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Introduction and Synopsis

India's foreign policy is dedicated to the furtherance of our national security and developmental priorities in a globalized and interdependent world. It encompasses the safeguarding of domestic priorities of sustained growth and inclusive socio-economic development, as well as tackling global challenges such as international terrorism, climate change, energy security or proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It is an undeniable fact that while we strive to achieve our domestic goals, we must also ensure our dynamic engagement with a rapidly changing scenario in global affairs, and the emerging security and economic architectures, given the stakes involved for India.

The first step towards achieving our foreign policy objective is to ensure a peaceful, secure and stable neighbourhood, and it is with this perspective that India is developing a mutually beneficial relationship with her neighbours. India has always regarded the concept of neighbourhood as one of widening concentric circles, around a central axis of historical and cultural commonalities.

India remains committed in its support for Bhutan's efforts towards economic and social development. In keeping with our unique relationship with Nepal, our engagement with it grew as the pace of implementation of enhancing cross-border connectivity infrastructure quickened. India continued to work closely with the Government of Nepal and political parties with a view to support Nepal's peace process and the strengthening of multiparty democracy. Our sustained and mutually beneficial dialogue at various levels with the Bangladeshi leadership has strengthened our relations with Bangladesh. Our Line of Credit of US\$ 1 billion to Bangladesh for its infrastructure development has further energized our bilateral relations. Relations with Sri Lanka during the period were strengthened by the visits of the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa to India, and frequent contacts at senior levels of Government. India continued to assist the Sri Lankan Government in resettlement and rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Northern Province through a number of developmental projects.

India's relations with Afghanistan have been deepened through regular dialogue at the highest levels, highlighted during President Hamid Karzai's visit to India in April 2010. The mutually beneficial implementation of our development partnership with that country has provided visible and meaningful substance to our relationship.

India remains committed to discussing all outstanding issues with Pakistan through a bilateral dialogue in an environment free of terrorism and violence. In order for the dialogue to be comprehensive, serious and sustained, Pakistan must fulfill its stated commitment of not allowing territory under its control to be used for fomenting terrorism against India. In pursuance of the mandate given by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, following their meeting in Thimphu in April 2010, the Minister of External Affairs of India and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan had met in Islamabad in July 2010 to review the current state of the bilateral relationship and discuss steps to promote trust and confidence between the two countries. The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Thimphu on 6 February, 2011 to carry forward this process. It was agreed to resume dialogue on all issues following the spirit of the Thimphu meeting between the two Prime Ministers.

Apart from maintaining close ties with her neighbours in the South Asia region, India continued to contribute substantially, in an asymmetric and non-reciprocal manner, to transform SAARC into a meaningful and dynamic vehicle of regional co-operation.

The principle of mutual respect and sensitivity to each other's concerns is stressed in our relations with China. The year 2010 marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil's visit to China in May 2010, and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India in December 2010, were important landmarks in bilateral relations. India and China demonstrated their cooperation in regional and multilateral fora on global issues, such as climate change and the global financial situation.

Relations between India and the United States of America are founded on shared values, increasingly convergent interests, enormous opportunities for mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation and a shared commitment to work together to address regional and global issues. These were evident during President Barack Obama's visit to India in November 2010. Both countries have agreed to accelerate the deepening of our ties and to work as equal partners in a strategic relationship that will positively and decisively influence world peace, stability and progress.

India has a very special strategic partnership with Russia which has stood the test of time over the last five decades. The relationship, characterized by both sides as a 'special and privileged partnership', received a fillip in 2010 with visits to India by both Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and President Dmitri Medvedev. These visits served to impart a qualitatively new character to our bilateral ties, deepened our cooperation in a vast number of areas vital to our relationship and developed a blueprint for the next decade.

India hosted the visit of Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom in July 2010. Our strategic partnership with the U.K. was elevated to the level of an enhanced partnership for the future during the visit. President Nicolas Sarkozy of France visited India in December 2010. The substantive dialogue at the leadership level, and our robust cooperation in a number of vital areas have further cemented the strategic partnership that was established with France in 1998.

A strong and prosperous Europe, with which India shares common values of democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights, is essential for stability and balance in the international order. The European Union is a key strategic partner in meeting India's development needs. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Belgium in December 2010 for the 11th India-EU Summit. This was the first bilateral Summit after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, and provided an opportunity for identifying areas for further expansion of the relationship.

Relations with the countries in South-East Asia, East Asia and the Pacific constitute an important dimension of India's "Look East Policy", initiated in 1992 to qualitatively enhance synergies and civilizational linkages with the dynamic East and South East Asian region. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Japan in October 2010 for the Annual Summit. Japan's active participation in major infrastructural projects in India, and the conclusion of negotiations on our bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement were recognized as significant milestones in our relations.

The Indian economy is getting increasingly integrated with those of its East Asian partners. The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, paid official visits to Laos and Cambodia in September 2010. Laos and Cambodia have been important partners of India in carrying forward the process of India's closer integration with ASEAN. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Vietnam for participating in the eighth India-ASEAN Summit and fifth East Asia Summits in October 2010, and to Malaysia, which is India's second largest trading partner in ASEAN. In November 2010, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh participated in the G-20 Summit held in the Republic of Korea. Indonesian President Mr. Susilo Bambang Yodhoyono was the Chief Guest on India's Republic Day celebration on 26 January, 2011.

Relations with the countries in the Gulf region and West Asia were further strengthened during this period. Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh reiterated India's unwavering support to the Palestinian cause on the occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, organized by the UN on 29 November, 2010. President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid the first Presidential visit to Syria, and a State visit to the UAE, in November 2010. The Gulf region continues to be a major trading partner of India. The UAE is a significant trading and energy security partner and is one of the biggest investors in India in terms of FDI.

