10 January every year. Hindi teaching materials, including Hindi text books and children books etc. are supplied free of cost to educational institutions abroad. The MEA also extends financial support to educational institutions abroad.

Hindi language is getting popularity in many foreign countries and people are taking interest in learning Hindi. With the continuous efforts of the MEA through its Missions & Posts abroad and in association with the local organizations & institutions, Hindi is now taught in the territorial jurisdiction of seventy-one Missions & Posts at school and university level. In association with the United Nations, Government of India has promoted the use of Hindi in multiple platforms including the UN Radio, UN social media and UN websites.



The MEA continued to accord high priority to the Implementation of Official language Policy of the Government of India. A Hindi Advisory Committee is working in the MEA

under the Chairpersonship of EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. MEA regularly inspects its subordinate offices to take stock of the progressive use of Official language Hindi in Official business.

# 31

## INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

As part of its academic and intellectual activities, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offered 3,940 scholarship slots to foreign nationals for studying in India under its various scholarship schemes. With the launch of Admission to Alumni (A2A) portal in January 2018, ICCR for the first time executed the admission process through an online portal. As part of its welfare activities, orientation programmes for newly admitted foreign students were organised in various universities in India in September, October, and November 2018 by ICCR in Delhi and its Regional Offices in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, and Guwahati.

The ICCR signed ten MoUs for establishing new Chairs and administered seventy existing Chairs of Indian Studies. The ICCR organized a two-day Orientation Programme on 7 & 8 June 2018 at ICCR Azad Bhavan, I.P Estate, New Delhi for its empanelled Hindi Professors/Teachers going overseas at various Hindi Chairs/Indian Cultural Centres. The ICCR runs thirty-seven full-fledged Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) and two Centres under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model around the world.

The ICCR organized four international conferences/seminars including the third International Conference on Indologist held in St. Petersburg from 26-28 April 2018; 1st International Yoga Conference held in New York City on 20 & 21 June 2018; Seminar on Linguistic Links between Persian and Sanskrit Language (with special reference to Sanskrit Grammarian Panini) in collaboration with the Institute of Humanities and Cultural Studies, Tehran, inaugurated by President of the ICCR, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe on 1 & 2 December 2018; Series of seminars on "Delivering Democracy" were organised in the US, UK, Germany, UAE, and Singapore in January and February 2019. Apart from the aforementioned ones, ICCR supported seven conferences/seminars in India and abroad including those on India's soft power, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". It also organised Virat Hindi Kavi Sammelan in different cities of the UK from 16-30 September and the Vishwa Hindi Sammelan in Mauritius from 17-21 August 2018.

The ICCR launched a lecture series— Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Memorial International Oration — on the





occasion of the World Culture Day on 21 May 2018. The first oration was delivered by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj.

The ICCR under incoming exhibitions organised one Painting Exhibition in Doha, Qatar, and facilitated the visit of Mr. Hasan Al Mulla, a renowned artist of Katara Cultural Village, Doha. It also extended travel grants to six participants from France to participate in The Luxury Symposium 2018. With regard to outgoing exhibitions, the ICCR organised seven exhibitions in 2018.

ICCR sponsored the visit of 128 art groups comprising of 778 artistes to ninety-one countries, who gave 396 performances across the globe. India was the Guest of Honour country at the Cervantino Festival in Mexico held in October 2018. ICCR organized fifty-four performances all over India by twenty-one performing art groups from nineteen countries. Africa festival in May 2018, International Ramayana Festival in October 2018 and Days of Russian Culture of India in October/November 2018 were the major highlights. Sixteen

performances by eminent Indian artistes in honour of visiting foreign dignitaries were also organized by the ICCR. Under its scheme of hosting eminent personalities including academia, ICCR hosted thirty-three visitors from various countries. Prestigious awards, namely, Giesla Bonn Award for 2016 and 2017 and ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award 2017 were conferred in April 2018. Apart from regular bi-monthly issues of ICCR's flagship Hindi Magazine "Gagananchal", a special issue on Vishwa Hindi Sammellan 2018 was brought out. Visit of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Hindi was hosted in May 2018. ICCR also celebrated Hindi Pakhwada in September 2018 with an active participation of ICCR officials. Busts of Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, and Lal Bahadur Shastri were provided to five Indian Missions in France, Mexico, Vietnam, Germany, and Fiji for installation at prominent locations. The ICCR continued the process of digitizing Gosha-e-Azad collection comprised of rare books and manuscripts of Maulana Azad, the Founding President of the ICCR, for maximizing their reach to scholars, the public in general, and conserving the rare documents for future generation.

# 32

## INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS

The Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) undertook numerous activities and initiatives towards the fulfilment of its mandated objectives, to promote the study of Indian foreign policy and international affairs with an objective to develop a body of informed opinion on the subject. It continued with its research on political, economic and security development in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America and Caribbean, and the wider geo-strategic environment. Endeavour remained to address issues that were at the top of the foreign policy agenda and make its research outputs more policy effective. The research undertaken was 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 were regularly posted on its website. Besides

the above output, Council continued with long term research projects, which were published in form of Books and Sapru House Papers. A revamped website of the Council which is more user friendly is expected to be launched shortly. 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 which include dialogues, conferences, seminars, lectures, interactions, round table discussions and outreach activities. It laid priority on engaging a more diverse set of voices in the discussions and debates. Experts and scholars were invited from various think tanks, universities and research institutes across the country, to participate as resources persons. Special efforts were made to involve domain experts/scholars from outside Delhi.



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## RESEARCH

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The current strength of the Research Faculty is as follows:

- a) Director (Research) - 1
- b) Research Fellows - 23
- c) Research Interns (RI) - 1

During the period under review, the Research Faculty of the Council produced one Policy Brief, forty-seven Issue Briefs, fifty-eight View-Points, four Shodh Lekh (शोध लेख) and various articles in the media and other academic journals. They undertook study and research on subjects of major political, security, economic trends and developments in foreign policy and in international affairs. Greater focus was laid on studies on India's immediate and extended neighbourhood, including the Indo-Pacific Region. Country specific policy studies were undertaken 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, APEC, G-20, BRICS

and IBSA were also carried out. Special studies were done on contemporary issues viz. ocean economy, terrorism, development partnerships, cyber security and international economic issues.

In the area of Book Projects, the Council tried to diversify research to include newer and contemporary subjects such as Technology and International Relations, Media and Foreign Policy, Science and Diplomacy, India and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Latin America and the South Caucasus. The Council also took initiatives to fulfill the requirements of the Ministry by undertaking special studies and projects. Briefs/Reports/Discussion papers were submitted to various stakeholders including the MEA.

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, forty-seven Issue Briefs have been translated in Hindi. ICWA instituted the Foreign Policy

Awareness Programme (in Hindi) and sponsored seminars in collaboration with universities/academic institutions, where it was represented by, officials of the Council and one or more Research Fellows.

As part of its outreach activities and to create awareness about foreign policy issues among the youth, ICWA undertook three National Level Essay writing contests among school going students (10-12 standard), and undergraduate & postgraduate students. The winners in both categories, decided on the basis of evaluation by a committee of four

referees, will be invited to a felicitation ceremony at Sapru House.

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 publicize the foreign policy initiatives undertaken by the government. ICWA has received requests from Jammu University, Christ University, Bangalore, and IGNOU.

## PUBLICATIONS

ICWA's publications brought out during the period are as per details provided below:

1. Three volumes of ICWA's Flagship Journal 'India Quarterly' (a reputed peer reviewed journal) was brought out during the period April 2018 - November 2018.
2. ICWA published three books during the period April 2018- November 2018 titled 'China and Eurasian Region: Geographic and Geopolitical Influences' by C. V. Rangnathan and Sanjeev Kumar Eds.; 'India and EU: An Insider's View' by Bhaswati Mukherjee and Legitimacy of Power: The Permanence of five in the Security Council by Dilip Sinha.

## SAPRU HOUSE PAPERS

S.No	Title	Author
1.	Clash of Civilizations Thesis: Mega Narratives Versus Local Narratives and Current Arab Turmoil	Dr. Fazr Rahman Siddiqui
2.	Sapru House Special Series Vol.-2	Ambassador Vijay K. Nambiar
3.	Sapru House Special Series Vol.-3	Ambassador Azad Singh Toor

## ICWA CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/& OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Council's international interactions included participation in and organization of conferences, seminars and lectures at the Council and several partner countries. It expanded and strengthened its dialogues with its MoU partners both at the international and national levels. ICWA's outreach programmes included joint conferences and seminars with several Indian universities and think tanks including Council's national MoU partners.

The Council organized the following events:

Lectures	-	09
Seminars/Conferences	-	08
Bilateral strategic dialogue	-	09
Round Table Discussions/Interactions	-	09
Book Launch/Release/Discussion function	-	02
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>

LECTURES

S.No	Date	Event
1.	27 April 2018	Talk by Mr. V. Srinivas, IAS, Chairman Board of Revenue for Rajasthan & Chairman Rajasthan Tax Board on <i>"The Rise of China in the International Monetary System"</i> <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA
2.	3 May 2018	29th Sapru House Lecture by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Mr. Ivica Dačić, on <i>"Serbia in the region, Europe and the World"</i> <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA
3.	26 June 2018	30th Sapru House Lecture by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on <i>"Regional Affairs"</i> <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA
4.	28 June 2018	Talk by Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, United Nations Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on <i>"The current state of UN Peacekeeping and the way forward"</i> <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA
5.	16 July 2018	Talk by Dr. Lia Rodriguez de la Vega, a professor and researcher scholar from the CARI, Argentina on <i>'The Changing Political Environment in Latin America'</i> <u>Chaired by:</u> Mr. Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, ICWA
6.	7 September 2018	31st Sapru House Lecture by Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', former Prime Minister of Nepal & Co-Chairman of Nepal Communist Party on <i>"Recent Developments in Nepal and Advancing India-Nepal Partnership for Shared Prosperity"</i> <u>Chaired by:</u> Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA, Venue: Sapru House Auditorium
7.	25 September 2018	Talk by Prof. Atsuko Kanehara, Sophia University, Japan on <i>"International Maritime Law and Maritime Security"</i> <u>Chaired by:</u> Mr. Narinder Singh, Former Legal Adviser of the Ministry of External Affairs and Chairman of the UN International Law Commission
8.	16 October 2018	Lecture by Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga, Minister for Foreign Affairs, United Republic of Tanzania on <i>"India-Africa Relations: The Tanzanian Perspective"</i> <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia
9.	30 November 2018	Lecture by Mr. Jose Condugua Antonio Pacheco, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique on <i>"Prospects of Mozambique India Cooperation"</i> Chair: Ambassador Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, President, Association of Indian Diplomats & Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

## SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

S.No	Date	Event
1.	6 & 7 April 2018	Two day National Seminar on <i>"Indian Democracy at 70: Challenges Ahead"</i> Organized by Department of Political Science, Jawaharlal Nehru College, Chakradharpur, Jharkhand <u>Venue:</u> Jharkhand.
2.	13 & 14 April 2018	Foreign Policy awareness programme in HINDI in GDC Memorial College, Bhiwani Two days National Seminar on <i>"Vartaman Bhartiya Suraksha wa Videsh Neeti"</i> <u>Venue:</u> Bhiwani, Haryana
3.	18 May 2018	Second ICWA-LAC International Conference on the theme <i>"India and Latin America &amp; the Caribbean: Strengthening the Partnership"</i> <u>Venue:</u> Brazil
4.	15 & 16 September 2018	International Conference on <i>"Identity and the Politics of Security, Sovereignty and the Challenges of World Politics"</i> <u>Venue:</u> Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
5.	13 & 14 October 2018	National Seminar on <i>"India's Security Challenges and Options: from Internal to Global"</i> <u>Venue:</u> Faizabad -224123
6.	23 & 24 October 2018	National Seminar on <i>"Current Development and its Impact on World Polities: With Reference to BRICS, SCO and Indo-Pacific"</i> <u>Venue:</u> Nainital, Uttarakhand
7.	15 & 16 November 2018	Seminar on <i>"Act East Through North East: India's Way to a New Era of Diplomacy"</i> <u>Venue:</u> Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
8.	29 November 2018	FUNCTION to commemorate the <i>"International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People"</i> Keynote Address: Ambassador Sanjay Singh

## BILATERAL &amp; STRATEGIC DIALOGUES

S.No	Date	Event
1.	23 April 2018	Third Track II Dialogue between India and New Zealand [The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Zealand India Research Institute(NZIRI), Asia New Zealand Foundation (ANZF)]
2.	4 & 5 May 2018	13th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum Meeting <u>Venue:</u> Astana, Kazakhstan

3.	16 & 17 May 2018	First Bilateral Seminar with The Alexandre de Gusmao Foundation (FUNAG), Brazil on “Brazil-India: 70 years of Diplomatic Relations” Venue: Brazil
4.	28 May 2018	ICWA-IFANS Bilateral Track 1.5 Dialogue Venue: Seoul, Korea
5.	13 & 14 September 2018	Fifth “India-Central Asia Dialogue” Jointly organized by ICWA and Center for International Relations Studies (CIRS), Uzbekistan Venue: Samarqand, Uzbekistan
6.	25 September 2018	Fifth ICWA Bilateral Dialogue with Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) Venue: China
7.	28 September 2018	Interaction and Signing of MoU on Cooperation between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) Under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
8.	14 & 15 November 2018	Second ICWA- Russia International Affairs Council (RIAC) International Conference and Signing of MoU between ICWA and RIAC
9.	28 November 2018	International Symposium on the theme “Morocco-India relations: what levers for the establishment of a strategic partnership?” [in collaboration with the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES), Rabat, Morocco]s

## ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS AND INTERACTIONS

S.No	Date	Event
1.	10 April 2018	Round Table Discussion with the visiting Experts from Center for Policy and Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel
2.	30 May 2018	Interaction between Dr. Greg Mills, Director, The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa and Research Faculty of ICWA <u>Chaired by:</u> Mr. Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, ICWA
3.	28 August 2018	Speech by Prof. Yan Xuetong, Tsinghua University, China on “Emerging Bilateralism in Globalization” <u>Chaired by:</u> Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA
4.	4 September 2018	Interaction with Mr. Mohammed Benhammou, President of Moroccan Centre for Strategic Studies (CMES) and Ms. Asmaa Sebbar, CMES Projects and Programs Manager <u>Chaired by:</u> Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA
5.	6 September 2018	Roundtable Discussion on “Iran-India in a Transitional World” with Dr. Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajjadpour, Head, Centre for International Research and Education and President, Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) <u>Chaired by:</u> Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA

6.	6 September 2018	Interaction with Dr. Dan Schueftan - Director of the National Security Studies Center at the University of Haifa, Israel on “ <i>Changing dynamics of the Middle East &amp; International Relations</i> ” <u>Chaired by:</u> Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA
7.	18 September 2018	Round Table Discussion on “ <i>Geopolitical Contentions in West Asia: Implications for Global and Regional Security</i> ” <u>Chaired by:</u> Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA
8.	22 November 2018	Interaction with Mr. Kim Minseok, Director, Institute for Democracy, South Korea <u>Chaired by:</u> Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA
9.	5 December 2018	Interaction with a delegation from Institute for National Security Strategy (INSS), South Korea, Sapru House, New Delhi

**BOOK LAUNCH/RELEASE/DISCUSSION EVENT**

S.No	Date	Event
1.	9 October 2018	Launch of an ICWA publication entitled “ <i>India and EU: An Insider’s View</i> ” [authored by Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee] <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Rajiv Dogra
2.	16 November 2018	Launch of Book on India-Peru Diplomatic Relations “ <i>55 Years of Diplomatic Relations Peru-India Chronology-Main Events 26th March 1963-26th March 2018</i> ”

**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 2018 to 30 November 2018, the Council participated in the following activities:

- 1) 5th Meeting of CSCP Study Group on Nonproliferation and Disarmament held in Seoul, South Korea on 3-5 April

- 2018.
- 2) 32nd Asia Pacific Round Table Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7-9 May 2018.
- 3) 49th Steering Committee Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 9 & 10 May 2018
- 4) CSCAP Meeting on “Global Korea Workshop for Future Asia Pacific Leader” held in Seoul, South Korea on 5-14 November 2018.
- 5) 50th Steering Committee Meeting held in Perth, Australia on 29 & 30 November 2018.



### **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 1,51,553 books, journals, maps, and United Nations (UN) & European Union (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 online 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 major online resources like Project Muse, JSTOR and OPAC, provides a platform for all major research and academic activities for members as well as visitors..

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 through constant up-gradation of its inventory and 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, revamping of the website: [www.icwa.in](http://www.icwa.in), usage of social media tools and global webcasting of important events has been helpful in achieving the ICWA mandate.

# 33

## RESEARCH & INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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### DELHI DIALOGUE X: STRENGTHENING INDIA-ASEAN MARITIME COOPERATION

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The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with the Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS), Association for South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta organized the 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue on 19 & 20 July 2018 in New Delhi. The theme of the 10th Delhi Dialogue was “Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation”. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj delivered the keynote address in the Ministerial Session; Minister of State (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), former MoS Shri M. J. Akbar and Chief Ministers of seven North Eastern States delivered the keynote address in the Ministerial and Special Plenary Sessions, respectively. About 300 delegates including several senior ministers from

the ASEAN Member States along with senior level officials, subject experts, eminent scholars, practitioners, diplomats, academicians, researchers, businessmen, business associations, etc. attended the conference.