India's relations with Central Asia continued to deepen and diversify. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov paid a State Visit to India in May 2010; significant decisions were taken during the year to move forward the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. India's developmental experience was shared with all the countries of Central Asia through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. Counter-terrorism dialogues continued at the expert level to deal with common challenges of terrorism and fundamentalism.

India continued to consolidate its bilateral relations with the African countries. The momentum of relations was maintained through high level visits. Presidents of Seychelles, South Africa, Burundi, Mozambique and Malawi, and Prime Minister of Kenya visited India during the period. Several Lines of Credit and Grants-in-Aid were extended to several countries in Africa, apart from ongoing implementation of the pan-African e-Network project in over 40 African countries.

India's relations with Latin American and the Caribbean countries have continued with new dynamism during this

period. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Brazil in April 2010 for the IBSA and BRIC Summits. India's trade with the countries in the region has touched an impressive figure of US\$ 17 billion and our estimated investments in the region are around US\$ 13 billion.

During the period, India's multilateral economic engagement further widened and deepened. Vice President of India Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari led the Indian delegation to the eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the BRIC, IBSA, India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits. PM also attended the fourth and fifth G-20 Summits held in Toronto (June) and Seoul (November 2010) respectively. Minister of State for Human Resource and Development Smt. D. Purandeswari led the Indian delegation for the tenth meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) held in Sana'a, Yemen in August 2010 as well as to the ninth Ministerial meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) held in Tehran in November 2010. India is assuming Chairmanship of the IOR-ARC in 2011.

As in recent years, India's foreign policy during 2010 has been preoccupied with dealing with the global financial and economic crises and the issue of Climate Change. India has fared better than many other economies in coping with the impact of the financial and economic crisis, and remains one of the fastest growing among the major emerging economies. India's approach on Climate Change is guided by the imperative to preserve India's development space and enhancing the country's energy security. India played a prominent role in the UN Climate Change Conference that took place in Cancun, Mexico during November-December 2010. India also closely coordinated its efforts with China, Brazil and South Africa as part of the BASIC Group, in the run-up to the Cancun Conference.

India's election as a Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council for the 2011-2012 term, securing 187 of the 192 votes cast, signaled an important endorsement by the international community of India's credentials in the global arena. India also continued its efforts to bring about comprehensive reform of the UN system, including expansion of the Security Council in both its permanent and non-permanent categories, in order to increase participation of developing countries, to make the body more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and would enhance its effectiveness and legitimacy.

Neighbours

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, addressing the third Heads of Missions Conference in New Delhi in August 2010, emphasized the need for a peaceful and tranquil international environment in the neighbourhood. India's active engagement with its neighbours saw the visits to India of Presidents of Nepal, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, His Majesty the King of Bhutan, and the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Head of State from Myanmar. The State visit of President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil to China in May and of Premier Wen Jiabao to India in December, respectively, marked the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna paid official visits to Kathmandu, Beijing, Thimphu, Tehran, Islamabad, Kabul, Yangon and Colombo. He inaugurated the Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota in Sri Lanka.

Afghanistan: India and Afghanistan enjoy a rich civilizational and historical relationship that spans many millenia. This year saw a continuation of the pattern of high level visits, including that of President Hamid Karzai (April 2010), External Affairs Minister (January 2011) and other high dignitaries, and vibrant exchanges in areas as diverse as education, culture, trade and commerce, capacity building and human resource development. Despite persistent attacks, India has reiterated its commitment to its development partnership with Afghanistan, and to assisting the Government and people of Afghanistan as they build a peaceful, democratic, pluralistic and prosperous country. As a strategic partner of Afghanistan and a close neighbor, India stands steadfast with the Government and people of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh: After the landmark visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in January 2010, significant progress was made in implementing the decisions embodied in the Joint Communiqué issued during that visit. The Line of Credit Agreement of US\$ 1 billion to Bangladesh was signed in August 2010 during Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Dhaka. Other significant developments included the electrification of Dahagram and Angarpota, designating Ashuganj in Bangladesh and Silghat in India as new Ports of Call, enhanced security cooperation, signing of MoU for transportation of oversized consignments through Ashuganj, intensification of discussions on sharing of waters of Teesta and Feni rivers, holding of the Joint Boundary Working Group meeting, signing of MoU for opening of two Border Haats on the Meghalaya Border, fixing of alignment for the Akhaura-Agartala railway line being constructed under Indian grant, opening of Phulbari-Banglabanda as a

bilateral trade point, operationalising of MoU for Nepalese trucks to enter 200 meters inside Bangladesh, enhanced power-sector cooperation, extending Inland Water Transport Treaty till 2012 and, as a special gesture, waiving of ban to allow export of 3 lakh tonnes of rice and 2 lakh tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh. Both countries held discussions to finalise the joint celebrations for the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Bhutan: India and Bhutan share uniquely warm and special relations founded on mutual trust and understanding. Regular high-level exchange of visits, close consultations and mutually beneficial cooperation underpin relations with Bhutan. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Bhutan from 28-30 April, 2010, for the 16th SAARC Summit. Prime Minister's bilateral engagements during the visit included audiences with HM the King of Bhutan and His Majesty the Fourth King of Bhutan, and a meeting with the Prime Minister of Bhutan, during which issues of mutual interest were discussed. His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck visited Kolkata from 5-7 October, 2010, during which the University of Kolkata conferred upon him an Honorary Doctorate of Law. HM the King again visited India from 20-29 October, 2010 for the National Defence College Golden Jubilee celebrations, where he was Special Guest of Honour. During the visit, HM the King met our leadership, including President Smt. Pratibha Patil and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj, UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao. Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Jigmi Y. Thinley visited Bodh Gaya, Bihar from 24-29 September, 2010 for the 113th Annual General Meeting of the Mahabodhi Society, where he took over the Presidentship of the Society. Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar called on the Prime Minister of Bhutan. Prime Minister of Bhutan visited New Delhi from 30 October-3 November in his capacity as Chairperson of SAARC. The Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar, led a 14 member delegation to Bhutan from 26-29 May, 2010. This was the first visit of an Indian Speaker to Bhutan. The Speaker attended the opening ceremony of the 5th session of the Parliament of Bhutan and addressed its Joint Session. Minister of State for Finance Shri Namo Narain Meena visited Bhutan for the 4th meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers from 22-24 August, 2010. Chief of Army Staff General V. K. Singh visited Bhutan from 7-11 June, 2010. National Security Adviser Shri Shivshankar Menon and Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Bhutan from

13-14 August, 2010. India remains committed in its support to Bhutan in its efforts towards economic and social development. India continued to be the largest trade and development partner of Bhutan. Relations between the two countries gained momentum with the deepening and widening of bilateral cooperation in the areas of hydropower development, information and communication technology, health, industry, education and culture. Work on two new hydropower projects commenced. The SAARC Inter-Sessional Council of Ministers meeting was held in Thimphu from 8-9 February, 2011, during which the Minister of External Affairs met the HM the King of Bhutan and the Prime Minister of Bhutan.

China: The relationship with China is a priority in Indian foreign policy. The two countries established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in 2005. India and China have also signed a joint document on "A Shared Vision for the 21st Century between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China", that reflects the congruence of interests that the two countries share on regional and international issues, and our willingness to work together in those areas. The year 2010 marked the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China. It was commemorated by a host of cultural and business events throughout the year, including a Festival of China in India and a Festival of India in China. The two countries maintained regular high-level political contacts. The visits of President to China from 26-31 May, 2010 and that of the Chinese Premier to India from 15-17 December, 2010 further strengthened and consolidated bilateral relations between the two countries. The two sides held discussions under the extensive dialogue architecture established to exchange views on the entire range of bilateral relations. Both sides are committed to resolving outstanding issues, including the India-China Boundary Question, through peaceful negotiations in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner. Both sides have reiterated that pending the resolution of the Boundary Question, peace and tranquility shall be maintained in the India-China border areas in accordance with relevant agreements signed in 1993, 1996 and 2005. The 14th meeting of the Special Representatives of India and China was held at Beijing from 29-30 November, 2010.

Iran: The visit to Iran by External Affairs Minister in May 2010 for the G-15 Summit continued the sequence of exchange of high level visits. The 16th Session of the India-Iran Joint Commission, co-chaired by EAM and Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, was held in New Delhi in July 2010. Foreign Office Consultations at

the level Foreign Secretary and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister were held in August 2010. The period 2010-2011 also saw continued bilateral exchanges in a number of areas such as energy, trade, commerce and industry, culture, media and broadcasting, etc as well as consultation on regional and international issues of mutual interest, thus maintaining the momentum of bilateral relations.

Maldives: Close and friendly relations between India and Maldives continued to be strengthened. The President of Maldives visited India to attend the inaugural ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in October 2010. Maritime and coastal surveillance was strengthened, particularly against threat of piracy, and defence and security cooperation was enhanced. Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs paid an official visit to Maldives in November 2010. India continued to assist Maldives in its developmental efforts, including a Line of Credit of US\$ 40 million for housing and a grant for US\$ 5.3 million for an IT capacity building project by NIIT. Business and commercial links increased in a range of areas including civil aviation, education, non-conventional energy, infrastructure etc.

Myanmar: The close and friendly neighbourly bonds with Myanmar were further strengthened with the visit to India in July 2010 of Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council. During the visit, both sides agreed to further strengthen the multi-dimensional relationship, including in the areas of security, infrastructure cooperation, connectivity, power and railways cooperation, oil and natural gas, agriculture, etc. Six MoUs and agreements were also signed. The ground-breaking ceremony for the Kaldan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project was held in December 2010 and the inauguration of a heavy-duty truck project under Indian Line of Credit of US\$ 20 million was held the same month. Several other projects are at various stages of execution. Myanmar has an important role in the context of connectivity for the North East States of India, in keeping with India's Look East Policy.

Nepal: The tradition of regular interaction and high-level visits further strengthened the bilateral relationship. President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav paid an official visit to India from 27 January-5 February 2011, during which he met the President of India, Vice President, Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Chairperson of UPA, Minister of Finance, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, Leaders of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal Sujata Koirala visited India from 5-6 January, 2011 for meetings with Minister of External Affairs and other leaders. Prime Minister

Dr. Manmohan Singh met Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal on the sidelines of the 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu in April 2010. The first-ever visit of a Young Parliamentarians delegation from Nepal took place in November 2010. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Nepal from 18-20 January, 2011, during which she met with the leadership of Nepal as well as reviewed progress of the extensive bilateral cooperation. India continued to work closely with the Government of Nepal and political parties with a view to support Nepal's transition to a democratic, stable, peaceful and prosperous State.

India remained Nepal's largest trade partner, and the largest source of foreign investment and tourist arrivals. India continued its support to development activities in Nepal. At present, there are over 400 small and large projects being undertaken under the aegis of the India-Nepal Economic Cooperation Programme. India is also assisting Nepal to develop its infrastructure in the border areas adjoining India through the development of Integrated Check Posts, Cross-Border Rail Links and feeder and lateral roads in the Terai area of Nepal. This will facilitate and contribute to Nepal's economic development.