The Plenary session covered major themes including Social, Political and Economic aspects of the ASEAN-India Partnership i.e. the 3Cs of Connectivity, Commerce and Culture. The major themes included in the Plenary Sessions are Role of North East in Act East Policy with ASEAN, Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links, India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global Order, Maritime Cooperation: A New Framework for India-ASEAN Partnership, ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology, Development Cooperation, Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Regional Development, Tourism Cooperation and Building Smart Cities.



*EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj, with the ASEAN Head of Delegates of the Delhi Dialogue X held at New Delhi on 19-20 July 2018.*

The Valedictory Session was addressed by Ambassador of Thailand to India Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, and Minister of

Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri.

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## AIIB LEAD-UP EVENTS AND HOST COUNTRY SEMINARS

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The RIS programme on the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Annual Meeting culminated with organizing seven leading events at seven different places in the country on the following themes: Enhancing Port and Coastal Infrastructure: A Primer on Potential Areas (3 & 4 April 2018 at Vishakhapatnam); Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges (19 & 20 April 2018 at Ahmedabad); Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure (3 & 4 May 2018 at Bengaluru); Physical and Social Infrastructure for Regional Development (14 & 15 May 2018, Guwahati); Clean and Renewable Energy (21 May 2018 at Bhopal); Water and Sanitation (31 May & 1 June 2018 at Pune); and Private Sector Participation and Innovation in

Resource Mobilization (11 June 2018 at Mumbai). Eminent experts contributed immensely in in-depth background paper on respective themes of the lead-up events.

The Report entitled '*New Quest for Mobilising Financing for Infrastructure*' was launched by Minister of Finance Shri Piyush Goyal at Mumbai on 25 June 2018 during the Third Annual Meeting of the AIIB. Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis; Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat; Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Sushil Kumar Modi; Minister of State for Finance Shri P. Radhakrishnan also graced the occasion. The Report chalked out a number of policy recommendations which would be found useful by all stakeholders.

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## RIS ENGAGEMENT WITH 3RD AIIB ANNUAL MEETING

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The Government of India hosted the Third Annual Meeting of the AIIB in Mumbai on 25 & 26 June 2018. RIS has worked closely with the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, as the Knowledge Partner with partnership of leading industry associations of India – Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). In the run-up to the 3rd Annual Meeting of the AIIB, RIS also collaborated with State Governments and the Civil Society Organization in order to collectively pursue resource and institutional challenges and enhance gains from connectivity and infrastructure development. Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and President of AIIB Mr. Jin Liqun inaugurated the Third Annual Meeting of the AIIB on 27 February 2018 at New Delhi. Minister for Road Transport and Highways and

Shipping Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri shared their perceptive insights with a large congregation of policy makers, diplomats, bankers, multilateral institutions, industry and other stakeholders.

The themes and cities of the lead-up conferences were as follows: Mass Rapid Transport Systems at Kolkata; Port and Coastal Infrastructure at Vishakhapatnam; Urban Development at Ahmedabad; Futuristic, Resilient, and Digital Infrastructure at Bangalore; Regional Development at Guwahati; Clean and Renewable Energy at Bhopal; Water and Sanitation at Pune; and Private Sector Participation and Innovation in Resource Mobilization at Mumbai.

Based on the lead-up events, RIS has brought out the Report entitled "*New Quest for Mobilising Financing for Infrastructure*".

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## THE ROAD TO BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION (BAPA)+40 THROUGH DELHI PROCESS IV

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RIS jointly organized with the MEA, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) an International Conference on "South-South Cooperation and BAPA+40 – Theoretical Perspectives and

Empirical Realities" on 13 & 14 August 2018 at New Delhi. The focus of this Conference was to strengthen theoretical nuances of South-South Cooperation (SSC) and expansion of the global understanding of development cooperation – its conceptual framework and relevant empirical validations.

The theoretical construct that was taken up for deliberation in this year's Delhi Process focused on creating a structure and an agreement on some of the non-negotiable principles of the SSC and emergence of the development compact as theoretical modeling of modalities involved in the SSC.

President-Elect of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, delivered the inaugural address, and Prof. Amitav Acharya, Distinguished Professor, American University, Washington D.C. gave keynote address. Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS,

chaired the inaugural session and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome remarks. Mr. Jorge Chediek, Director, UNOSSC; Ambassador of Argentina to India Daniel Chuburu; and Secretary (Economic Relations) Mr. T. S. Tirumurti, MEA, honored the conference with special remarks.

The conference collectively underscored the importance of building domestic capacity as a pillar of SSC, not just for countries to take ownership of their own growth narrative but also to benefit better from North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

## SOUTH ASIA FORUM ON SDGS

RIS has been actively engaged with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since the process of their evolution and adoption in September 2015. As part of the major work programme of the SDGs, the RIS pursued for effective implementation of the Agenda of the SDGs in the domestic and international process, particularly, from the Indian point of view focusing on localization of SDGs. RIS is also collaborating with key think-tanks and organizations in India on specific issues related to SDGs to strengthen knowledge partnerships. The NITI Aayog, Government of India, is the nodal agency to coordinate and lead in implementation of SDGs in India. A number of National SDG Consultations were jointly organized by NITI Aayog, RIS and UN India; in which various State/UT Governments also actively participated.

RIS in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and NITI Aayog organised South Asia Forum on Sustainable Development Goals-Subregional preparatory meeting for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) on 4-6 October 2016 at New Delhi.

The meeting came up with subregional perspectives and inputs to the Sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) to be held in Bangkok in early 2019. As the principal platform for follow-up and review of achievements in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the APFSD supports

preparations for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in the context of both the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

Opening remarks were made by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director & Head, UNESCAP South and South West Asia Office (UNESCAP-SSWA); Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, United Nations Resident Coordinator, India and Deputy Minister of Economy of Afghanistan Dr. Ismail Rahimi, Dr. Puspa Raj Kadel, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal delivered the Keynote Address. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, India gave the Inaugural Address.

The meeting held the following sessions: Review of progress and achievements in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in South Asia; Review of selected Goals for HLPF 2019 in South Asia; Review of selected Goals for HLPF 2019 in South Asia: Reporting by the Working Groups and the Way Forward; Subregional perspectives on the 2019 APFSD and HLPF theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality"; Means of implementation of SDGs in South Asia: Identifying key gaps in finance, technology, and capacity-building (SDG 17); Means of implementation of SDGs in South Asia: Indicators, data, statistics and follow-up and review (SDG 17); Regional cooperation for accelerating achievement towards the SDGs; and Wrap up and closing session: The way forward. Experts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India took part in the deliberations.

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## POLICY DIALOGUE ON UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA FOR ACHIEVING SDGS

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RIS in partnership with the UNESCAP and South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) organised Policy Dialogue on Unlocking the Potential of Regional Cooperation in South Asia for achieving Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward on 6 October 2018 at New Delhi.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head, United Nations ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office (UNESCAP-SSWA); Ambassador (Dr.) Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS); Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Co-chair, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) gave the opening remarks. Joint Secretary in Ministry of Commerce and Industry Mr. Rajneesh delivered Special Address and

Inaugural Address by Dr. Puspa Raj Kadel, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal.

The dialogue had sessions on: Potential and challenges for regional economic cooperation in South Asia against the backdrop of emerging global trends; Potential and Challenges of Transport and Energy Connectivity; Regional Cooperation in Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition; Round-table on Think-tanks Cooperation for Achievement of SDGs in South Asia; and Wrap-up and Closing session. The representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India took part in the deliberations.

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## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND DOUBLING FARMERS' INCOME TO ENSURE HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL - SDG 2 ROADMAP FRAMEWORK

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A Stakeholder Workshop on "Sustainable Agriculture and Doubling Farmers' Income to Ensure Healthy Food for All - SDG 2 Roadmap Framework" was organised in New Delhi on 8 May 2018. Members from academia, experts, civil society organizations, practitioners from the Central/State/Union

Territory (UT) Governments, UN organizations/bodies, shared their aspirations and commitments towards achievement of SDG 2 in Indian context. The Report titled 'SDG 2 Roadmap Framework' brought out by RIS with the support of World Food Programme (WFP) was also launched on this occasion.

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The programme began with the welcome remarks by Dr. Ashok Kumar Jain, Advisor, NITI Aayog. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, set out the context. Dr. Hameed Nuru, Representative and Country Director, WFP made opening remarks. Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India also addressed the participants. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, Government of India, delivered the keynote address. Dr. P. K. Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS, extended vote of thanks.

## SDGS AND MOVING UP THE SCALE WITH CSR AND FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES

RIS organised an interactive session with Reach Scale and Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) on 25 June 2018 at Mumbai on the sidelines of the third AIB Annual Meeting.

The Session on 'SDGs and Moving up the Scale with CSR and Flagship Programmes' opened up with the remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, Mr. David Wilcox,

Founder and CEO of Reach Scale made the introductory remarks. Minister of State for Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri delivered the special address. Ms. Meagan Fallone, CEO, Barefoot College International; Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Distinguished Fellow, RIS; and Mr. Ravichandran Natarajan, Head Partnerships & Corporate Relations, Tata Trusts, Mumbai also spoke on the occasion. The session concluded with open discussion.

## ROUNDTABLE ON DEMOCRATISING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The FIDC and RIS organized a Roundtable on "Democratizing Development Cooperation through Multi-stakeholder Partnerships" on 9 August 2018 at RIS.

Dr. Rajesh Tandon, President, PRIA, chaired the session. Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Carl Gershman, President, National Endowment for Democracy, USA; and Prof. Maiko Ichihara, Associate

Professor, Hitotsubashi University, Japan, were the main speakers.

Prof. Seungjoo Lee, Professor, Chung-Ang University, South Korea; and Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS was lead discussants. The session on Democratizing Global Governance Institutions was chaired by Mr. Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS.

## HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM, 2018

RIS delegation comprising of Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General and Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor participated at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York during 10-13 July 2018. The RIS delegation participated in the meetings at the HLPF jointly with the Government of India delegation lead by Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri and the delegation from UN India. As part of this visit, in order to further partnership for implementation of SDGs in India and globally, particularly in the Southern countries, RIS delegation met senior officials at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN and the UN agencies.

RIS also participated in key HLPF review meetings on "Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and "Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 17 – Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development". RIS team also participated in the side event on "Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018". Lastly, Director General, RIS participated as a panellist in the side-event on "Capturing the impact of South-South Cooperation in the SDG era" at the UN Office on South-South Cooperation on 13 July 2018.

## PRE-BIMSTEC SUMMIT HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING

RIS along with the Institute for Strategic and Socio-Economic Research (ISSR) and Pavilion Group organised the pre - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit High Level Consultative Meeting in Kathmandu on 2 & 3 August 2018. Prof. Dr.

Govind Nepal, Acting Chairman, ISSR Nepal Chaired the meeting. Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali was the Chief Guest and delivered inaugural speech. Later the group met the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Ambassador of Bangladesh Ms. Mashfee Binte Shams; Ambassador of India to Nepal Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri; Ambassador of Sri Lanka Ms. W. Swarnalatha Perera; Ambassador of Myanmar Mr. U. Tun Nay Lin; Prof. (Dr.) Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Ambassador to Sri Lanka and

Maldives and Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC and SAARC), MEA Mr. Piyush Srivastava addressed the participants. The key recommendations of the Consultative Meeting were presented to the Prime Minister of Nepal Shri Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli on 26 August 2018.

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## PROTECTING THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM AND THE ROLE FOR MULTILATERALISM

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RIS has been carrying out extensive research work to strengthen India's trade and economic relations with Japan. RIS carried out extensive work on the Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), an initiative acknowledged by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Ahmedabad during the African Development Bank (AfDB) Annual Meeting in 2017. RIS has brought out eight Discussion Papers to translate the concept of AAGC into reality. In order to forge linkages with Japanese institutions, RIS co-hosted the meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum in Delhi on 22 & 23 November 2018 at New Delhi in partnership with the Japan Economic Foundation (JEF).

The main programme of APF 2018 was its public symposium under the theme 'Protecting the Global Trading System and

the Role for Multilateralism' on 22 November 2018 consisting of three Panel Sessions focusing on Trade & New Technology; Imperatives for Regional Integration: Growing Role of Service Sector; and Importance and Role of SDGs in the Indo-Pacific Region: Strategies for Attainment of SDGs. The public symposium was addressed by eminent scholars from Asia Pacific Region joined by Indian experts. The public symposium registered participation of subject experts, academia, think tanks, national and international organizations, resident diplomats, serving and former high ranking officials. The keynote address at the public symposium was delivered by former Secretary (East) for MEA Ms. Preeti Saran. The public symposium was followed by close door consultation with APF members lead by Director General, RIS and Chairman, JEF on 23 November 2018.

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## SECOND ASEAN-INDIA WORKSHOP ON BLUE ECONOMY

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Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Vietnam; ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi and ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi organised the Second ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy on 18 July 2018 at New Delhi. Opening Remarks were made by Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA and Ambassador of Vietnam to India Mr. Ton Sinh Thnah. Keynote Address was given by Ambassador Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA. The workshop was attended by Head of Delegations of each ASEAN Member State, Senior Officials and experts from ASEAN and India.

The objective of the workshop was to build on the discussions held at the 1st ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy, 24 & 25 November 2017 in Nha Trang, Vietnam, and add on

substance to the efforts towards achieving the vision of the leaders in making progress in ASEAN-India cooperation in the maritime domain as a key facet of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. The specific activities and areas where ASEAN and India can work together identified at the end of the Workshop would act as the foundation on which ASEAN and India can develop a Plan of Action to progress further in this cooperation. The outcome of the Workshop was reported in the Ministerial Session in the Delhi Dialogue X, which was held on 19 & 20 July 2018 at New Delhi. The Workshop was divided into four sessions to facilitate an in-depth discussion on Blue Economy to identify specific areas where ASEAN and India can cooperate and work together. The four sessions were Blue Economy and Maritime Connectivity; Technology in Aid of Blue Economy; Development of Blue Economy and Maritime Safety and Diplomacy, and Blue Economy.



Finally, in the Valedictory Session, Ambassador of Vietnam to India Mr. Ton Sinh Thanh extended the closing remarks. Joint Secretary (ASEAN Multilateral), MEA Mr. Anurag Bhushan

delivered the valedictory address, while Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator of AIC summarized the workshop and delivered the vote of thanks.

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## GANDHI-MANDELA LEGACY - WAY FORWARD

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As a precursor to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and 100th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela, RIS jointly with South Africa High Commission, New Delhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation and Nehru Memorial Museum Library organised a special programme "Gandhi-Mandela Legacy: Way Forward" on 26 September 2018 at New Delhi. The programme began with welcome remarks by Mr. Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and

Library (NMML) and Mr. Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. Remarks were given by High Commissioner designate, South African High Commission, New Delhi Dr. H. N. Manzini made Special Remarks on this occasion. Mr. Ram Madhav, Chairman, India Foundation delivered the Keynote Address. Mr. Kumar Prashant, Chairman, Gandhi Peace Foundation, who chaired the programme also spoke on Gandhi-Mandela Legacy.

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## THIRD EAS CONFERENCE ON MARITIME SECURITY AND COOPERATION

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The MEA in partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MP&NG); NMF; and ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organized the Third East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation on 8 & 9 June 2018 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Welcome Address was given by Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS. Opening Address was delivered by Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director, NMF, whereas the Special Address was given by Mr. Anurag Bhushan, Joint Secretary (ASEAN-ML). Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan delivered the Inaugural Address.

EAS member countries nominated the officials and experts from their respective countries. About fifty-five participants attended this two-day Conference. The Conference was divided into five sessions to facilitate an in-depth discussion on Maritime Security, Maritime Safety, Good Order at Sea, Blue Economy and a Panel Discussion on the Way forward. Finally, Joint Secretary (ASEAN-ML) Mr. Anurag Bhushan delivered the closing remarks and Dr. Prabir De extended the Vote of Thanks. The delegates enjoyed the Cultural Programme on 8 June 2018 and also had field trips to Dhauli and Konark on 9 June 2018 in order to gain an exposure to the rich cultural heritage of the state of Odisha.

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## LAUNCHING SCIENCE DIPLOMACY PROGRAMME

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In recent decades, Science Diplomacy has emerged as a key tool in foreign policy. It has been used in addressing global issues where science and technology plays an important role in identifying the problem and providing solutions. Science Diplomacy is facilitating in deepening cooperation with other countries and groupings for furthering objectives of development cooperation. RIS, in association with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (Bengaluru), has initiated a Joint Research Programme on Science Diplomacy with the support of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. The programme was launched on 7 May 2018 at New Delhi.

Ambassador Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, chaired the inaugural session. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS presented an outline of the project. Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA Mr. T. S. Tirumurti delivered the keynote address. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Ministry of Science & Technology gave inaugural address. Prof. D. Suba Chandran, International Strategies & Security Studies, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru extended the vote of thanks.

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## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON DRAFT NEW CLINICAL TRIAL RULES, 2018

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RIS policy research explores how an emerging India can leverage its comparative advantage at the global platform to boost its economy, move up the production chain and increase its international footprint. From that perspective, RIS organized a full day Expert Consultation on the Draft New Clinical Trial Rules, 2018 on 7 April 2018 to elicit views of stakeholders on the Draft Rules to examine, evaluate, and discuss these rules keeping in mind past amendments and the impact these changes has had on clinical trials in the country.