Pakistan: Prime Minister met Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Prime Minister of Pakistan on the margins of the SAARC Summit in Thimphu on 29 April, 2010. The two Prime Ministers agreed that relations between the two countries should be normalised if the people of South Asia are to realise their destiny of peace, progress and prosperity. The Prime Ministers charged the two Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries with the responsibility of working out the modalities for building trust and confidence in the relationship and thereby paving the way for a substantive dialogue on all issues of mutual concern.

As directed by the two Prime Ministers in April 2010, in Thimphu, External Affairs Minister visited Islamabad on 15 July, 2010. In their meeting the Foreign Ministers reviewed the state of the bilateral relations and discussed steps to promote trust and confidence. India advocated a step-by-step, graduated and forward looking approach to expanding dialogue to cover all issues of mutual concern and interest. Foreign Minister of Pakistan accepted External Affairs Minister's invitation to visit India at a suitable date to be decided through diplomatic channels.

Pursuant to the mandate given by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, following their meeting in Thimphu in April 2010 and the meeting of the External Affairs Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan in Islamabad in July 2010, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Thimphu on 6 February, 2011, to chart a course forward in India-Pakistan relationship. The

Foreign Secretaries agreed on the need for a constructive dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve all outstanding issues. They affirmed the need to carry forward the dialogue. Consequent to the meeting the two sides agreed to resume dialogue on all issues. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan will visit India by July 2011 to review progress in the dialogue process with his counterpart. Prior to the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, meetings at the level of respective Secretaries will be convened on Counter-terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial); Humanitarian issues; Peace & Security, including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir; promotion of friendly exchanges; Siachen; Economic issues; Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project; and Sir Creek (at the level of Additional Secretaries/Surveyors General).

India remains committed to discuss all outstanding issues with Pakistan through a bilateral dialogue in an environment free of terrorism and violence. However, for the dialogue to be comprehensive, serious and sustained Pakistan must fulfill its solemn commitment of not allowing territory under its control to be used for fomenting terrorism against India.

Sri Lanka: India and Sri Lanka share close historical and civilisational ties. The State visit of President Mahinda Rajapaksa to India in July 2010 gave a fillip to India-Sri Lanka bilateral relations. The Joint Declaration issued during the visit reaffirmed the mutual commitment of both sides to enhance connectivity, including through reviving the ferry services between Colombo-Tuticorin and Thalaimannar-Rameswaram, promoting economic engagement and closer development cooperation, including a joint venture 500 MW thermal power plant at Trincomalee, continuing assistance of India to the resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northern and eastern Sri Lanka and promoting people-to-people cooperation. India conveyed the need for Sri Lanka to address all outstanding issues in spirit of understanding and mutual accommodation to work towards genuine national reconciliation. India emphasized the need for a meaningful devolution package to find a permanent settlement and called for a structured dialogue between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil and other minority parties. India contributed substantially to the resettlement of the IDPs and the reconstruction of Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. Several developmental projects are underway. India announced an initiative to build 50,000 houses in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. India continued its assistance programme to the Indian Origin Tamils in the up-country areas.

President Rajapaksa attended the Closing Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in October 2010. External

Affairs Minister Shri. S. M. Krishna visited Sri Lanka from 25-28 November, 2010. Apart from Co-chairing the seventh meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission, he also inaugurated the Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota and participated in the ground breaking ceremony for the railway project being constructed under an Indian Line of Credit amounting to US\$ 800 million. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, was present at the swearing-in ceremony for the second term of President Rajapaksa on 19 November, 2010 in Colombo.

South East Asia and the Pacific

Countries of South East Asia and the Pacific have in recent years become natural partners of India when we look at possibilities of expanding our economic engagement with the rest of the world. During the year, our relations with the countries of the region were stepped up to strategic levels with some countries and diversified with others in conformity with our "Look East Policy". High level interactions at the level of Heads of Mission, Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers as also bilateral visits contributed to the strengthening and dynamism to our engagements with these countries.

Bilateral trade and investments between India and the countries of the ASEAN have considerably increased, touching US\$ 44 billion in 2009-2010 (our exports US\$ 18 billion and imports US\$ 26 billion) compared to US\$ 13.25 billion in 2003-04. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has announced a target of bilateral trade of US\$ 70 billion by 2012, which can be achieved despite the fragile global economic recovery.

India-ASEAN Trade-in-goods (TiG) agreement, as the first part of FTA, was signed in August 2009 at Bangkok and came into force on 1 January, 2010. It is a land-mark development in greater integration of Indian economy with that of the ASEAN.

In cultural, educational and academic fields our efforts are towards promotion of people-to-people contacts, religious tourism, linkages among institutions of higher learning, and mass media cooperation on issues of common interest, and to take forward the vision of deepening regional integration with countries in this region. Our cooperation in these fields is marked by continuity of our civilizational connection. The passing of the bill for establishment of Nalanda University in August 2010 as an 'Institution of International Learning and Excellence' was a major milestone in this field.

In a significant move for enhancing the engagement between our Parliamentary institutions and the ASEAN

Parliaments, we were accorded an "Observer Status" during the recent ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Hanoi.

For the socio-economic development of the countries of the region, India continued to provide assistance to Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Philippines in the form of grants, soft loans and credit lines and training courses under the ITEC scheme. As a Dialogue Partner of the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) countries, India has been engaging with Pacific Island countries by providing regional assistance in capacity building and social and economic programmes and sustainable development. In return, India succeeded in eliciting support from majority of the countries of the region on issues of India's interest, such as India's candidature for UN Security Council membership, Commonwealth, Civil Nuclear Cooperation, etc.

The visit of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yodhoyono as the Chief Guest on Republic Day, 26 January, 2011 further strengthened the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The visit of External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna to Australia in January 2011 to attend the seventh round of the framework dialogue with his Australian counterpart Mr. Kevin Rudd reinforced the growing convergence of interests, perspectives and assessments of Australia and India. Our trade with Australia also crossed US\$ 22 billion (our exports US\$ 2 billion, imports US\$ 20 billion).