The consultation brought together diverse stakeholder from academic, industry, private and public contract research organizations, ethics committees, media and government on one platform. This allowed for sharing and exchange of different perspectives from the varied participants present at the discussion. The day long Consultation was divided into four technical sessions covering fundamental aspects of the Draft Rules, 2018. These ranged from data generation, data availability and transparency, issues of harmonization, capacity building, academia and industry research interface, good clinical and laboratory practices, technology, and intellectual property.

The inaugural address was conferred by Prof. Samir Brahmachari, Former Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Special addresses were delivered by Prof. D. Prabhakaran, Vice President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Dr. Nandini Kumar, Former Deputy Director General (Sr. Grade), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Prof. T C James, Visiting Fellow, RIS presented the issues for consideration in the consultation. Other speakers included Ambassador Sudhir T Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS; Dr. Zakir Thomas, former Director (Open Source Drug Discovery), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); Prof. Vaidya K S Dhiman, Director General, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of AYUSH; Dr. Saradindu Bhaduri, Chairman, Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP), JNU; Dr. Chirag Trivedi, President, Indian Society for Clinical Research; and Mr. Ashok Madan, Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association (IDMA). Based on the consultation, RIS has prepared clause by clause comments on the draft rules and submitted to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for due consideration.

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## SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENCY OF IORA AND BRICS: ISSUES BEFORE SUMMITS

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RIS and Pondicherry University organised jointly a Panel Discussion 'South African Presidency of Indian Ocean Regional Association (IORA) and BRICS: Issues before Summits' on 4 April 2018 at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asian Regional Cooperation, Pondicherry University.

Professor Gurmeet Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University, Chaired the programme. The programme proceeded with the introductory remarks of Dr. S. K.

Mohanty, Professor, RIS. Dr. Anil Sooklal, Deputy Director General, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa, delivered the special address. This was followed by remarks by High Commissioner, High Commission of South Africa in India Dr. N. Manzini; and Joint Secretary (MER), MEA, Mr. Alok A. Dimri, followed by interactions. Dr. A. Subramanyam Raju, Head, Centre for South Asian Studies & Coordinator, UGC Centre for Maritime Studies, Pondicherry University extended the vote of thanks.

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## INDIA'S URBAN RENAISSANCE

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RIS and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) organised jointly an Interactive Session on 'India's Urban Renaissance'

on 2 June 2018 at New Delhi. Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, Chaired the programme. The

programme started with the welcome remarks of Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Prof. Jagan Shah, Director, made lead presentation. Minister of State for Housing and

Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri delivered the keynote address. It ended with open discussion by a large number of participants.

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## CONSULTATION MEETING ON DELHI DIALOGUE X WITH ASEAN HOMS

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### Role of India in Global Order

RIS, jointly with Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML); Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute (DOC), Berlin; and Dainik Bhaskar organized a Public Lecture by Dr. Jagdish Sheth, Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Marketing at Goizueta Business School of Emory University, Atlanta, USA, on "Role of India in Global Order" at Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi on 3 July 2018.

Dr. Jagdish Sheth is well known for his scholarly contributions in geopolitical analysis. He has to his credit over fifty years of combined experience in teaching and research at the University of Southern California, the University of Illinois, Columbia University, MIT, and Emory University.

Dr. Vinay Prabhakar Sahasrabudhe, President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), chaired the programme. It started with the welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Mr. Shakti Sinha, Director, NMML. Mr. Pooran Chandra Pandey, Managing Project Director, Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute, made introductory remarks. Mr. Deepak Dwivedi, Chairman of the Board and Chief Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, gave special remarks.

On this occasion the Report on "India-Russia Relations in Global Context" brought out jointly by RIS and DOC Research Institute, was also released.

### Industry Consultation on Global Promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine

The Forum on India Traditional Medicine (FITM) with support from the Ministry of AYUSH and RIS organised an Industry Consultation on Global Promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine on 18 May 2018 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The primary objective was to facilitate

industry-government dialogue to generate policy action recommendations. Panellists included representatives of industry, academia, and Ministries of the Government of India. The discussions at the Consultation were based on practical experiences of participants.

The Consultation had four major Panel Discussions identifying challenges and solutions for global promotion of Indian systems of medicine. These included a review of domestic policy and regulatory preparedness on export promotion; measures for international manufacturing standards and quality assurance through greater scientific validation and subscription to pharmacopoeial standards; challenges associated with supply of raw materials including collection and cultivation of medicinal plants; and regulations on wellness industry for quality control of practitioners in India and abroad and impact of bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements on the ISM sector.

An Overview of Vision for Indian Systems of Medicine was presented by Mr. Rajeev Kher, former Commerce Secretary and Distinguished Fellow, RIS and Dr.. Akash Taneja, Joint Director General, Foreign Trade, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) gave the keynote address. Dr. Manoj Nesari, Adviser, Ministry of AYUSH inaugurated the consultation. Mr.Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH and Mr. Pramod Kumar Pathak, Additional Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH also joined the consultation.

Four panel discussions identifying challenges and solutions for global promotion of Indian systems of medicine involving industry representatives were held. These included are views of domestic policy and regulatory preparedness on export promotion; measures for international manufacturing standards and quality assurance through greater scientific validation and subscription to pharmacopoeial standards; challenges associated with supply of raw materials including

collection and cultivation of medicinal plants; and regulations on wellness industry for quality control of practitioners in India and abroad and impact of bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements on the ISM sector. Based on the consultations a report with recommendations was furnished to the Ministry of AYUSH for further action.

### Seminar on ASEAN-India Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organized a seminar on ASEAN-India Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) on 20 April 2018 at New Delhi, India. The Seminar was the outcome of the research study conducted by AIC on NTMs between ASEAN

and India. Welcome Address was given by Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator, AIC at RIS. Opening Remarks was given by Joint Secretary (ASEAN-ML), MEA, Mr. Anurag Bhushan. Presentation on the study was made by both Dr. Prabir De and Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy. Comments for the presentations were received from Mr. Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade and Policy Division, Confederation on Indian Industry (CII) and Dr. Anil Jauhri, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), New Delhi. Finally, Dr. Prabir De summarized the study and delivered the vote of thanks. Seminar was attended by government officials, representatives of private sector, industry experts, research scholars, etc.

## CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

### RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School on International Trade Theory and Practices

In order to contribute towards capacity building of scholars working in the field of international trade, RIS, in association with the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank), organised the third edition of the Summer School programme in New Delhi during the period 11-16 June 2018, for M. Phil and Ph.D. students specialising in international trade.

### Trade and Sustainability

RIS organized the first ITEC Course on 'Trade and Sustainability' from 9-20 July 2018 in New Delhi. More than twenty-five participants including middle level government officials, policy practitioners and academicians from different developing countries participated in the programme.

The programme broadly covered the themes, such as Production and Trade, Regulatory Framework, Biodiversity etc. RIS faculty-members, eminent experts gave inputs on the comprehensive perspective on these topics. The programme was coordinated by Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS.

### Sustainable Development Goals

RIS conducted the first edition of the ITEC Capacity- Building Course on the 'Sustainable Development Goals' under the auspices of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, from 6-17 August 2018 at New Delhi.

More than thirty-two participants including middle- level government officials/diplomats, policy practitioners and scholars from twenty-four countries participated in the programme.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY (STIP) FORUM LECTURE SERIES

### Science, Technology and Innovation in Building a Knowledge Economy

As part of the Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum Lecture Series, the Ninth STIP Lecture on Science, Technology and Innovation in Building a Knowledge

Economy was delivered on 19 June 2018 by Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and Chairman, Science Advisory Council to the Cabinet (SAC-C) at New Delhi. Ambassador Bhaskar Balakrishnan, former Indian Diplomat and Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS, chaired the event. Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan was Secretary,

Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, from 28 January 2013 to 2 February 2018. He is a Fellow of the Indian Science Academics, the Royal Society, the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK) and a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences. He was awarded with the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2013.

### **Pulse Revolution for Addressing Protein Malnutrition**

The Eleventh STIP Forum Lecture on 'Pulse Revolution for Addressing Protein Malnutrition' was delivered on 7 August 2018 by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education & Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and was chaired by Dr. Rajendra Singh Paroda, Former DG, ICAR, and Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Science (TAAS). Prior to present position, Dr. Mohapatra held the

position of Director-cum-Vice Chancellor of the prestigious Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. And earlier to this, he worked as the Director of National Rice Research Institute (formerly CRRI), Cuttack.

### **Frugal Innovation for Health Care**

The Twelfth STIP Forum Lecture on the topic "Frugal Innovation for Health Care" was delivered by Prof. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and DG, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), on 10 September 2018. It was chaired by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Government of India, Prof. Bhargava is Professor of Cardiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, and serves as the Executive Director for Stanford India Biodesign Centre, School of International Biodesign (SiB).

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## LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

The Ministry of External Affairs Library performs the duties of a library and also acts as a Resource and Information Centre for the use of officers and staff members of MEA at headquarters 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 Virtual Reading Room with eight cubicles and is equipped with computers and internet facility for users /research scholars.

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 more than 300 periodicals / journals and newspaper titles (including online 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. Approval of Foreign Secretary is sought on case-to-case basis on proposals involving

expenditure more than Rs. 2,50,000/- which is above the delegated administrative and financial powers of Chairman Library Committee. The current committee comprises of Additional Secretary (Policy Planning & Research) as Chairman, Director / Deputy Secretaries from 3-4 territorial divisions as Members and Director (Lib & Info) as Member Secretary. Books submitted for approval by vendors are first screened by library officers before being put up to the Committee. Three to four committee meetings are held every year for selection of books for the library on regular intervals. Requested / recommended books are purchased on 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 and these e-books are available to all Ministry officers at headquarters and Missions abroad.

Library services are provided regularly to Ministry officers and staff members posted at headquarters and Missions abroad. Library services are also provided 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 Defence College (NDC) as well as several other Ministries and Departments from time to time. 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 computerized, 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 on MEA Library's website: <http://mealib.nic.in>

All new documents received in the library and selected articles from periodicals and journals are entered on a regular basis in the database on foreign affairs (FAIRS). Online databases and journals / periodicals can be accessed on web via username and passwords. A list of available online

resources and databases is regularly circulated and is also available on Ministry's Intranet.

To provide documentation, bibliographical and reference services to its users, the library regularly issues various bulletins such as "Recent Additions" (RA) and "Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin" (FADB). In addition to this, the library provides access to several online databases/services. Library also maintains group subscriptions to Financial Times (ft.com), Wall Street Journal (wsj.com) and the International New York Times (nyt.com) for the use of MEA officers.

MEA library has a good collection of rare books. A catalogue of selected rare books is maintained and these rare books are kept in a separate rare books library at JNB.

The library completed a project to re-print "India's Bilateral Treaties and Agreements including joint declarations and communiqués" from 1947 to 2017 and it is published in 18 volumes.

MEA Library has conducted a study for re-categorization from Category IV to Category V Library as per orders of Ministry of

Finance. Categorization study was also conducted for Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra Library and it is categorised as Category III Library during the year.

MEA Library also provides practical training/internship to the students/professionals of Library Science studying in various institutions of Delhi 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 attend/

participate in annual International and National conferences / seminars / meetings of ILA, IASLIC, CGLA, IFLA, and SLA. Director (Lib & Info) has been elected Standing Committee Member of IFLA-Government Libraries Section for the term 2017-2019. ALIO has been elected as Chair of IFLA -RSCAO for the term 2017-2019 and Standing Committee Member of IFLA-Government Information and Official Publications Section for the term 2015-2019. On special invitations, Mr Sanjay Kumar Bihani, ALIO has participated in IFLA Presidential Meeting and Global Vision Workshop held at Barcelona, Spain during March 2018 and Lebanese Library Association Conference 2018 at Beirut, Lebanon in May 2018.

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## ARCHIVES

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Archives & Record Management Division of the Ministry deals with all matters related to archives and record management. Upgradation of Record Management Software (REM), replacement of existing software and replacement of existing server with two new servers as well as old desktops which are being used for accessing data through the Record Management Software is being undertaken by E-Governance & Information Technology (EG&IT) Division. With provision for scanning/

digitization of records in the new software, the existing data may be transferred from old software to new software.

Till November 2018, this Division destroyed 2256 old records/registers/books on receipt of destruction approval. 3752 non-current public records/files of more than twenty-five years old were transferred to National Archives of India for preservation and permanent custody after due appraisal under Public Records Act & Rules 1993/1997.





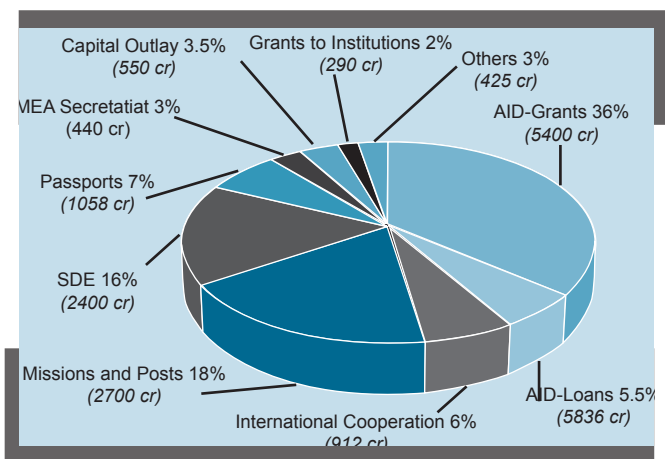
# 35

## FINANCE AND BUDGET

The total budget allocated to the Ministry of External Affairs for the Financial Year (FY) 2018-19 was Rs. ₹15011.00 crores in the Budget Estimates (BE) stage.

2. The budget's sectoral distribution for major allocations, was as follows:

Sector		Allocation (In ₹ Crores)
Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) with foreign countries	Grants	5398.55
	Loans	836.50
	<b>Total TEC</b>	<b>6235.05</b>
Indian Missions and Posts abroad		2701.00
Special Diplomatic Expenditure		2400.01
Passport and Emigration		1058.75
Contributions to International Organizations		912.10
Capital Outlay on Public Works and Housing		550.00
MEA Secretariat		440.64
Grants-in-Aid to Institutions		288.27
Others		425.18
<b>Total BE for FY 2018-19</b>		<b>15011.00</b>



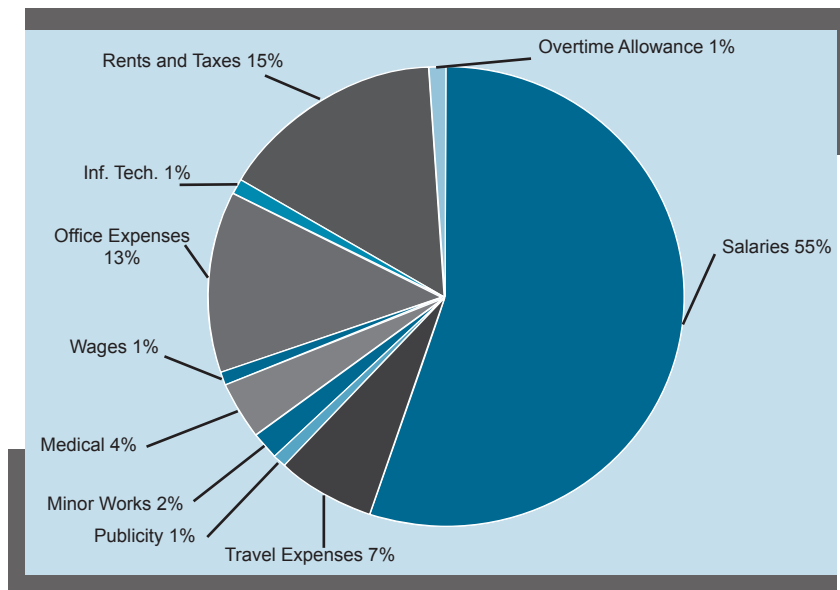
3. The largest allocation in the Ministry's budget was for Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) with foreign countries through assistance as grants and loans. In FY 2018-19, of the total budget of Rs. ₹15011 crores, the TEC outlay was 41.53% or Rs ₹6235.05 crores, of which Rs ₹5398.55 crores (35.96%) was for grant programmes and Rs ₹836.50 crores (5.57%) was for loans. The head-wise distribution of the TEC outlay in FY 2018-19 was as follows:

Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) Heads		Allocation (In ₹ Crore)	% of Total TEC Allocation
Bhutan	Grant	1813.50	42.50 %
	Loan	836.50	
	<b>Total Bhutan</b>	<b>2650.00</b>	
	Nepal	650.00	10.42 %
	Mauritius	525.00	8.42 %
	Afghanistan	400.00	6.42 %

Seychelles	300.00	4.81 %
Myanmar	280.00	4.49 %
ITEC Programme	280.00	4.49 %
African Countries	200.00	3.21 %
Bangladesh	175.00	2.81 %
Sri Lanka	150.00	2.41 %
Chahbahar Port, Iran	150.00	2.41 %
Maldives	125.00	2.00 %
Other Developing Countries	115.00	1.84 %
Investment Publicity & Promotion Programme	75.00	1.2 %
ASEAN Multilateral Programme	45.00	0.72 %
Eurasian Countries	30.00	0.48 %
Multilateral Economic Relations Programme	30.00	0.48 %
Latin American Countries	20.00	0.32 %
Disaster Relief	20.00	0.32 %
SAARC Programmes	10.00	0.16 %
Mongolia	5.00	0.08 %
Energy Security	0.05	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>6235.05</b>