India's growing profile has attracted countries in South East Asia and Pacific region to foster closer engagement at the regional and multilateral fora such as ASEAN, EAS, BIMSTEC, MGC and ARF.

East Asia

The Year 2010 witnessed a significant expansion in and deepening of economic, political and security links with East Asia. A number of high-level visits and some vital agreements firmed up during the period sustained the momentum. The highlights included conclusion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) during Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Japan and commencement of India-Japan negotiations on a civil nuclear cooperation Agreement. The India-Republic of Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) concluded in 2009 became operational in 2010 with a significant trade expansion impact. India-Mongolia relations continued to exhibit warmth and growth.

Japan: Our relations with Japan are a very important component of India's 'Look East Policy.' In the year

2010-2011, bilateral relations continued to maintain an upswing, symbolized by a series of high-level visits, new areas of cooperation and new mechanisms of dialogue, deepening economic partnership, smooth implementation of joint flagship projects and continued cooperation in defence and security areas. One of the high points in India's relations with Japan during the year was Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Japan from 24-26 October, 2010 for the Annual Summit with Prime Minister of Japan, Naoto Kan. The two PMs signed two documents: a Joint Statement "Vision for India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade" and a "Joint Declaration between the Leaders of India and Japan on the Conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement". In addition, a Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures between India and Japan was signed during the visit. Prime Minister had extensive discussions with the Japanese Prime Minister. Japan's Defense Minister Mr. Toshimi Kitazawa visited India from 30 April-1 May 2010, and held extensive discussion with Defence Minister. The Government of Japan announced on 25 June, 2010 its decision to commence negotiations with India for civil nuclear cooperation. The first-ever Two-plus-Two Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 6 July, 2010 between Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary of India and Deputy Foreign Minister and Administrative Vice Minister of Japan. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources led a delegation of Parliamentarians on a goodwill visit to Japan from 26 January-2 February 2010. The India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed in Tokyo on 16 February, 2011.

Republic of Korea (RoK): India-RoK relations have made great strides in recent years and have become multi-dimensional buoyed by significant convergence of interest and mutual goodwill. Bilateral relations entered a vibrant and dynamic phase upon signing of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in August 2009. CEPA which came into effect on 1 January, 2010 has contributed in enhancing trade and investment flows between the two countries. RoK Minister for Trade Mr. Kim Jong-hoon visited New Delhi for the first meeting of the Joint Committee headed by Trade Ministers in January 2011 to review the status of the implementation of the CEPA. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna's official visit to RoK from 17-19 June, 2010 underscored the importance of increasing people-to-people exchanges to bolster the Strategic Partnership between the two countries. He also co-chaired the sixth India-RoK Joint Commission with Mr. Yu Myung-hwan, RoK's then Minister of Foreign

Affairs and Trade. Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony met President of RoK on 3 September, 2010 and signed two MoUs related to defence, paving way for stronger future relations. In October 2010, the bilateral Social Security Agreement was signed in Seoul paving the way for greater movement of natural persons.

Mongolia: India provides technical and economic cooperation to Mongolia in the fields of higher education, agriculture, information and communication technology and human resource development. Mongolia supports India's candidature as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council while India supported the inclusion of Mongolia as a full member of the Non-Aligned Movement. Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker, Lok Sabha, visited Mongolia from 26-30 June, 2010. Mr. D. Demberel, Chairman, State Great Hural of Mongolia (Mongolian Parliament) visited India from 8-14 December, 2010.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK): The relations between India and DPRK continue to be cordial with a focus on humanitarian and human resource development assistance. Exchanges in the area of culture, sports and education continued to make progress in 2010, with the signing of a Cultural Exchange Programme for 2010-2012.

Eurasia

Russia: India's relations with Russia are enduring and time-tested; they represent an important priority of India's foreign policy. Recognising the unique strength and maturity of deepening bilateral ties, both sides characterized them during the year as a "special and privileged strategic partnership". The key pillars of our strategic partnership are close political coordination and deep engagement in the defence, space, science & technology and energy sectors- including both civilian nuclear energy and hydrocarbons. In recent years, we have also made significant progress in trade and investment relations; both countries remain committed to ensuring that the economic relationship evolves as an additional pillar of the strategic partnership.

The intensity of high-level political contacts that we had in 2009 continued throughout 2010. In fact, it was a unique year as we received both Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in March 2010 and President Mr. Dmitry Medvedev in December 2010. These visits provided an opportunity to not only review the progress in the entire gamut of bilateral relations in the first decade of our Strategic Partnership, but also to lay an even more ambitious roadmap for our relations in the next decade.

Central Asia: India shares old historical and strong cultural links with Central Asia, which forms part of our extended neighbourhood. After the dissolution of the USSR, India has steadily developed friendly and cooperative relations with all five Central Asian countries. Three of the five Central Asian countries namely Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan share borders with Afghanistan and have gained further geo-political significance with the shift of the strategic theatre to the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. The Central Asian Republics, by virtue of their geographical location and the vast natural resources, including energy reserves in the Caspian Basin, form an area of geo-strategic and geo-economic interest to India. As a partner in Central Asia's progress, India aims to be involved in capacity building and development. India enjoys a reservoir of traditional goodwill in the region and has a steadily growing presence through joint projects in IT and other economic sectors, as also through the continuing love in these countries for Indian films and culture. Apart from high level political dialogues, these areas remained the thrust of our engagement with the region during the year. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov paid a State Visit to India in May 2010. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan on the margins of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in April 2010. In other high level contacts, External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in May and June respectively and Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur visited Turkmenistan in February 2010 to co-chair the Inter-Governmental Commission.