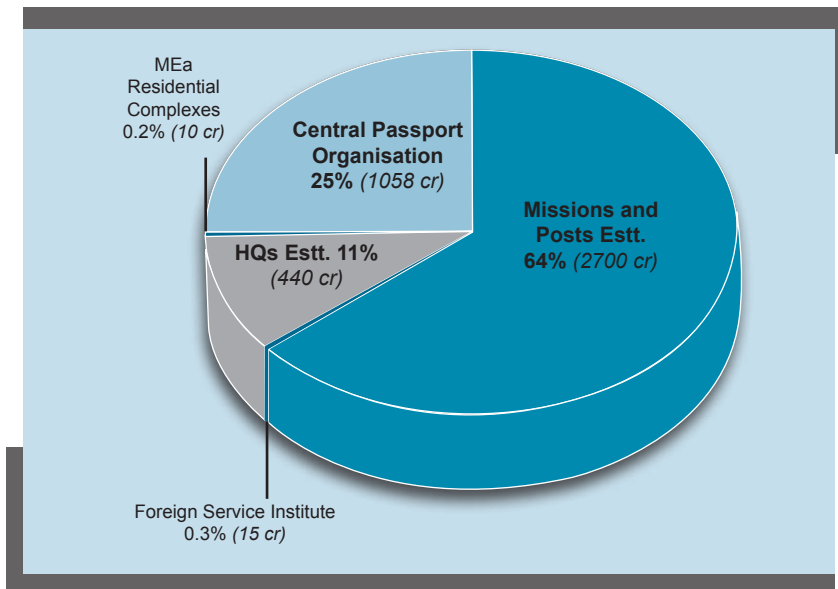
4. The second largest allocation in the Ministry's budget was for maintenance of more than 180 Indian diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad. In FY 2018-19, the allocation

for all Missions and Posts together was 18% or Rs ₹2,701 crores, the head-wise distribution of which was as follows:

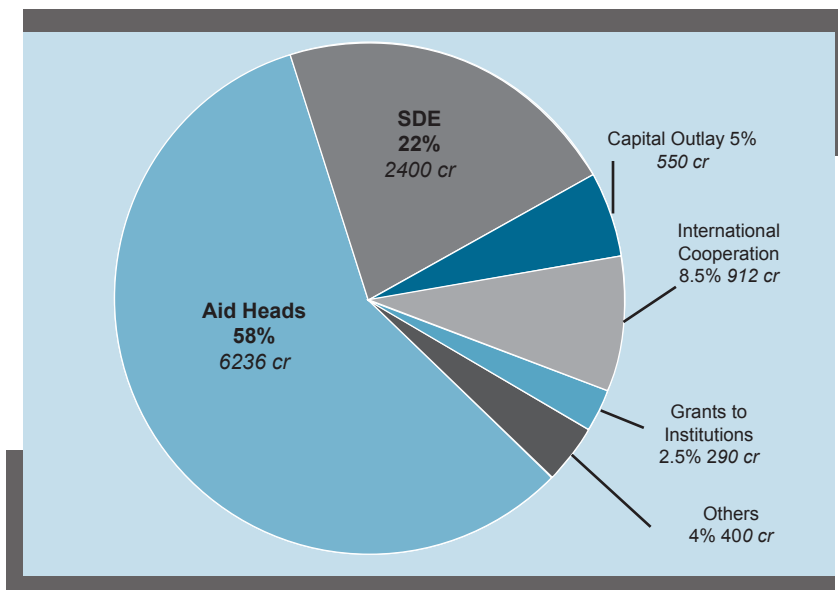


5. Of the total budget for FY 2018-19 of Rs ₹15,011 crores, the bifurcation of allocations between establishment heads and non-establishments heads was 28% (Rs ₹4,223 crores) and 72% (Rs ₹10,788 crores) respectively.
6. The sectoral distributions of the establishment and non-establishment outlays respectively was as follows:

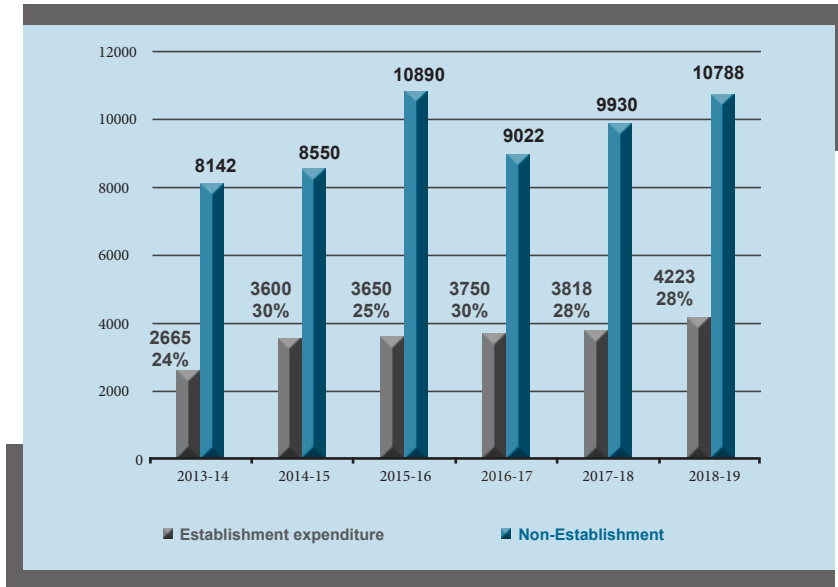
**Establishment Outlay of Rs ₹4223 crores: Distribution in FY 2018-19**



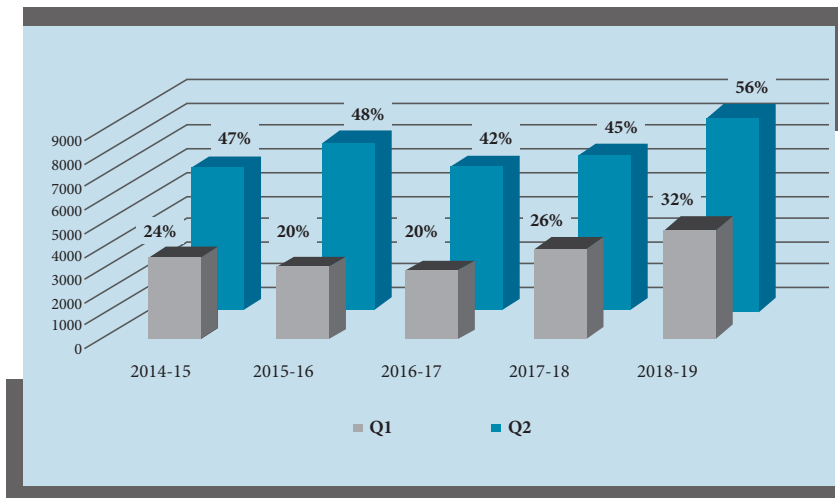
**Non-Establishment Outlay of Rs ₹10788 crores: Distribution in FY 2018-19**



7. The Ministry has consistently maintained its expenditure on establishment heads within 30% of its total budget, as shown below for the last six financial years:

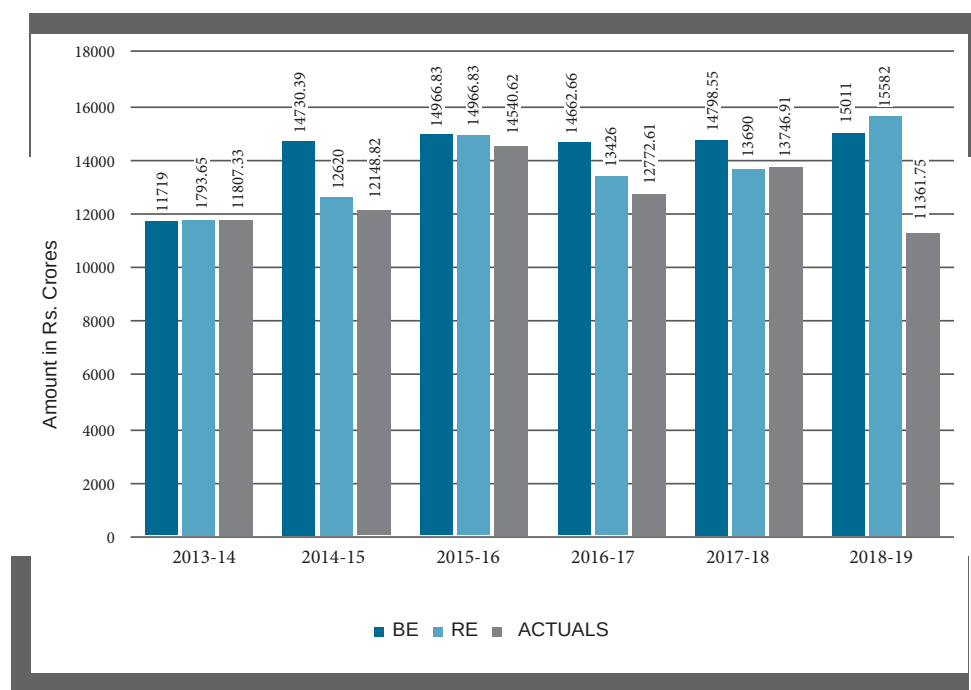


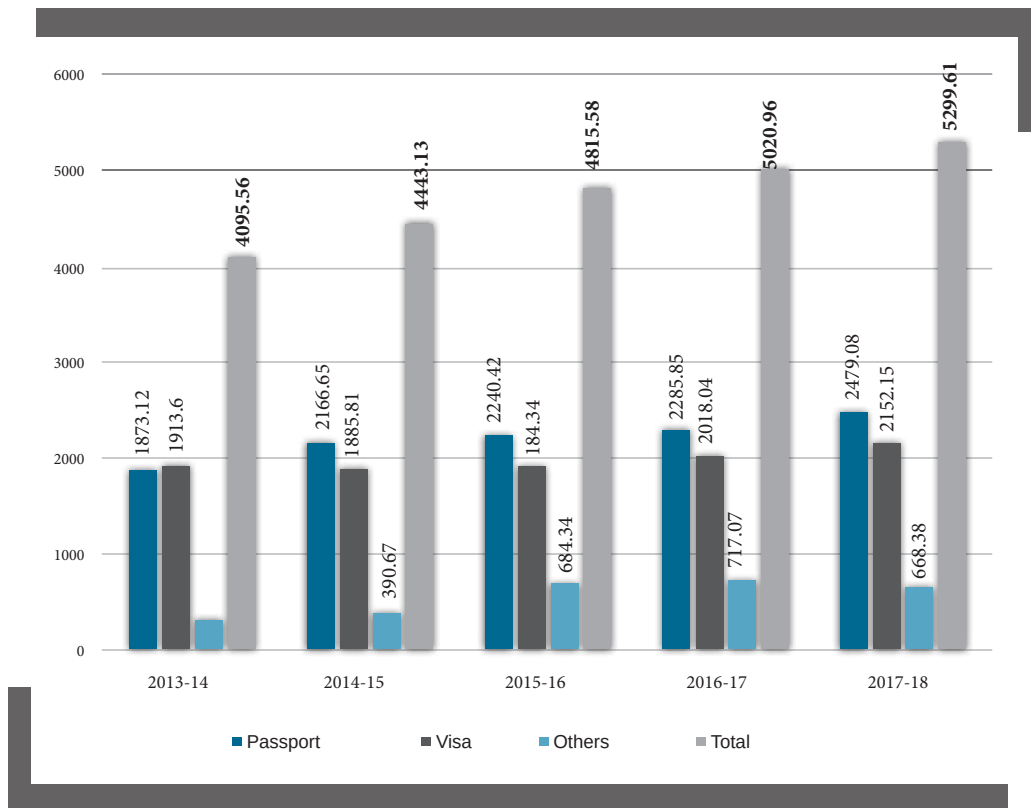
8. The Ministry has maintained a steady expenditure pace of its allocated budget, as shown in the first quarter (Q1) and second quarter (Q2) funds utilization pattern of five financial years, given below:



9. The Ministry has been optimally utilising the funds allocated to it in the Revised Estimates (RE) stage of a financial year, as given below for the past ten FYs:

FY	BE Allocation	RE Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Utilization as % of BE	Utilization as % of RE
	<i>In Rupees Crores; Rounded Off</i>				
2008-09	5062	6868	6746	133 %	98 %
2009-10	6293	6333	6291	100 %	99 %
2010-11	6375	7120	7154	112 %	100 %
2011-12	7106	7836	7873	111 %	100 %
2012-13	9662	10062	10121	105 %	100 %
2013-14	11719	11794	11807	101 %	100 %
2014-15	14730	12620	12149	82 %	96 %
2015-16	14967	14967	14541	97 %	97 %
2016-17	14663	13426	12772	87 %	95 %
2017-18	14798	13690	13747	93 %	100 %
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>15011</b>	<b>15582</b>	<b>11362</b> <i>(Till 31 December 2018 or end of Q3)</i>	<b>Average BE Utilization: 102 %</b>	<b>Average RE Utilization: 98.5 %</b>





10. The Ministry has revenue receipts of Rs. 4280.11 crores till 31 December 2018 in FY 2018-19, from passport services (Rs. 1957.64 cr), visa fees (1823.08 cr) and other receipts (Rs. 499.39 cr). The revenue receipts for the last five financials years from FY 2013-14 to FY 2017-18 is given below:

11. In July 2015, the Ministry had fourteen Paras pending from various Reports of the Comptroller & Auditor

General (C&AG). By March 2017, all fourteen Paras were settled and zero pendency was achieved. Since then, two C&AG Reports (No. 12 of 2017 and No. 4 of 2018) have contained Paras pertaining to the Ministry. Of the total nine Paras pertaining to the Ministry in these two Reports, four Paras were in Report No. 12 of 2017 and five Paras were in Report No. 4 of 2018. The status of submission of Final Action Taken Notes (ATNs) for these nine Paras is given below:

Year	C&AG Report	Total No. of Paras	Final ATNs Submitted	Final ATNs Under Process
2017	Report No. 12 of 2017	4	3	1
2018	Report No. 4 of 2018	5	2	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>



12. The details and status of these C&AG Paras is given below:

C & AG Report No.	Para No.	Subject	Status
12 of 2017	9.1	Avoidable rental expenditure in Eol Brasilia	Final ATN submitted Accepted by Audit – <b>Para settled</b>
	9.2	Lack of internal controls in CGI San Francisco	Final ATN submitted Accepted by Audit – <b>Para settled</b>
	9.3	Receipts and Expenditure outside Government account in Eol Tokyo	ATN under process
	9.4	Establishment and functioning of Nalanda University	Final ATN submitted Accepted by Audit – <b>Para settled</b>
4 of 2018	7.1	Construction of campus for South Asian University	Final ATN submitted in Nov 2018
	7.2	Loss of revenue in consular services in Missions and Posts	Draft ATN submitted in May 2018 Revised ATN submitted in Nov 2018 Audit's vetted comments awaited
	7.3	Cost escalation and avoidable expenses in property management	Final ATN submitted Accepted by Audit – <b>Para settled</b>
	7.4	Courier fees overcharging by outsourced Service Provider in USA	Draft ATN submitted in June 2018 Revised ATN submitted in Nov 2018 Audit's vetted comments awaited
	7.5	Contingency staff hiring in CGIs Vancouver, Houston, San Francisco	Draft ATN submitted in June 2018 Revised ATN submitted in Oct 2018 Audit's vetted comments awaited



# APPENDIXES

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## APPENDIX I

### A: Multilateral MoUs/ Agreements/Treaties

	Title	Date of Signature	Organization	Administrative Ministry
1	MoU for Establishment of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection	31-08-2018	<b>BIMSTEC</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
2	Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation	27-07-18	<b>BRICS</b>	Ministry Of Environment, Forest And Climate Change
3	Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Aviation Partnership	27-07-18	<b>BRICS</b>	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
4	Memorandum of Understanding on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Block Chain Technology	26-07-18	<b>BRICS</b>	Ministry Of Finance
5	IBSA Fund Agreement	17-10-17	<b>BRICS</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
6	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the social and Labour sphere	03-08-2018	<b>BRICS</b>	Ministry Of Labour And Employment
7	Memorandum of Understanding on stimulating cooperation within the SCO in the field of Micro, Small and Medium-sized businesses among the Ministries of SCO Member States responsible for External Economy and Foreign Trade.	10-6-18	<b>SCO</b>	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry
8	Memorandum among the Customs Services of SCO members on the exchange of information on the Trans-boundary movement of Ozone depleting substances.	10-6-18	<b>SCO</b>	Ministry Of Finance
9	Memorandum of Understanding between the authorised Departments of the SCO member states on Technical Cooperation in Joint Prevention and Fight against Trans-boundary Epizootic Diseases.	12-10-18	<b>SCO</b>	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers' Welfare
10	MoU Between India,Russia and Bangladesh on Trilateral Cooperation in implementation of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project in Bangladesh	01-03-18	<b>Trilateral</b>	Department OF ATOMIC ENERGY
11	Partnership Agreement Between India And The United Nations Development Programme For Providing Sociology-Technical Facilitation To 26,912 Government Of India Supported Earthquake-Affected Housing Beneficiaries In Gorkha District Of Nepal	08-03-18	<b>UNITED NATIONS</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs

	Title	Date of Signature	Organization	Administrative Ministry
12	Voluntary Financial Contribution Agreement between the Department of Public Information of United Nations and the Government of India for the "Hindi Project"	08-03-18	UNITED NATIONS	Ministry Of External Affairs
13	WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty, 1996	17-08-18	WIPO	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry
14	WIPO Copyright Treaty, 1996	17-08-18	WIPO	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry

## B: Bilateral MoUs/ Agreements/Treaties

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
1	Agreement between India and Algeria on cooperation in the field of Space Science, Technologies and Applications	19-09-18	ALGERIA	Department Of Space
2	MoU between India and Australia for Cooperation in the disability Sector	22-11-2018	AUSTRALIA	Ministry Of Social Justice And Empowerment
3	MoU between CCRH and National Institute of Integrative Medicine Ltd., Australia on Cooperation in the field of Research in Homoeopathy	10-05-2018	AUSTRALIA	Ministry Of AYUSH
4	MoU between All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Ministry of AYUSH and the Medical University of Graz, Graz	26-09-2018	AUSTRALIA	Ministry Of AYUSH
5	Agreement Between India And Azerbaijan On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic, Official And Service Passports	04-04-2018	AZERBAIJAN	Ministry Of External Affairs
6	MoU Between India And Azerbaijan On Cooperation	04-04-2018	AZERBAIJAN	Ministry Of External Affairs
7	MoU Between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External affairs, and ADA University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan	04-04-18	AZERBAIJAN	Ministry Of External Affairs
8	Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Azerbaijan for the years 2019-2023	12-10-18	AZERBAIJAN	Ministry Of Culture

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
9	Agreement Between India And Bahrain On The Exemption From Visa Requirements For Holders Of Diplomatic And Special/Official Passports	15-07-2018	<b>BAHRAIN</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
10	Memorandum Of Understanding Between Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy Of The Government Of The Republic Of India And Ministry Of Electricity And Water Authority Of The Government Of The Kingdom Of Bahrain On Cooperation In The Field Of Renewable Energy.	15-07-2018	<b>BAHRAIN</b>	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
11	Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare Of The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Health Of The Government Of The Kingdom Of Bahrain On Cooperation In The Field Of Healthcare.	15-07-2018	<b>BAHRAIN</b>	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
12	MoU Between India And Bangladesh For Construction Of The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Between Siliguri(In India) And Parbatipur(In Bangladesh)	09-04-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
13	Addendum 1 To Inter-Agency Agreement Between Global Centre For Nuclear Energy Partnership (Gcnep) Department Of Atomic Energy India And Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (Baec) On Cooperation Regarding Nuclear Power Plant Projects In Bangladesh	09-04-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Department Of Atomic Energy
14	MoU On Cooperation Between Prasar Bharti And Bangladesh Betar	09-04-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting
15	MoU between HCI, Bangladesh And Bangladesh Finance Ministry And Rangpur City Corporation For Rehabilitation And Improvement Of Different Road Under Ranpur City Corporation	09-04-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
16	MoU Between The Department Of Atomic Energy Of India, The State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" (Russian Federation) And Bangladesh On Trilateral Cooperation In Implementation Of The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project In Bangladesh.	01-03-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Department Of Atomic Energy
17	Revised Travel Arrangements between India and Bangladesh	15-07-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of Home Affairs
18	MoU between Indian Army and Bangladesh Army on Academic Exchange and Cooperation	08-05-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of Defence

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
19	Amendment to the Agreement between India and Bangladesh concerning to Orbit Frequency Coordination of South Asia Satellite proposed at 48 Degree E	03-10-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Department Of Space
20	Agreement on the use of Chattogram and Mongla Port for Movement of Goods To and From India between India and Bangladesh	25-10-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of Shipping
21	Addendum to the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh signed on 6 June 2015	25-10-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of Shipping
22	SOP of MoU ON Passenger and Cruise Services on the Coastal and Protocol Route between India and Bangladesh	25/10/2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of Shipping
23	MoU between CCRUM and Hamdard University, Bangladesh for Establishment of Unani Chair	10-02-2018	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of AYUSH
24	MoU between High Commission of India, Dhaka and Chandpur Ayachak Ashrama, puran Adalotpara, Chandpur for Construction of 5 storied Students' Hostel	29-07-18	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry of External Affairs
25	MoC between Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad and Bangladesh Police Academy, Sardah, Rajshahi for Capacity Building	14-07-18	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of Home Affairs
26	Revised Travel Arrangements between India and Bangladesh, 2018	15-07-18	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Ministry Of Home Affairs
27	Agreement for Parliamentary Cooperation between India and Belarus	11-06-2018	<b>BELARUS</b>	Lok Sabha
28	MoU between India and Botswana on Exemption from Visa Requirements For Holders of Diplomatic Passports	01-11-2018	<b>BOTSWANA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
29	MoU Between India And Brunei Darussalam On Cooperation In The Operation Of Telemetry Tracking And Telecommand Station For Satellite And Launch Vehicles And For Cooperation In The Field Of Space Research, Science And Applications	19-07-2018	<b>BRUNEI DARUSSALAM</b>	Department Of Space
30	MoU Between India and Bulgaria on cooperation in the field of Tourism	05-09-2018	<b>BULGARIA</b>	Ministry Of Tourism

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
31	Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology between India and Bulgaria	09-05-18	<b>BULGARIA</b>	Ministry Of Science & Technology
32	Programme for Cooperation between India and Bulgaria for the period 2018-2020	03-15-18	<b>BULGARIA</b>	Ministry Of Culture
33	MoU between Invest Bulgaria Agency and Invest India	05-09-2018	<b>BULGARIA</b>	Ministry Of Finance
34	MoU between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski on the Establishment of ICCR Chair for Hindi Language	05-09-2018	<b>BULGARIA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
35	MoU Between India And Cambodia On Cooperation For Prevention Of Human Trafficking Especially Trafficking In Women And Children; Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation And Re Integration Of Victims Of Trafficking	27-01-2018	<b>CAMBODIA</b>	Ministry Of Home Affairs
36	Cultural Exchange Programme Between India And Cambodia For The Years 2018-2022	27-01-2018	<b>CAMBODIA</b>	Ministry Of Culture
37	Treaty Between India And Cambodia On Mutual Legal Assistance In Criminal Matters	27-01-2018	<b>CAMBODIA</b>	Ministry Of Home Affairs
38	MoU Between India and Cambodia on conservation-restoration of Preah Vihar Temple,Cambodia	29-08-2018	<b>CAMBODIA</b>	Ministry Of Culture
39	MoU signed between Foreign Service Institute, MEA, New Delhi and National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (NIDIR), MFA&IC, Cambodia	29-08-18	<b>CAMBODIA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
40	MoU Between India And Canada Concerning Cooperation In The Fields Of Science, Technology And Innovation	23-02-2018	<b>CANADA</b>	Department Of Science & Technology
41	MoU Between India And Canada Concerning Cooperation In Higher Education	23-02-2018	<b>CANADA</b>	Ministry Of Human Resource
42	MoU Between India And Canada On Investment Promotion And Facilitation	23-02-2018	<b>CANADA</b>	Ministry Of Finance
43	MoU Between India And Canada On Cooperation In Sport	22-02-2018	<b>CANADA</b>	Ministry Of Youth And Sports
44	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between India And Canada On Cooperation In The Field Of Information Communications Technology And Electronics	23-01-2018	<b>CANADA</b>	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology



	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
45	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology Of India And Department Of Innovation, Science And Economic Development Of Canada On Cooperation In The Field Of Information Communications Technology And Electronics	23-02-2018	CANADA	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
46	MoU Between The Department Of Industrial Policy And Promotion, Ministry Of Commerce And Industry, India And The Canadian Intellectual Property Office Concerning Cooperation On Intellectual Property Rights	23-02-2018	CANADA	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry
47	Terms Of Reference For The India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue Between The Ministry Of Petroleum And Natural Gas Of India And The Department Of Natural Resources Of Canada	23-02-2018	CANADA	Ministry Of Petroleum And Natural Gas
48	MoU Between India And Chile For The Establishment Of A High Level Joint Commission	23-05-2018	CHILE	Ministry Of External Affairs
49	Agreement between India and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China for the avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income	19-03-18	CHINA	Ministry Of Finance
50	Agreement between India and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China for the avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income (Protocol)	26-11-18	CHINA	Ministry Of Finance
51	Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and the Protocol thereto signed at New Delhi on 18 July 1994	26-11-2018	CHINA	Ministry of Finance
52	MOU Between India and Colombia in the field of tourism cooperation	04-10-2018	COLOMBIA	Ministry Of Tourism

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
53	Joint interpretative declaration between India and Colombia regarding the Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments between India and Colombia, signed on November 10th 2009	04-10-2018	<b>COLOMBIA</b>	Ministry Of Finance
54	MoU Between India And Cote D'ivoire For The Establishment Of Rural Technology Park In Cote D'ivoire	28-02-2018	<b>COTE D'VOIRE</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
55	Agreement Between India And Cote D'ivoire On Cooperation In The Fields Of Culture And Arts	28-02-2018	<b>COTE D'VOIRE</b>	Ministry Of Culture
56	MoU Between India And Cuba On Cooperation In The Field Of Traditional Systems Of Medicine And Homeopathy	22-06-2018	<b>CUBA</b>	Ministry Of AYUSH
57	MoU Between India And Cuba On Cooperation In Biotechnological Sphere	22-06-2018	<b>CUBA</b>	Ministry Of Science And Technology And Earth Sciences.
58	MoU Between India and Cyprus concerning cooperation in the exchange of financial intelligence related to Money Laundering, related Crimes and Terrorism Financing	03-09-2018	<b>CYPRUS</b>	Ministry Of Finance
59	MoU Between India and Cyprus on Cooperation in the Areas of Environment	03-09-2018	<b>CYPRUS</b>	Ministry Of Environment
60	Agreement Between India And Czech Republic On Exemption From Visa Requirements For Holder Of Diplomatic Passport	07-09-2018	<b>CZECH</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
61	Work Plan For Support of Indian-Czech Joint Projects for the Years 2019-2022	07-09-2018	<b>CZECH</b>	Ministry Of Science And Technology And Earth Sciences.
62	Protocol of the Eleventh Session of the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation	23-10-18	<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	Department Of Commerce
63	Memorandum of Understanding between The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India and The Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic, on Science and Technological Cooperation	07-09-18	<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	Ministry Of Science And Technology
64	Memorandum of Understanding between Invest India and Czech Invest	23-10-18	<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
65	Agreement between India and Denmark on Cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation	5-22-2018	DENAMRK	Ministry Of Science & Technology
66	MoU Between India And Denmark For Cooperation In Agricultural Research And Education	16-04-2018	DENMARK	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
67	MoU Between India And Denmark On Cooperation In The Field Of Sustainable And Smart Urban Development	16-04-2018	DENMARK	Ministry Of Housing And Urban Affairs
68	MoU Between India And Denmark On Cooperation In The Fields Of Animal Husbandry And Dairying	16-04-2018	DENMARK	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
69	MoU Between India And Denmark On Food Safety Cooperation	16-04-2018	DENMARK	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
70	Memorandum Of Understanding On Consultations Between The Ministry Of External Affairs Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Of The Republic Of Djibouti	04-10-2018	DJIBOUTI	Ministry Of External Affairs
71	MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between the Ministry of AYUSH, India and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Government of Equatorial Guinea.	08-04-2018	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	Ministry Of AYUSH
72	MoU on Consultations Between India and Eritrea	20-04-2018	ERITREA	Ministry Of External Affairs
73	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE OF ERITREA	20-04-2018	ERITREA	Ministry Of External Affairs
74	MoU Between India And Ethiopia On Cooperation	09-05-2018	ETHIOPIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
75	A MoU between Department of Bio-technology, GOI and Business of Finland for cooperation in the field of bio-technology was signed on November 30, 2018	30-11-18	FINLAND	Department Of Bio-Technology
76	Letter Of Intent For An Indo-French Cooperation In The Field Of Conservation Of Per-Historic Ornate Caves And Rock Shelters	18-06-2018	FRANCE	Ministry Of Culture

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
77	Agreement Between India And France On Cooperation In The Field Of Sustainable Urban Development	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of Housing And Urban Affairs
78	Letter Of Intent Between India And France On Technical Cooperation In The Field Of Railways	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of Railways
79	MoU Between India And France In The Field Of Environment	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of Environment, Forest And Climate Change
80	Agreement Between India And France To Facilitate Mutual Recognition Of Academic Qualifications	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of Human Resources Development
81	MoU Between India And France In The Field Of Solar Energy	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
82	Agreement Between India And France On The Prevention Of The Illicit Consumption Of And Reduction Of Illicit Traffic In Narcotics Drugs, Psychotropic Substances And Chemical Precursors And Related Offences	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of Home Affairs
83	Implementing Arrangement Between India And France For Pre-Formulation Studies Of A Maritime Domain Awareness Mission	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Department Of Space
84	Migration And Mobility Partnership Between India And France	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
85	Letter Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Railways Of India And The Ministry Of Ecological And Inclusive Transition Of The French Republic	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of Railways
86	Agreement Between India And French Republic On Cooperation In The Field Of Sustainable Urban Development	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of Environment, Forest And Climate Change
87	Agreement Between India And French Republic To Facilitate Mutual Recognition Of Academic Qualifications	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of Human Resources Development
88	Bilateral Arrangement Between India And The Service Hydrographique Et Oceanographique De La Marine (Shom) France Relating To Cooperation In Matter Of Hydrography And Maritime Cartography	08-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of Earth Sciences
89	Implement Arrangement Between Isro And Cnes For Per-Formulation Studies Of A Maritime Domain Awareness Mission	10-03-2018	<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
90	MoU Between Ministry Of Railways And SnCF Mobilites On Technical Cooperation In The Field Of Railways	10-03-2018	FRANCE	Ministry Of Railways
91	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of French Republic Regarding The Provision Of Reciprocal Logistics Support Between Their Armed Forces	10-03-2018	FRANCE	Ministry Of Defence
92	Agreement between India and France regarding the exchange and reciprocal protection of classified or protected information	10-03-2018	FRANCE	Ministry Of Defence
93	Implementing Arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Centre National D'etudes Spatiales of France on Space Geodesy Activites and Applications	02-12-2018	FRANCE	Department Of Space
94	International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement	20-02-18	GAMBIA	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
95	MoU between DG FASLI and DGUV concerning collaboration in the field of occupational safety, health and social protection	13-11-2018	GERMANY	Ministry Of Labour And Employment
96	Programme of Cooperation between the Department of Biotechnology, India and German Research Foundation, Germany for cooperation in field of Biotechnology	08-10-18	GERMANY	Ministry Of Science & Technology
97	Cultural Exchange Programme Between India And Ghana For The Years 2018-2022	18-07-2018	GHANA	Ministry Of Culture
98	Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Ghana Standards Authority (GSA)	18-07-2018	GHANA	Ministry Of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
99	MoU Between India and Ghana in the field of Standardization	18-07-2018	GHANA	Ministry Of Consumer Affairs
100	MoU between India and Greece on Cooperation in the field of diplomatic training	18-06-2018	GREECE	Ministry Of External Affairs
101	Programme For Cultural Cooperation Between India And Greece for the Years 2018-2020	18-06-2018	GREECE	Ministry Of Culture

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
102	MoU between India and Greece on Cooperation in the field of Standardization	18-06-2018	<b>GREECE</b>	Ministry Of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
103	MoU Between The Foreign Service Institute, Ministry Of External Affairs , India And Diplomatic Academy ,Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, Republic Of Guatemala	07-05-2018	<b>GUATEMALA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
104	Action Plan Between India And Equatorial Guinea On Cooperation In Information And Communication Technology(Ict)	08-04-2018	<b>GUINEA</b>	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
105	Election Commission of India's MoU with National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) of Guinea	24-01-2018	<b>GUINEA</b>	Election Commission Of India
106	Cultural Exchange Programme Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Co-Operative Republic Of Guyana For The Years 2018-2021	18-06-2018	<b>GUYANA</b>	Ministry Of Culture
107	Agreement between India and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	01-03-2018	<b>JORDAN</b>	Ministry Of Finance
108	MoU Between India And Indonesia On Technical Cooperation In Railways Sector	29-05-2018	<b>INDONESIA</b>	Ministry Of Railways
109	MoU Between India And Indonesia On Cooperation In The Field Of Pharmaceutical Substances, Biological Product And Cosmetics Regulatory Functions	29-05-2018	<b>INDONESIA</b>	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
110	MoU Between India And Indonesia On Cooperation In The Exploration And Uses Of Outer Space For Peaceful Purposes	28-05-2018	<b>INDONESIA</b>	Department Of Space
111	MoU Between India And Indonesia On Scientific And Technical Cooperation	28-05-2018	<b>INDONESIA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
112	MoU Between India And Indonesia On Policy Dialogue Between Governments And Interaction Between Think Tanks	28-05-2018	<b>INDONESIA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
113	Agreement Between India And Iran For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	17-02-2018	<b>IRAN</b>	Ministry Of Finance
114	MoU Between India And Iran On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports	16-02-2018	<b>IRAN</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
115	MoU Between India And Iran On Cooperation for Social and Economic Development	17-02-2018	IRAN	Department Of Post
116	MoU between Department of Posts, India and the National Post Company, Iran	17-02-2018	IRAN	Department Of Posts
117	MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between the Ministry of AYUSH, India and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran	17-02-2018	IRAN	Ministry Of AYUSH
118	MoU between India and Iran for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied activities	17-02-18	IRAN	Ministry Of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
119	Lease Contract for part of Shahid Beheshti Port - Phase 1 of Chabahar during Interim Period between Port and Maritime Organization (PMO), Iran and India Ports Global Limited (IPGL).	17-02-18	IRAN	Minister Of Shipping
120	MoU on the establishment of an Expert Group on Trade Remedy Measures to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest.	17-02-18	IRAN	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry
121	MoU on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine	17-02-18	IRAN	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
122	Agreement Between India and Ireland on Authorization for Dependents of Diplomatic, Consular, Technical and Administrative Staff of Diplomatic and Consular Missions to Engage in Gainful Employment	21-03-2018	IRELAND	Ministry Of External Affairs
123	Agreement On Film Co-Production Between India And Israel	15-01-2018	ISRAEL	Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting
124	MoU between Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Energy of the State of Israel on Cooperation in Oil and gas sector	15-01-2018	ISRAEL	Ministry Of Petroleum And Natural Gas
125	MoU between CCRH and Centre for Integrative Complementary Medicine, Shaarezedek Medical Center, Jerusalem	15-01-2018	ISRAEL	Ministry Of AYUSH
126	Agreement Between India And Italy On The Remunerated Activity Of The Family Members Of The Diplomatic, Consular, Administrative And Technical Staff	13-02-2018	ITALY	Ministry Of External Affairs