Caucasus: India's relationship with the countries in the Caucasus region, namely, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are deep rooted in history. We attach a great deal of significance to the maintenance of good relations with these countries and to the enhancement of our economic engagement with them. India maintained regular contacts with these countries through Ministerial and official level visits, providing assistance to them in capacity building and encouraging private sector engagement for boosting trade and investment relations. Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian visited India in November 2010.

Ukraine and Belarus: Relations with Ukraine and Belarus continued to intensify. Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine visited New Delhi for the eighth round of Foreign Office Consultations with Secretary (East) on 22 September, 2010. During the consultations, it was decided to revitalize relations in various sectors. First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Vladimir Semashko visited India to participate in the fourth Ministerial Level

Conference on Renewable Energy in New Delhi in October 2010. Mr. Semashko met Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna in Tehran on the margins of the G-15 Summit in May 2010.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO): India attaches great importance to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), most of the members of which belong to our extended neighborhood. India has been playing a constructive and important role in SCO as an Observer State and has consistently articulated its desire to play an expanded and more meaningful role on the SCO platform. India values the role of the SCO in bringing security, stability and development to our region and stand ready to contribute more to the organization. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna's participation in the Meeting of the Heads of State Council of the SCO and the participation of Minister of Power Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde at the Council of Heads of Governments of Member States Summit in Dushanbe on 25 November, 2010 were a reflection of our desire to contribute meaningfully to the organization.

India-Russia-China (IRC): The India-Russia-China (IRC) Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting is a unique platform for the Foreign Ministers of three emerging and influential global powers to have a candid exchange of view points on key regional and global issues. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Wuhan, China from 14-15 November, 2010 for the tenth Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China. The three Foreign Ministers reviewed trilateral sectoral cooperation in disaster management, agriculture and healthcare and also had a detailed exchange of views on a number of regional and global issues, including UN reforms, global financial architecture, combating international terrorism, cooperation among emerging markets, climate change, security in the Asia Pacific region, SCO, and the situation in Afghanistan, Iran and the Korean Peninsula.

The Gulf, West Asia and North Africa

India maintained its historical and traditionally friendly relations and cooperation with the Gulf region countries. In parallel with increasing imports of oil and gas and growing trade and investment opportunities, active steps were taken in 2010 to strengthen and broaden this relationship. The year witnessed several high level visits bilaterally.

The Gulf region is a major trading partner of India. During 2009-2010 the total two-way trade was around US\$ 107 billion making the Gulf region the largest trading partner for India. Gulf countries together provide about 70% of our total crude requirement and play a key role in

our energy security. About six million Indians live and work in the Gulf region. They are a vital support to our economy remitting more than US\$ 30 billion annually. The State Visit of the President of India to the UAE in November 2010 gave a major impulse to our bilateral relations.

Several high level visits and interactions helped cement the strong relationship that exists between India and countries of the West Asia & North Africa region. The highlight was the visit of the President of India to Syria, held from 26-29 November, 2010. India reiterated its unwavering commitment and support to the Palestinian cause through External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna's participation in the Ministerial meetings on Palestine held in New York on the sidelines of 65th UNGA, and made an annual contribution of US\$ 1 million to the United Nations Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The second phase of the Pan-Africa e-Network, was inaugurated by the EAM on 16 August, 2010, by interacting live with Ministers from 12 countries of Africa, including Ministers from Egypt, Libya, Djibouti, and Somalia. An Indo-Syrian IT Centre was inaugurated by the Syrian Prime Minister on 29 December, 2010. An Algerian satellite, ALSAT-2A was successfully launched into space by the Indian Space & Research Organization (ISRO) through its PSLV-C15 launch vehicle on 12 July, 2010.

Africa

The year 2010 has been an eventful year for India-Africa Relations at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. India's relations with 20 countries of East & Southern Africa Region have further strengthened with several high level visits taking place from both the sides and signing of a number of agreements/MoUs. After finalization of India-Africa Framework of Cooperation under the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), 2008 with the visiting AU delegation in March 2010, strenuous efforts were made to flag off the implementation of the commitments made by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Summit. Several capacity building courses were finalized with the assistance of the concerned Ministries and Institutions and some of them have been launched; such as 50 Post Graduate and 25 Doctoral Scholarships in Agriculture. In consultations with the African Union Commission, several important commitments like setting up of 19 Capacity Building Institutions have reached implementation stage. Efforts were made to strengthen our bonds with the Regional Economic Communities in Africa. With this objective in mind, a delegation of Regional Economic Communities was in Delhi in

November 2010. An initiative was taken to engage all of them together so that the implementation of the India Africa Action Plan for the Framework of Cooperation could be discussed in detail and implementation procedures worked out.

India's relations with the 25 countries of West Africa continued to grow during 2010, with several important visits and meetings on the sidelines of international multilateral conferences. The Ministry's flagship project of Pan-African e-Network was implemented in 12 more countries during the year, thus taking total number of African countries coming under the loop to 43. Several Lines of Credit were extended and grant-in-aid given to the West African countries for development of infrastructure and also to help in rehabilitation process following natural disasters. India-West Africa trade during the year 2009-2010 was US\$18.04 billion, an increase of 9.7% over the previous year.

Europe

Our relationship with countries of the European continent was strengthened by exchange of visits at the Head of State, Head of Government, Ministerial and official levels. Bilateral cooperation in diverse areas which, inter-alia include defence, security, civil nuclear energy, renewable energy, space, trade & investment, science & technology, culture & education grew during the year. Besides high level visits, strong institutional linkages continued to maintain their momentum through regular dialogue.