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
127	MoU between V.V.Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI), Noida, M/o Labour & Employment and International Training Centre (ITC) of International Labour Organisation (ILO), Italy	30/10/2012 to 30/10/2018	<b>ITALY</b>	Ministry Of Labour And Employment
128	Memorandum Of Cooperation Between India And Japan In The Field Of Food Processing Industry	29-10-2018	<b>JAPAN</b>	Ministry Of Food Processing Industries Of India
129	Memorandum Of Cooperation Between India And Japan On Digital Partnership	29-10-2018	<b>JAPAN</b>	Ministry Of Electronics & Information Technology
130	Memorandum Of Cooperation Between India And Japan In The Postal Field	29-10-2018	<b>JAPAN</b>	Department Of Posts
131	Memorandum Of Cooperation Between India And Japan In The Field Of Healthcare And Wellness	29-10-2018	<b>JAPAN</b>	Ministry Of AYUSH
132	Memorandum Of Cooperation Between India And Japan In The Field Of Environmental Cooperation	29-10-2018	<b>JAPAN</b>	Ministry Of Environment, Forest And Climate Change
133	Program For Promoting Investment Into India By Japan In The Field Of Agriculture And Fisheries	29-10-2018	<b>JAPAN</b>	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
134	MoC between the Ministry of AYUSH, India and Kanagawa Prefectural Government of Japan in the field of Healthcare and Wellness	29-10-2018	<b>JAPAN</b>	Ministry Of AYUSH
135	Agreement Between India And Jordan On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official Passports	01-03-2018	<b>JORDAN</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
136	MoU Between India And Jordan On Cooperation In The Field Of Health And Medical Sciences	01-03-2018	<b>JORDAN</b>	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
137	MoU Between India And Jordan On Proposed Mining And Beneficiation Of Rock Phosphate, Mop In Jordan Setting Up Production Facility In Jordan For Phosphoric Acid/Dap/Npk Fertilizers With A Long Term Agreement For 100 Percent Off Take To India	01-03-2018	<b>JORDAN</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
138	Agreement Between India And Jordan On Cooperation And Mutual Administrative Assistance In Custom Matters	01-03-2018	<b>JORDAN</b>	Ministry Of Finance
139	MoU Between India And Jordan For Setting Up Of Next Generation Centre For Excellence In Jordan	01-03-2018	<b>JORDAN</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs



	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
140	MoU Between India And Jordan On Cooperation In The Field Of Manpower	01-03-2018	JORDAN	Ministry Of External Affairs
141	MoU between India and Jordan in Defence Cooperation	03-01-2018	JORDAN	Ministry Of Defence
142	Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Jordan for the Years 2018-2022	03-01-2018	JORDAN	Ministry Of Culture
143	MoU Between India and Korea on Cooperation in the area of Tourism	05-11-2018	KOREA	Ministry Of Tourism
144	Memorandum of Understanding between The Ministry of Communications, Republic of India and The Ministry of Science and ICT, Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the field of Telecommunications/ ICTs	10-07-18	KOREA	Ministry Of Science And Technology
145	Agreement Between India And Kuwait On Mutual Exemption From Visa Requirements For Holders Of Diplomatic, Special And Official Passports	31-10-2018	KUWAIT	Ministry Of External Affairs
146	Mutual Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of India and The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein, in the field of Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information.	11-10-18	LIECHTENSTEIN	Ministry Of Finance
147	MoU Between India And Madagascar On Cooperative Marketing Arrangements In The Existing Bilateral Air Services Agreement	14-03-2018	MADAGASCAR	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
148	MoU Between India And Madagascar On Cooperation In The Field Of Defence	14-03-2018	MADAGASCAR	Ministry Of Defence
149	MoU Establishing Cooperation In The Field Of Atomic Energy For Peaceful Purposes Between The Global Center For Nuclear Energy Partnership, Department Of Atomic Energy, India And The Ministry Of Natural Resources, Energy And Mining, Malawi	05-11-2018	MALAWI	Department Of Atomic Energy
150	Extradition Treaty Between India And Malawi	05-11-2018	MALAWI	Ministry Of Home Affairs
151	Agreement Between India And Malawi On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official Passports	05-11-2018	MALAWI	Ministry Of External Affairs
152	MoU between India and Malaysia on United Nations Peacekeeping Cooperation	21-11-2018	MALAYSIA	Ministry Of Defence
153	MOU Between India and Malta in the field of tourism cooperation	17-09-2018	MALTA	Ministry Of Tourism

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
154	Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs Republic of India and the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta	17-09-2018	<b>MALTA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
155	MoU between India and Malta on Maritime Cooperation	17-09-2018	<b>MALTA</b>	Ministry Of Shipping
156	MoU Between India And Mauritius Regarding The Nalanda University	12-03-2018	<b>MAURITIUS</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
157	Programme For Cultural Cooperation Between India And Mauritius	12-03-2018	<b>MAURITIUS</b>	Ministry Of Culture
158	MoU Between Central Council For Researchin Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry Of AYUSH India (Ccars) And University Of Mauritius, Ministry Of Education And Human Resources, Tertiary Education And Scientific Research, Mauritius On The Establishment Of An " Academic Chair" In Ayurveda (Chair).	12-03-2018	<b>MAURITIUS</b>	Ministry Of AYUSH
159	MoU between Union Public Service Commission of India and PSC Mauritius	12-03-18	<b>MAURITIUS</b>	Union Public Service Commission
160	Election Commission of India's MoU with Central Election Commission of Moldova	24-01-2018	<b>MOLDOVA</b>	Election Commission Of India
161	MoU on Cooperation and Collaboration on Broadcasting between Prasar Bharati, India and Mongolian National Public Radia and Television (MNB) Mongolia	09-05-2018	<b>MONGOLIA</b>	Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting
162	MoU Between India And Morocco In The Field Of Mining And Geology	11-04-2018	<b>MOROCCO</b>	Ministry Of Mines
163	MoU Between India And Morocco On Cooperation In The Field Of Renewable Energy	10-04-2018	<b>MOROCCO</b>	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
164	MoU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Law & Justice of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco	02-04-2018	<b>MOROCCO</b>	Ministry Of Law And Justice
165	Agreement between India and Morocco in Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters Including the Service of Summons, Judicial Documents, letter of request and the Execution of Judgments Decrees and Arbitral Awards	12-09-2018	<b>MOROCCO</b>	Ministry Of Law And Justice

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
166	Air Services Agreement between India and Morocco	19-09-2018	MOROCCO	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
167	Joint Declaration of Intent between India and Morocco on cooperation in the filed of Modernization and Information Technology	12-11-2018	MOROCCO	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
168	MoU on Cooperation between Moroccan Agency for Tourism Development (SMIT) and India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)	17-09-18	MOROCCO	Ministry Of Tourism
169	MoU between the Government of Republic of India and Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	25-09-18	MOROCCO	Department Of Space
170	MoU between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Moroccan Computer Emergency Response Team (ma-CERT), National Defence Administration of the Kingdom of Morocco, on Cooperation in the area of Cyber Security (25 September 2018)	25-09-18	MOROCCO	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
171	Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	12-09-18	MOROCCO	Ministry Of Home Affairs
172	Joint Declaration of Intent between National Informatics Centre under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco on Cooperation in the field of Modernization and Use of Information Technology	12-09-18	MOROCCO	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
173	Extradition Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco	13-11-18	MOROCCO	Ministry Of External Affairs
174	MoU Between The National Archives Of India And The National Documentation & Information Center Of Mozambique In The Area Of Archival Cooperation	29-11-2018	MOZAMBIQUE	Ministry Of Culture
175	MoU between India and Mozambique in the area of archival cooperation	29-11-2018	MOZAMBIQUE	Ministry Of Culture
176	MoU Between India And Myanmar On Cooperation	10-05-2018	MYANMAR	Ministry Of External Affairs

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
177	MoU Between India and Myanmar for Appointment of a Private Operator for Operation and Maintenance of Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Transport Terminal and Associated Facilities	22-10-2018	<b>MYANMAR</b>	Ministry Of Shipping
178	MoU Between India And Nepal Regarding Engineering-Cum-Traffic Survey Of The Broad Gauge Line Between Raxaul And Kathmandu	31-08-2018	<b>NEPAL</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
179	MoU Between India And Netherlands On Cooperation	23-01-2018	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
180	MoU Between The Foreign Service Institute ,Ministry Of External Affairs Republic Of India And Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Of The Kingdom Of Netherlands	23-05-2018	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
181	MoU between India and Netherlands On Technical Cooperation in the field of Spatial Planning, Water Management and Mobility Management	11-04-2018	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Ministry Of Water Resources
182	The Netherlands signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance	24-05-2018	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Ministry Of Renewable Energy
183	MOU Between India And Niger relating to the construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Center	19-09-18	<b>NIGER</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
184	Agreement between India and Nigeria on cooperation in the field of Space Sciences, Technologies and Applications	19-09-2018	<b>NIGERIA</b>	Department Of Space
185	Memorandum of Understanding between The Ministry of Defence of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Defence of Federal Republic of Nigeria concerning Cooperation in Defence Research and Development.	20-11-18	<b>NIGERIA</b>	Ministry Of Defence
186	Memorandum of Understanding made and entered into by and between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina Nigeria on the establishment of the ICCR Chair for Sanskrit Language.	08-10-18	<b>NIGERIA</b>	Ministry Of Culture
187	Memorandum of Understanding between Central Soil and Materials Research Station, New Delhi and Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, Oslo, Norway on cooperation in the field of Geo Technical Engineering and Material Sciences	06-06-18	<b>NORWAY</b>	Ministry Of Water Resources, River Development And Ganga Rejuvenation

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
188	Agreement Between India And Oman On Mutual Visa Exemption For Holders Of Diplomatic,Special,Service And Official Passports	11-02-2018	OMAN	Ministry Of External Affairs
189	MoU Between India And Oman In The Field Of Tourism Cooperation	11-02-2018	OMAN	Ministry Of Tourism
190	MoU Between India And Oman On Cooperation In The Field Of Health	11-02-2018	OMAN	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
191	MoU Between India And Oman On Cooperation In Areas Of Diplomatic Studies And Training	11-02-2018	OMAN	Ministry Of External Affairs
192	MoU Between India And Oman On Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Outer Space	11-02-2018	OMAN	Department Of Space
193	Agreement Between India and Oman on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil And Commercial Matters.	11-02-2018	OMAN	Ministry Of Law And Justice
194	Agreement Between India And Panama On Exemption Of Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic,Official And Consular Passports	09-05-2018	PANAMA	Ministry Of External Affairs
195	Work Plan For The Years 2018-2019 Between India And Panama For Cooperation In The Field Of Agricultural Research And Education	09-05-2018	PANAMA	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
196	Agreement Between The Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Energy And Mining Of The Republic Of Peru On Cooperation In New Renewable Energy	11-05-2018	PERU	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
197	Agreement between India and Peru on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	05-12-2018	PERU	Ministry Of Finance
198	MoU on Air Services	12-07-2018	PHILIPPINES	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
199	MoU between the Board of Investments (the Philippines) and Invest India (India)		PHILIPPINES	Ministry Of Finance
200	MOU Between India and Romania in the field of tourism cooperation	19-09-2018	ROMANIA	Ministry Of Tourism
201	Protocol for Consultations between India and Russia for the period of 2019-2023	05-10-2018	RUSSIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
202	MoU between India and Russia on Joint Activities Under Human Spaceflight Programme	05-10-2018	RUSSIA	Department Of Space
203	MoC between India And Russia on technical cooperation in Railway	05-10-2018	RUSSIA	Ministry Of Railways

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
204	Action Plan for the Prioritization and implementation of cooperation areas in the nuclear field Identified Jointly by India and Russia	05-10-2018	<b>RUSSIA</b>	Department OF ATOMIC ENERGY
205	MoU between India and Russia in the Development of Cooperation in Transport Education	05-10-2018	<b>RUSSIA</b>	Ministry Of Railways
206	MoU between the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation and the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)	05-10-2018	<b>RUSSIA</b>	Niti Aayog
207	Amendment To The MoU Between India And Rwanda On Cooperation In The Field Of Agriculture And Animal Resources	23-07-2018	<b>RWANDA</b>	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
208	Cultural Exchange Programme Between India And Rwanda For The Years 2018-2022	23-07-2018	<b>RWANDA</b>	Ministry Of Culture
209	Trade Cooperation Framework Between India And Rwanda	23-07-2018	<b>RWANDA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
210	Agreement between India and Rwanda on Cooperation in Defence fields of capacity building, Defence Industry, Science & Technology	23-07-2018	<b>RWANDA</b>	Ministry Of Defence
211	Agreement Between India And Saint Kitts And Nevis On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official/Service Passports	16-02-2018	<b>SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
212	Framework Agreement Between India And The Democratic Republic Of Sao-Tome And Principe On Cooperation In The Exploration And Uses Of Outer Space For Peaceful Purposes	07-09-2018	<b>SAO-TOME</b>	Department Of Space
213	MoU between the National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Health, Sao-Tome and Principe on cooperation in the field of Medicinal Plants	14-03-18	<b>SAO-TOME</b>	Ministry Of AYUSH
214	MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy between the Ministry of AYUSH, India and the Ministry of Health, Soa Tome	14-03-2018	<b>SAO-TOME &amp; PRINCIPE</b>	Ministry Of AYUSH
215	MoU Between India And Senegal Relating To The Project For Up-Gradation & Modernization Of Centre D'entreprenariat Et De Development Technique	27-02-2018	<b>SENEGAL</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
216	Agreement Between India And Serbia On Cooperation In The Fields Of Culture, Arts, Youth, Sports And Mass Media	03-05-2018	SERBIA	Ministry Of Culture
217	MoU Between India And Serbia	25-01-2018	SERBIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
218	Agreement Between India And Serbia On Co-Operation In Plant Health And Plant Quarantine	15-09-2018	SERBIA	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
219	Air Services Agreement Between India And Serbia	15-09-2018	SERBIA	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
220	MoU Between India And Seychelles On Cooperation	24-06-2018	SEYCHELLES	Ministry Of External Affairs
221	Agreement Between India And Seychelles On The Development, Management, Operation And Maintenance Of Facilities On Assumption Island, Seychelles	27-01-2018	SEYCHELLES	Ministry Of External Affairs
222	Technical Agreement on Sharing White Shipping Information between the Indian Navy and the National Information Sharing and Coordination Center of the Republic of Seychelles	24-06-2018	SEYCHELLES	Ministry Of Defence
223	MOU between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Republic of India and the Department of Information Communications Technology of the Republic of Seychelles on Cooperation in the area of Cyber Security	24-06-2018	SEYCHELLES	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
224	MOU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small Development Projects through Local Bodies, Educational and Vocational Institutions	24-06-2018	SEYCHELLES	Ministry Of External Affairs
225	Twinning Agreement on the Establishment of Friendship and Cooperation between the Corporation of the City of Panaji (Municipal Corporation) and the City of Victoria of the Republic of Seychelles	24-06-18	SEYCHELLES	Ministry Of Housing And Urban Development
226	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for the years 2018-2022	24-06-18	SEYCHELLES	Ministry Of Culture

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
227	Implementing Arrangement Between The Republic Of Singapore Navy And The Indian Navy Concerning Mutual Coordination Logistics And Services Support For Naval Ships Submarines And Naval Aircraft (Including Ship Borne Aviation Assets) Visits	01-06-2018	<b>SINGAPORE</b>	Ministry Of Defence
228	MoU Between National Institution For Transforming India (Niti Aayog) And Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (Sce) On Cooperation In The Field Of Planning.	01-06-2018	<b>SINGAPORE</b>	Niti Aayog
229	MoU Between The Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances And Pensions, India And The Public Service Division Of The Republic Of Singapore On Cooperation In The Field Of Personnel Management And Public Administration.	01-06-2018	<b>SINGAPORE</b>	Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances And Pensions
230	MoU Between Monetary Authority Of Singapore (Mas) And Department Of Economic Affairs (Dea), India	01-06-2018	<b>SINGAPORE</b>	Ministry Of Finance
231	Joint Statement On The Second Review Of The India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	01-06-2018	<b>SINGAPORE</b>	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry
232	Extension Of The MoU Between The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In), Ministry Of Electronics & Information Technology, India And The Singapore Computer Emergency Response Team (Singcert), Cyber Security Agency, Singapore On Cooperation In The Area Of Cyber Security	01-06-2018	<b>SINGAPORE</b>	Ministry Of Electronics & Information Technology
233	The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement Between The Republic Of India And Singapore Mutual Recognition Agreement On Nursing Services	01-06-2018	<b>SINGAPORE</b>	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
234	MoU Between The Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances And Pensions, India And The Public Service Division Of The Republic Of Singapore On Co-Operation In The Field Of Personnel Management And Public Administration	01-06-2018	<b>SINGAPORE</b>	Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances And Pensions