Prime Minister visited Belgium in December 2010 for the 11th India-EU Summit, the first after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. A bilateral Summit with Belgium was also held in Brussels. Prime Minister stopped in Germany for meetings with President Christian Wulff and Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The year 2010 saw many incoming visits as well. The Belgian Crown Prince Philippe visited India from 20-27 March, 2010 leading a 350 plus member economic mission including representatives of 160 Belgian companies spanning various sectors of Belgian economy. The visit was focused at further intensifying bilateral economic and commercial ties between the two countries. U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron visited India from 27-29 July, 2010. A high level delegation of businessmen, University Vice-Chancellors and sportspersons also accompanied the Prime Minister. Wide ranging discussions were held not only at the Prime-Ministerial level, but also with various Ministers on relevant issues of mutual interest. The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward and Prince Albert II of

Monaco visited India in connection with the Commonwealth Games in October 2010. French President Mr. Nicolas Sarközy visited India from 4-7 December, 2010 and held discussions with our Prime Minister on various bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern. This visit has enhanced the Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

Prime Minister met the French President Nicolas Sarközy and British Prime Minister David Cameron on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Toronto in June 2010 and again had a meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Seoul in November 2010. During the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington DC in April 2010, Prime Minister had meetings with the French President and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Parliamentary exchanges and civil society dialogue between India and EU countries remained vibrant throughout the year.

India's relations have been traditionally friendly and cordial with the countries of Central Europe as well as the Nordic countries. Countries in the region have recognized the opportunities that India's growing economy and its large market offer and are keen to build on the existing ties and move their bilateral relationship with India to a higher level. The desire to enhance ties with India has been further strengthened by the resilience shown by the Indian economy in maintaining a high rate of economic growth despite the general slowdown in the world economy.

Our approach to these countries has been of broad-based engagement with a focus on reinforcing existing bonds with regular political exchanges, expanding economic ties through exploring synergies and complementarities, strengthening institutional linkages and dialogues and promoting people-to-people contacts. Areas in which productive interaction has taken place include Science & Technology, Renewable energy, Defence and Environment- related technologies. Increase in bilateral trade in goods and services as well as investment flows with these countries is a priority for India.

Agreements have been concluded or are under negotiations in diverse areas including defence, culture, economic, investment, science and technology, education and tourism sectors with many of these countries. Further, in view of the steady flow of Indian professionals to this region, agreements on Social Security and Labour Mobility Partnerships have been concluded or are being pursued with a number of these countries.

Important bilateral visits to Central European region during this period were: the visit of Vice President of India,

Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari, to Czech Republic and Croatia from (6-11 June, 2010); visit of Minister of State for External Affairs to Romania (9-10 April, 2010); Hungary (1-3 November, 2010), and Slovenia and Iceland (30 August-3 September 2010). Prominent incoming visits were of Prime Minister of Poland (6-8 September, 2010), Prince of Liechtenstein (14-20 November, 2010), Deputy Prime Minister of Denmark (14-15 December, 2010) and of Foreign Ministers of Finland (3-5 May, 2010) and Switzerland (30 August, 2010).

India and the European Union (EU) are Strategic Partners whose relationship is founded on shared values and principles of democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. India and the EU had regular interactions at various levels including at the highest level. The India-EU Joint Action Plan which was adopted in 2005 and reviewed in 2008 covers the entire gamut of relations between India and the EU. The 11th India-EU Summit held in Brussels on 10 December, 2010 was the first Summit after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. It gave a new impetus to the strategic partnership between India & EU.

Today, EU is one of our largest trading partners, and an important source of technology and home to a large and influential Diaspora. While trade and investment still continue to be an important aspect of our bilateral relationship, the relations stand qualitatively transformed as signified by our bilateral efforts to develop common approaches to addressing new and emerging challenges. We have been holding regular discussions on human rights, climate change, energy, consular and visa issues, security and counter terrorism.

The Americas

The United States of America: Building on Prime Minister's State visit to Washington DC in November 2009, President Obama's visit to India in November 2010 elevated the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership to a new level. The two leaders reaffirmed that India-U.S. strategic partnership is indispensable not only for their two countries but also for global stability and prosperity in the 21st century. The foundation for the visit of President Obama was laid during the inaugural ministerial-level India-US Strategic Dialogue, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in June 2010 in Washington DC.

Important milestones during the year were the completion of steps by the two governments to implement their civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement; President Obama's announcement of U.S. support for India's permanent

membership of a reformed UN Security Council; U.S. decision to ease its export controls for India; the announcement of U.S. support for India's full membership of the four multilateral export control regimes; expanded strategy consultation, including the East Asia Dialogue; the Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative, signed in July 2010; a new Homeland Security Dialogue; the MoU for Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security in March 2010; the launch of Financial and Economic Partnership in April 2010; MoU on cooperation in the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership being established by India; a number of new initiatives in clean energy sector; and, the launch of a new international partnership for democracy and development during President Obama's visit.

Canada: India's relations with Canada acquired a new momentum, with a strong focus on strengthening the economic dimension of the relationship with one of the world's most sophisticated economies and a fellow member of G-20. Prime Minister's meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Stephen Harper in Toronto, Washington DC and Seoul anchored a range of bilateral ministerial and official meetings. The two governments signed a landmark bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement in June 2010; launched the first Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment in September 2010; commenced negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in November 2010; completed negotiations on a Social Security Agreement; and, advanced negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement. The two governments agreed in principle to set up Working Groups on Private-Public Partnerships model focusing on infrastructure, energy and mining, agro-processing, information and communication technologies, and education.