	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
235	MoU Between The Narcotics Control Bureau, India And The Central Narcotics Bureau, Singapore On Cooperation To Combat Illicit Trafficking In Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances And Their Precursors	01-06-2018	SINGAPORE	Ministry Of Home Affairs
236	Implementing Arrangement Between Singapore Navy And Indian Navy Concerning Mutual Coordination, Logistics And Services Support For Naval Ships, Submarines' And Naval Aviation Assets) Visits	01-06-2018	SINGAPORE	Ministry Of Defence
237	MoU Between India And Somalia	05-06-2018	SOMALIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
238	MOU Between India And South Africa Relating To Setting up of Gandhi Mandela Centre of Specialization for Artisan Skills in South Africa	26-07-18	SOUTH AFRICA	Ministry Of External Affairs
239	MoU for Cooperation in IT & Electronics between India and Sri Lanka	15-01-2018	SRI LANKA	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
240	MoU Between India And Sri Lanka For The Establishment Of A Collaborative Relationship To Combat Transnational Illegal Activities At Sea And Develop Regional Co-Operation	09-05-2018	SRILANKA	Ministry Of Defence
241	Memorandum Of Understanding Between Indian Coast Guard And Sri Lanka Coast Guard	09-05-2018	SRILANKA	Ministry Of Defence
242	Arrangement Between India And Suriname For Authorizing The Dependents Of Members Of A Diplomatic Mission Or Consular Post To Engage In Gainful Employment	18-06-2018	SURINAME	Ministry Of External Affairs
243	Letter Of Intent Between India And Suriname	18-06-2018	SURINAME	Ministry Of External Affairs
244	MoU Between India And Suriname On Cooperation	18-06-2018	SURINAME	Ministry Of External Affairs
245	MoU On Mutual Cooperation In The Field Of Elections Between India And Suriname	18-06-2018	SURINAME	Election Commission Of India
246	MoU Between India And Suriname Concerning Setting Up Of A Center For Excellence In Information Technology (Ceit)	18-06-2018	SURINAME	Ministry Of External Affairs
247	Election Commission of India's MoU with General Secretary Election, Ministry of Home Affairs, Suriname	18-06-2018	SURINAME	Ministry Of Home Affairs

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
248	Agreement Between India And Swaziland On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official Passports	09-04-2018	<b>SWAZILAND</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
249	MoU Between India And Swaziland On Cooperation In The Field Of Health And Medicine	09-04-2018	<b>SWAZILAND</b>	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
250	Letter of intent for Sister State Agreement between the State of Andhra Pradesh and the Canton of Zurich in January 2018.	22-01-18	<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	Government Of Andhra Pradesh
251	MoU Between India And Syria On Cooperation	25-01-2018	<b>SYRIA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
252	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Tajikistan On Cooperation And Mutual Assistance In Customs Matters	08-05-2018	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Finance
253	MoU on Cooperation in Youth Matters between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India and the Committee of Youth Affairs and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	08-10-2018	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports
254	Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs, India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tajikistan for the period of 2018-21	08-10-2018	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
255	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture and the Republic of Tajikistan for the years 2019-2023	08-10-2018	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Culture
256	MoU between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, India and Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education	08-10-2018	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	Indian Council Of Agricultural Research
257	MoU between Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, Ministry of AYUSH and State Educational Establishment "Tajik State Medical University named Abualilbn Sino" on Cooperation in the Field of Unani Medicine	08-10-2018	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of AYUSH
258	MoU between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation in the Field of Disaster Management	08-10-2018	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Home Affairs
259	MoU between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation on Peaceful use of Space Technology for Development	08-10-2018	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	Department Of Space

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
260	MoU between Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India and Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Tajikistan on Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy	08-10-2018	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
261	MoU Between India And Tanzania On Cooperation	16-10-2018	<b>TANZANIA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
262	MoU Between India And Timor-Leste On Cooperation In The Field Of Healthcare And Public Health	07-04-2018	<b>TIMOR-LESTE</b>	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
263	MoU between VVG NLI and ITC, ILO, Turin undertaking training and education activities to promote decent work in the world of work	28-11-2018	<b>TURIN</b>	Ministry Of Labour And Employment
264	Agreement Between Uganda And India On Exemption From Visa Requirements For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official Passports	24-07-2018	<b>UGANDA</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
265	Agreement Between India And Uganda in the area of defence cooperation	24-07-18	<b>UGANDA</b>	Ministry Of Defence
266	MoU Between India And Uganda on cultural exchange programme	24-07-18	<b>UGANDA</b>	Ministry Of Culture
267	MoU Between India And United Arab Emirates For Cooperation In The Areas Of Diplomatic Studies And Training	25-06-2018	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
268	MoU Between India And United Arab Emirates On Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector	10-02-2018	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	Ministry Of Railways
269	MoU Between India And United Arab Emirates On Cooperation In The Field Of Manpower	10-02-2018	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
270	Protocol On Domestic Workers Annexed To The MoU Between UAE And India On Cooperation In The Field Of Manpower	10-02-2018	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
271	Memorandum of Understanding in the field of diplomatic training between the Emirates Diplomatic Academy(EDA) and the Foreign Service Institute(FSI) of India	26-06-18	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
272	MOU between Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of India and Anti Money Laundering and Suspicious Cases Unit (AMLSCU) of UAE for cooperation in the exchange of financial intelligence related to money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorist financing	10-02-18	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	Ministry Of Finance

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
273	MOU between MEA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE for joint collaboration in projects in Africa.	24-06-18	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	Ministry Of Finance
274	Indian Rupee (INR)/UAE Dirham (AED) Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement between RBI and Central Bank of the UAE	04-12-18	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
275	MoU for Development Cooperation in Africa between Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of the UAE and Ministry of External Affairs of India	30-11-18	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	
276	MoU Between India And Scotland On River Ganga Rejuvenation	04-12-18	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
277	Joint Announcement By India And The United Kingdom On Setting Up A Fast Track Mechanism For Indian Companies In The Uk	17-04-2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Ministry Of Water Resource, River Development And Ganga Rejuvenation
278	MoU Between India And The United Kingdom On River Ganga Rejuvenation	17-04-2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Ministry Of Finance
279	MoU Between India And The United Kingdom Of Great Britain And Northern Ireland Regarding Co-Operation And The Exchange Of Information For The Purposes Of Combating International Criminality And Tackling Serious Organised Crime	17-04-2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Ministry Of Water Resource, River Development And Ganga Rejuvenation
280	MoU Between India And The United Kingdom Of Great Britain And Northern Ireland On Cooperation In The Field Of Skill Development,Vocational Education And Training	17-04-2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Ministry Of Home Affairs
281	MoU Between India And The United Kingdom Of Great Britain And Northern Ireland On Cooperation In The Field Of Sustainable Urban Development	17-04-2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship
282	MoU Between India And The United Kingdom Of Great Britain And Northern Ireland For Cooperation In The Field Of Animal Husbandry,Dairying And Fisheries Sectors	17-04-2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Ministry Of Housing And Urban Affairs
283	Framework For The India Uk Cyber Relationship	17-04-2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
284	MoU between All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Ministry of AYUSH and College of Medicine, UK on the Establishment of an Academic Collaboration in Ayurveda	17-04-2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	National Security Council Secretariat

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
285	<b>Addendum to the MoU</b> between Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India and The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (earlier known as Department of Business, Innovation and Skills), Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Newton-Bhabha Programme to include the research and partnership in Humanities and Social Sciences	18-04-2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Ministry Of AYUSH
286	Statement of Intent (Sol) on Bilateral Economic Partnership for Mutual Understanding and Cooperation between the National Institution for Transforming India NITI AAYOG, Government of the Republic of India and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).	2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Ministry Of Science & Technology
287	Partnership Agreement Between India And The United Nations Office For Project Services For Providing Socio-Technical Facilitation To 23,088 Government Of India Supported Earthquake-Affected Housing Beneficiaries In Nuwakot District Of Nepal	2018	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Niti Aayog
288	Memorandum of Intent between USA Defence Innovations Unit (DIU) and the Indian Defence Innovation Organisation - Innovations for Defence Excellence (DIO-iDEX)	2018	<b>UNITES STATES OF AMERICA</b>	Ministry Of Defence
289	Agreement Between India And Uzbekistan On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic Passport	2018	<b>UNITES STATES OF AMERICA</b>	Ministry Of Defence
290	Program Of Cooperation Between The Ministry Of External Affairs, India And Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, Uzbekistan For 2019-2020	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
291	Agreement Between India And Uzbekistan On Cooperation In The Field Of Tourism	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of External Affairs
292	Agreement Between India And Uzbekistan On Cooperation In The Field Of Agriculture And Allied Sectors	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Tourism
293	Agreement Between India And Uzbekistan On Cooperation In The Fields Of Science, Technology And Innovation	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry/ Department</b>
294	Agreement Between The Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare, India And The Ministry Of Health, Uzbekistan On Cooperation In Health And Medicinal Science	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Department Of Science And Technology
295	MoU Between (I) Khokimiyat Of The Andijan Region, Uzbekistan, (Ii) Agency For Development Of Pharmaceuticals Industry Under The Ministry Of Health, Uzbekistan And (Iii) Department Of Pharmaceuticals In The Ministry Of Chemicals & Fertilizers, India On Cooperation For Establishment Of The Uzbek-Indian Free Pharmaceutical Zone In The Andijan Region Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
296	Agreement Between India And Uzbekistan On Mutual Cooperation In Combating Illicit Trafficking In Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances And Precursors	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Chemicals And Fertilizers
297	MoU Between Ministry Of Law And Justice, India And Ministry Of Justice, Uzbekistan On Cooperation In The Sphere Of Law And Justice	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Home Affairs
298	Agreement Between India And Uzbekistan On Cooperation In The Exploration And Uses Of Outer Space For Peaceful Purposes	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Law And Justice
299	MoU Between Ministry Of Defence, India And The Ministry Of Defence, Uzbekistan On Cooperation In The Field Of Military Education	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Department Of Space
300	MoU For Cooperation Between The National Security Council Secretariat, India And The Office Of The Security Council Under The President Of Uzbekistan	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Defence
301	MoU between India and Uzbekistan for Development of Pharmaceutical Sector Industry	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Defence
302	Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Uzbekistan for the Years 2019-2023	01-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Chemicals And Fertilizers
303	MoU between India and Uzbekistan in the field of Renewable Energy	08-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Culture
304	MoU between India and Uzbekistan on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management	08-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
305	MoU between India and Uzbekistan on Cooperation on Peaceful Use of Space Technology for Development	08-10-2018	<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Ministry Of Home Affairs

	Title	Date of Signature	Country	Administrative Ministry/ Department
306	MoU on Cooperation in Youth Matters between India and Uzbekistan	08-10-2018	UZBEKISTAN	Department Of Space
307	MoU Between India And Vietnam On Cooperation In The Field Of Information And Broadcasting	08-10-2018	UZBEKISTAN	Ministry Of Youth And Sports
308	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Ministry of Communications of The Republic of India on cooperation in the field of Communications	24-01-2018	VIETNAM	Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting
309	MoU Between India And Zambia On Exemption Of Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports	20-11-18	VIETNAM	Ministry Of Communications
310	MoU Between India And Zambia For Setting Up Entrepreneurship And Cooperative Development Center In Zambia	11-04-2018	ZAMBIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
311	MoU Between India And Zambia On Bilateral Judicial Sector Cooperation	11-04-2018	ZAMBIA	Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship
312	Agreement India and Zambia for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	11-04-2018	ZAMBIA	Ministry Of Law And Justice
313	MoU for Cooperation in the fields of Geology, Mining and Mineral Resources	11-04-18	ZAMBIA	Ministry Of Finance
314	Action Plan on Information and Communication Technology	2018	ZIMBABWE	Ministry Of Mines
315	MoU for Cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicine and Homeopathy	03-11-18	ZIMBABWE	Ministry Of Electronics & Information Technology
316	MoU for Cooperation in the field of Arts, Culture and Heritage	2018	ZIMBABWE	Ministry Of AYSH
317	MoU for Cooperation and Collaboration on Broadcasting	2018	ZIMBABWE	Ministry Of Culture
318	Agreement on Reciprocal Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports.	2018	ZIMBABWE	Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting
319	Arrangement For The Exchange Of Information And Cooperation In The Area Of Regulation Of Safe Nuclear Energy Use For Peaceful Purposes.	03-11-18	ZIMBABWE	Ministry Of External Affairs

## APPENDIX II

## List of Ratifications

	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/ MoU	Country/ Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
1	Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic between the Republic of India and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	<b>Afghanistan</b>	11-09-17	02-02-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
2	Agreement between India and Azerbaijan on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports	<b>Azerbaijan</b>	04-04-18	01-05-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
3	Agreement between India and Bahrain on Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Special/Official Passports	<b>Bahrain</b>	15-07-18	24-09-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
4	MoU for Establishment of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection	<b>BIMSTEC</b>	31-08-18	13-11-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
5	Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Botswana on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Botswana</b>	01-11-2018	18-12-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
6	Agreement between India and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol	<b>China</b>	19-03-18	01-05-18	30-11-2018	Ministry of Finance



	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/ MoU	Country/ Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
7	Agreement between India and Czech Republic on Exemption from Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	Czech	07-09-18	01-10-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
8	1990 Agreement Establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	Europe		17-04-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Finance
9	Agreement between India and French Republic on the Prevention of the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Precursors, and Related Offences	France	10-03-18	16-04-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Home Affairs
10	Agreement between India and French Republic regarding the Provision of Reciprocal Logistics Support between their Armed Forces.	France	10-03-18	18-10-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Defence
11	Administrative Arrangement between India and Germany for the Implementation of the Agreement between India and Germany on Social Security.	Germany	12.10.2011	26.03.2018	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
12	MoU between Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs and the Diplomatic Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Guatemala	Guatemala	07-05-18	17-08-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
13	Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (Beijing Protocol)", signed at Beijing on 10 September 2010.	ICAO	10-09-10	30-11-2018	No info. Available.	Ministry of Civil Aviation
14	IBSA Fund Agreement	India, Brazil & South Africa	17-10-17	05-11-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs

	<b>Name of the Agreement/Treaty/ MoU</b>	<b>Country/ Organization</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Date of Ratification/ Accession</b>	<b>Date of Entry Into Force</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry</b>
15	MoU between India and Islamic Republic of Iran on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Iran</b>	16-02-18	16-03-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
16	Agreement between India and Islamic Republic of Iran for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol	<b>Iran</b>	17-02-18	01-05-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Finance
17	Agreement of Film Co-production between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Republic of India	<b>Israel</b>	15-01-18	01-10-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
18	Agreement between Indian and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	<b>Jordan</b>	01-03-18	16-03-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
19	Agreement between India and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters.	<b>Jordan</b>	01-03-18	31-05-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Finance
20	Agreement between India and Kuwait on Mutual Exemption from Visa Requirements for holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passports	<b>Kuwait</b>	31-10-18	13-11-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
21	Treaty on Extradition between the Republic of India and the Republic of Lithuania	<b>Lithuania</b>	09-10-17	18-12-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Home Affairs

	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/ MoU	Country/ Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
22	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Malawi on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passports	<b>Malawi</b>	5-11-18	8-12-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
23	Agreement between Morocco and India Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	<b>Morocco</b>	12-11-18	30-11-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Home Affairs
24	Agreement between India and the Sultanate of Oman on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic, Special, Service and Official Passports	<b>Oman</b>	11.02.18	04.04.2018	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
25	Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Skill Development and Recognition of Qualifications between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Republic of India	<b>Qatar</b>	05-06-16	08-12-2018	No info. Available.	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
26	Agreement between India and Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis on exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official/ Service Passports.	<b>Saint Kitts and Nevis</b>	16-02-18	16-03-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
27	Agreement between India and Suriname on Exemption from visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports	<b>Suriname</b>	28-04-2017	06-06-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs

	<b>Name of the Agreement/Treaty/ MoU</b>	<b>Country/ Organization</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Date of Ratification/ Accession</b>	<b>Date of Entry Into Force</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry</b>
28	Agreement between India and Kingdom of Swaziland on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holder of Diplomatic and Official Passports	<b>Swaziland</b>	09-04-18	08-05-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
29	Agreement between India and Tajikistan on cooperation and Mutual Assistance in customs Matters	<b>Tajikistan</b>	08-05-18	31-05-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Finance
30	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Government of the Republic of India on Exemption from Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	<b>Uganda</b>	24-07-18	08-12-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
31	Minamata Convention on Mercury	<b>United Nations</b>	30-09-14	16-04-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
32	Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products	<b>United Nations</b>		18-05-18[a]	25-09-2018	Ministry of Health
33	Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on Cooperation in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes	<b>Viet Nam</b>	03-09-16	10-07-18	No info. Available.	Department of Space
34	WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, 1996	<b>WIPO</b>	20-12-96	17-08-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Commerce and Industry

	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/ MoU	Country/ Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
35	WIPO Copyright Treaty, 1996	<b>WIPO</b>	20-12-96	17-08-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
36	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Zambia on Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Zambia</b>	11-04-18	25-06-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs
37	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Zimbabwe on the Reciprocal Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Zimbabwe</b>	03-11-2018	18-12-18	No info. Available.	Ministry of External Affairs

## APPENDIX III

### List of Instrument of Full Powers issued in 2018

	Title of the Treaty/Agreement	Country	Date of Issue	Administrative Ministry
1	Agreement between India and Armenia on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	Armenia	31-10-18	Ministry of Finance
2	Treaty between India and Belarus on Investments	Belarus	17-09-18	Ministry of Finance
3	Full Powers for the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes	Brunei Darussalam	18-10-18	Ministry of Finance
4	Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a High Level Joint Commission between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Chile	Chile	10-07-18	Ministry of External Affairs
5	Agreement between India and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income.	China	09.03.2018	Ministry of Finance
6	Protocol Amending the Agreement between India and China for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on Income and its Protocol.	China	15-10-18	Ministry of Finance
7	MoU between the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy of the Republic of India and Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the republic of Colombia for Establishing Cooperation on Traditional systems of Medicine of India	Colombia	01-10-18	Ministry of AYUSH
8	MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Colombia on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Fisheries.	Colombia	01-10-18	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
9	MoU between the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Colombia on Cooperation in Tourism Development.	Colombia	01.10.2018	Ministry of Tourism

	<b>Title of the Treaty/Agreement</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry</b>
10	Joint Interpretative Declaration between the Republic of Colombia and the Republic of India regarding the Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments between India and Colombia signed on November 10th 2009	<b>Colombia</b>	01.10.2018	Ministry of Finance
11	Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark on Cooperation in the Fields of Science, Technology and Innovation	<b>Denmark</b>	08-05-18	Ministry of Science and Technology
12	Agreement between India and Islamic Republic of Iran for the avoidance of Double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and its protocol	<b>Iran</b>	16-04-18	Ministry of Finance
13	Agreement between India and Peru on co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	<b>Peru</b>	30-11-18	Ministry of Finance
14	Agreement between India and Philippines on co-operation	<b>Philippines</b>	23-01-18	Ministry of Finance
15	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of Samoa for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes	<b>Samoa</b>	18-12-18	Ministry of Finance
16	Agreement between India and Tajikistan on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters	<b>Tajikistan</b>	04-04-18	Ministry of Finance

## ANNEXURE IV

## Seminars, conferences, etc partially or wholly funded by the Division

S. No	Seminar/Conference	Partner/Collaborating Organisation	Date, Venue
1	3 <sup>rd</sup> India Ocean Conference	India Foundation	27 & 28 August 2018, Hanoi, Vietnam
2	4 <sup>th</sup> Raisina Dialogue 2019	Observer Research Foundation	8-10 January 2019, New Delhi
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> India-US Forum	Ananta Centre	6 & 7 April 2018, New Delhi
4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Global Technology Summit	Carnegie India	17-19 December 2018, Bengaluru
5	1 <sup>st</sup> India EU Strategy Forum	Carnegie India	Arrábida, Portugal
6	17 <sup>th</sup> India-Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue	Ananta Centre	31 October -1 November, 2018, Seoul, South Korea
7	1 <sup>st</sup> India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue	Gateway House	29 October - 2 November 2018, Ottawa, Canada
8	India-Pakistan Track 2 Dialogue	Neemrana Initiative	28-30 April 2018, Islamabad
9	3 <sup>rd</sup> West Asia Conference	IDSA	5 & 6 September 2018, New Delhi
10	4 <sup>th</sup> India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue	Delhi Policy Group	15 & 16 October 2018, New Delhi
11	National Seminar on "Trump Presidency, US Relations with India, China, Near East and Iran"	Vidya Prasarak Mandal	27 & 28 April 2018, Mumbai
12	Special Address by King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein of Jordan	India Islamic Centre	1 March 2018, New Delhi
13	Trilateral Commission Meetings (India Secretariat)	Ananta Centre	FY 2018-19
14	2 <sup>nd</sup> International Conference on "Outer Space Partnership"	Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS)	23 October 2018, Goa
15	Foreign Policy Outreach Initiative	Pune International Centre	FY 2018-19
16	Seminar and Conference on Act East Policy	Jadavpur Association of International Relations (JAIR)	18 November 2018, Dera Natung Government College, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
17	9 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on "Asia in Transition"	Indian Association for Asia & Pacific Studies, Kolkata	1 & 2 November 2018, Chandigarh



## APPENDIX V

## Current Sanctioned Strength of Ministry

S.No.	Cadre/Post	Posts at Hqrs.	Posts at Missions	Total
1	Grade I	5	28	33
2	Grade II	6	40	46
3	Grade III	38	132	170
4	Grade IV	58	152	210
5	Junior Admn. Grade/Senior Scale	117	234	351
6	(i) Junior Scale	10	37	47
	(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>623</b>	<b>960</b>
	<b>IFS(B)</b>			
7	(i) Grade I	118	125	243
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6		6
8	(i) Integrated Grades II & III	359	235	594
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30		30
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	16		16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25		25
9	(i) Grade IV	214	539	753
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	54		54
10	(i) Grade V/VI	173	84	257
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	14		14
11	(i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre	47	47	94
	(ii) Leave Reserve	5		5
12	(i) Stenographer's Cadre	383	544	927
	(ii) Leave Reserve	47		47
	(iii) Training Reserve (Hindi)	10		10
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	12		12
13	Interpreter's Cadre	9	26	35
14	L&T Cadre	20	3	23
	<b>Sub Total II</b>	<b>1662</b>	<b>1603</b>	<b>3265</b>
	<b>Grand Total(Sub total I+II)</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2226</b>	<b>4225</b>

## APPENDIX VI

### Data on Recruitment through DR, DP and LDE Modes

S.No.	Groups	Total No. of Vacancies	SC	ST	OBC
1	Group 'A'	169	33	22	18
2	Group 'B'	173	30	23	0
3	Group 'C'	78	16	15	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>21</b>

## APPENDIX VII

### Number of IFS Officers with Proficiency in various languages:

Sl. No.	Language	Number of officers
1	Arabic	114
2	Bahasa Indonesia	10
3	Bahasa Malay	02
4	Burmese	06
5	Chinese	90
6	Czech	01
7	French	102
8	German	35
9	Hebrew	08
10	Japanese	28
11	Kazakh	01
12	Kiswahili	02
13	Korean	08
14	Nepalese	01
15	Pashto	02
16	Persian	22
17	Polish	01
18	Portuguese	25
19	Russian	106
20	Sinhalese	07
21	Spanish	92
22	Turkish	07
23	Ukrainian	01
24	Vietnamese	03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>674</b>

## APPENDIX -VIII

### State-Wise List of Passport Kendras

	State/UT	Number	Location
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Vijayawada, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Bhimavaram
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Itanagar
3.	Assam*	1	Guwahati
4.	Bihar	2	Patna, Darbhanga
5.	Chandigarh UT**	1	Chandigarh
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	Raipur
7.	Delhi NCT***	3	Herald House, Shalimar Place, Bhikaji Cama Place
8.	Goa	1	Panaji
9.	Gujarat	5	Mithakali (Ahmedabad), Vijay Cross Road (Ahmedabad), Vadodara, Rajkot, Surat.
10.	Haryana	2	Ambala, Gurgaon.
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shimla
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	Jammu, Srinagar
13.	Jharkhand	1	Ranchi
14.	Karnataka	5	Lalbagh (Bengaluru), Marathahalli (Bengaluru), Hubli, Mangalore, Kalaburagi.
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Bhopal, Indore.
16.	Maharashtra	8	Andheri (Mumbai), Lower Parel (Mumbai), Malad (Mumbai), Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Solapur, Thane.
17.	Manipur	1	Imphal
18.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong
19.	Mizoram	1	Aizawl
20.	Nagaland	1	Dimapur
21.	Odisha	1	Bhubaneswar
22.	Puducherry	1	Puducherry
23.	Punjab	5	Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jalandhar I & II, Hoshiarpur.
24.	Rajasthan	4	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sikar, Udaipur.
25.	Sikkim	1	Gangtok.
26.	Tamil Nadu	8	Aminjikarai (Chennai), Saligramam (Chennai), Tambaram (Chennai), Trichy, Thanjavur, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore.

27.	Telangana	5	Ameerpet , Begumpet, Toli Chowki, Nizamabad, Karimnagar
28.	Tripura	1	Agartala
29.	Uttar Pradesh	6	Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Ghaziabad.
30.	Uttarakhand	1	Dehradun
31.	West Bengal	3	Kolkata, Berhampore, Siliguri.
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>93</b>	

\* RPO Guwahati covers five other North-Eastern States also at present.

\*\*RPO Chandigarh covers parts of Punjab and Haryana.

\*\*\*RPO Delhi covers parts of Haryana.

@RPO Kolkata covers Sikkim and Tripura.

## APPENDIX – IX

### List of Operational Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSKs)

S.No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
1	Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
2	Amalapuram	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
3	Rajampet (Kodur)	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
4	Bapatla	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
5	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
6	Eluru	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
7	Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
8	Krishna-Gudivada	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
9	Nandyal	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
10	Narasaraopet	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
11	Ongole	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
12	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
13	Hindupur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
14	Kadappa	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
15	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
16	Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
17	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
18	Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
19	Vizianagaram	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
20	Changlang	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
21	Tirap	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
22	Barpeta	Assam	Guwahati
23	Dibrugarh	Assam	Guwahati
24	Dhubri	Assam	Guwahati
25	Goalpara	Assam	Guwahati
26	Karbi Anglong	Assam	Guwahati
27	Kokrajhar	Assam	Guwahati
28	Mangaldoi	Assam	Guwahati
29	Nawgong	Assam	Guwahati
30	North Lakhimpur	Assam	Guwahati
31	Silchar	Assam	Guwahati
32	Sonitpur(Tezpur)	Assam	Guwahati
33	Tinsukia	Assam	Guwahati

S.No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
34	Begusarai	Bihar	Patna
35	Buxar	Bihar	Patna
36	Chhapra	Bihar	Patna
37	East Champaran (Motihari)	Bihar	Patna
38	Gaya	Bihar	Patna
39	Hajipur	Bihar	Patna
40	Madhubani	Bihar	Patna
41	Munger	Bihar	Patna
42	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Patna
43	Nalanda	Bihar	Patna
44	Navada	Bihar	Patna
45	Purnea	Bihar	Patna
46	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Patna
47	Samastipur	Bihar	Patna
48	Siwan	Bihar	Patna
49	Bettiah	Bihar	Patna
50	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
51	Durg	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
52	Janjgir-Champa	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
53	Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
54	Surguja	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
55	Silvasa	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Mumbai
56	Daman	Daman	Mumbai
57	Janak Puri	Delhi	Delhi
58	Nehru Place	Delhi	Delhi
59	Patparganj	Delhi	Delhi
60	Yamuna Vihar	Delhi	Delhi
61	South Goa	Goa	Panaji
62	Amreli	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
63	Anand	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
64	Bardoli	Gujarat	Surat
65	Bharuch	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
66	Dahod	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
67	Gandhinagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
68	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
69	Junagadh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad

S.No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
70	Kheda	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
71	Palanpur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
72	Bhuj	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
73	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
74	Mehsana	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
75	Porbandar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
76	Patan	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
77	Sabarkantha	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
78	Surendranagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
79	Veraval	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
80	Navsari	Gujarat	Surat
81	Valsad	Gujarat	Surat
82	Bhiwani	Haryana	Chandigarh
83	Kaithal	Haryana	Chandigarh
84	Karnal	Haryana	Chandigarh
85	Hisar	Haryana	Chandigarh
86	Panipat	Haryana	Chandigarh
87	Yamunanagar	Haryana	Chandigarh
88	Faridabad	Haryana	Delhi
89	Narnaul	Haryana	Delhi
90	Rohtak	Haryana	Delhi
91	Sonipat	Haryana	Delhi
92	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
93	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
94	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
95	Kangra	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
96	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
97	Una	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
98	Kathua	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
99	Rajouri	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
100	Anantnag	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
101	Baramulla	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
102	Udhampur	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
103	Leh	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
104	Bokaro	Jharkhand	Ranchi
105	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	Ranchi



S.No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
106	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	Ranchi
107	Deoghar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
108	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	Ranchi
109	Dumka	Jharkhand	Ranchi
110	Medininagar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
111	Mysuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
112	Belagavi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
113	Bellary	Karnataka	Bengaluru
114	Bidar	Karnataka	Bengaluru
115	Davangere	Karnataka	Bengaluru
116	Gadag	Karnataka	Bengaluru
117	Hassan	Karnataka	Bengaluru
118	Raichur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
119	Shivamogga	Karnataka	Bengaluru
120	Tumakuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
121	Udupi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
122	Vijayapur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
123	Chengannur	Kerala	Cochin
124	Idukki (Kattappana)	Kerala	Cochin
125	Kasargod	Kerala	Kozhikode
126	Palakkad	Kerala	Cochin
127	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	Trivandrum
128	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	Cochin
129	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
130	Betul	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
131	Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
132	Damoh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
133	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
134	Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
135	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
136	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
137	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
138	Ratlam	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
139	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
140	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
141	Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	Pune

S.No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
142	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mumbai
143	Baramati	Maharashtra	Pune
144	Beed	Maharashtra	Pune
145	Chandrapur	Maharashtra	Nagpur
146	Ghatkopar/Vikhroli	Maharashtra	Mumbai
147	Jalgaon	Maharashtra	Mumbai
148	Jalna	Maharashtra	Pune
149	Latur	Maharashtra	Pune
150	Wardha	Maharashtra	Nagpur
151	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	Pune
152	Nanded	Maharashtra	Pune
153	Pandharpur	Maharashtra	Pune
154	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	Pune
155	Rajapur	Maharashtra	Mumbai
156	Sangli	Maharashtra	Pune
157	Satara	Maharashtra	Pune
158	Tura	Meghalaya	Guwahati
159	Aska	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
160	Balasore	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
161	Baripada	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
162	Berhampur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
163	Bhawanipatna	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
164	Dhenkanal	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
165	Keonjhar	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
166	Rourkela	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
167	Sambalpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
168	Koraput	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
169	Karaikal	Puducherry	Tiruchirapalli
170	Bathinda	Punjab	Chandigarh
171	Patiala	Punjab	Chandigarh
172	Pathankot	Punjab	Jalandhar
173	Phagwara	Punjab	Jalandhar
174	Moga	Punjab	Jalandhar
175	Ajmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
176	Alwar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
177	Banswara	Rajasthan	Jaipur

S.No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
178	Barmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
179	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
180	Churu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
181	Karauli-Dhaulpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
182	Kota	Rajasthan	Jaipur
183	Bikaner	Rajasthan	Jaipur
184	Hanumangarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
185	Jhunjhunu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
186	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
187	Jhalawar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
188	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
189	Pali	Rajasthan	Jaipur
190	Sriganganagar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
191	Coonoor	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
192	Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
193	Devakottai	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
194	Theni	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
195	Tenkasi	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
196	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
197	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
198	Viluppuram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
199	Rasipuram	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
200	Salem	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
201	Kanyakumari	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
202	Dindigul(Kodairoad)	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
203	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
204	Perambalur	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirapalli
205	Adilabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
206	Bhongir	Telangana	Hyderabad
207	Khammam	Telangana	Hyderabad
208	Medak	Telangana	Hyderabad
209	Mehbubnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad
210	Nalgonda	Telangana	Hyderabad
211	Siddipet	Telangana	Hyderabad
212	Warangal (Hanamkonda)	Telangana	Hyderabad
213	Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad

S.No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
214	Amethi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
215	Badaun	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
216	Bijnaur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
217	Bulandshahr	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
218	Chunar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
219	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
220	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
221	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
222	Fatehpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
223	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
224	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
225	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
226	Balrampur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
227	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
228	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
229	Ayodhya/ Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
230	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
231	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
232	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
233	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
234	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
235	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
236	Mau	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
237	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
238	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
239	Rae Bareli	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
240	Rampur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
241	Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
242	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
243	Almora	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
244	Haldwani (Kathgodam)	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
245	Nainital	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
246	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
247	Rudrapur	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
248	Srinagar	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
249	Alipurduar	West Bengal	Kolkata

S.No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
250	Asansol	West Bengal	Kolkata
251	Balurghat	West Bengal	Kolkata
252	Bardhaman	West Bengal	Kolkata
253	Birbhum (Rampurhat)	West Bengal	Kolkata
254	Coochbehar	West Bengal	Kolkata
255	Raiganj (North Dinajpur)	West Bengal	Kolkata
256	Chinsurah	West Bengal	Kolkata
257	Diamond Harbour	West Bengal	Kolkata
258	Jalpaiguri	West Bengal	Kolkata
259	Medinipur (Kharagpur)	West Bengal	Kolkata
260	Nadia (Krishnanagar)	West Bengal	Kolkata
261	North Kolkata (Beadon Street)	West Bengal	Kolkata
262	Malda	West Bengal	Kolkata
263	Barrackpore	West Bengal	Kolkata







# Ministry of External Affairs

## Annual Report

### 2018-2019

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