Latin America & Caribbean

India's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean countries continued to gain momentum. Interaction at all levels intensified which helped to further strengthen and deepen our relations with the region. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Brazil for IBSA and BRIC Summits in April 2010 and also held bilateral meetings with President Lula. PM also met President Lula and Mexican President Calderon again at the G-20 Summit in Seoul in November 2010.

Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation at the India-SICA dialogue on the margins of the 68th UNGA in New York in September 2010. EAM also called on President of Guyana Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo in New York. The Foreign Ministers

of Mexico and Costa Rica visited India with whom EAM held delegation level talks. In May 2010, Minister of State, Smt. Preeti Kaur visited Argentina to participate in the bi-centenary of the May Revolution celebrations and also visited Rio to participate in the Alliance of Civilization meeting.

India's trade with the region has touched US\$ 17 billion and our estimated investments in the region are around US\$ 13 billion. During the course of the year, six bilateral Agreements/ MoUs were signed with countries in the region. Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEA) with various countries in the region have been finalized. The second meeting of the Joint Administration Committee (JAC) on India-MERCOSUR (Spanish: Mercado Común del Sur, English: Southern Common Market) Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was held from 15-16 June, 2010 in New Delhi. A total of 428 ITEC seats were allotted to countries in the region during the period. IT centers in El Salvador and Nicaragua were extended for one more year at the request of their governments. We have offered humanitarian assistance to countries affected by natural calamities in the region especially to Jamaica, St. Lucia, Costa Rica, Chile, Haiti, Columbia and Venezuela. India cultural centre at Mexico became operational and several ICCR troupes performed in the region and Festivals of India were held in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

United Nations and International Organizations

The year 2010 represented a high watermark for India at the United Nations. India was elected to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for a two-year term beginning 1 January, 2011. In the elections held in October 2010, India received 187 of 190 valid votes cast, the maximum number among countries elected to the Security Council. India also played an important role in the creation of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in July 2010. Continuing its efforts for reform of the United Nations, India and other G-4 countries led the initiative in the UN General Assembly for text-based negotiations on reform of the UN Security Council as a means of accelerating the reform process. In subsequent text-based negotiations, a majority of UN Member States conveyed preference for expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership and improvements in the Council's working methods.

India also participated actively in discussions on the revitalization of the UN General Assembly and

strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the UN's development-related efforts. India participated in the activities of the UN organizations dealing with Human Rights and Social issues in a constructive manner that reflected India's commitment to a development-oriented objective, in keeping with its historic legacy of tolerance and respect for human rights and humanitarian values. India's candidate, Ambassador Chandrasekhar Dasgupta received the highest number of votes to get elected to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 27 April, 2010. India continued its constructive engagement with WIPO and actively participated in its meetings of the Standing Committees on Intellectual Property and Development, Copyright and Related Rights, Trade Marks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, the Inter-Governmental Committee on Traditional Knowledge, Folklore and Genetic Resources and the Advisory Committee on Enforcement. India was also elected to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, Programme Coordination Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS and Commission on Science and Technology by acclamation. India continued to work with the international community in combating terrorism, and pressed for progress in negotiations on the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT) and its finalization. India, which is among the top three troop contributing countries with around 9,000 troops deployed in nine UN Peacekeeping Missions, continued its contribution and participation in UN peacekeeping.

In addition, India enhanced its contribution to non-UN multilateral organizations and groups such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Commonwealth and the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna participated in the Ministerial meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau and Meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers held in the margins of the 65th UN General Assembly in September 2010.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

During the Silver Jubilee Year of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), India has worked with its other fellow members to try and transform SAARC into a dynamic vehicle of regional economic cooperation. During the period, India continued to discharge its responsibilities in SAARC in an asymmetric and non-reciprocal manner. Apart from serving to strengthen

regional cooperation, this has also prompted other SAARC members to take initiatives on regional projects. 2010 saw considerable progress in implementation of flagship projects like the South Asian University (SAU) and the SAARC Development Fund (SDF). The commencement of courses at the SAU within the promised time-line of August 2010 and the approval of the remaining modalities of the University is an encouraging sign of the way in which members can work together to achieve the long-term objectives of SAARC. The full operationalization of the SDF in April with its Secretariat in Thimphu together with the appointment of a CEO has helped to give a fillip to the organization through implementation of social projects for the people of South Asia. Efforts to reinvigorate SAARC have proceeded reasonably well although progress in some areas, including intra-regional trade and connectivity, remain well below potential. We will strive to consolidate and nurture the institutions of SAARC which aim to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and improve their quality of life, in keeping with the prime objective of the SAARC Charter.

Disarmament & International Security Affairs (DISA)

India continued its support for the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament, which was underlined in the statement of the Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna to the 65th session of the UN General Assembly as well as his participation in a High-Level Meeting on disarmament convened by the UN Secretary General in New York on 24 September, 2010. Prime Minister attended the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington from 12-13 April, 2010 and announced the establishment of a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership. India participated in the meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. India participated in the Annual Conference of States Parties of the Chemical Weapons at The Hague and shared its views on issues relating to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, including destruction of chemical weapons. India also attended the Annual Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention held at Geneva which discussed issues of assistance and coordination in case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons and improving national capabilities. India attended and presented its perspectives during the meetings of the ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Defence Ministers Plus meeting and the Summit of the Conference on Interactions and Confidence Building Measures in Asia during the year.

Multilateral Economic Relations

India continued to play an active role in various multilateral economic groupings to pursue her core national interests and add her perspective to the global discourse on, and quest for, solutions, for topical global challenges such as the economic and financial crisis, food security, climate change, and energy security. Engagement with key regional groupings such as India-ASEAN, the East Asia Summit, IBSA, ACD, ASEM, G-15, IOR-ARC, and others, continued to be consolidated, during the year.

Vice President of India Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari, led the Indian delegation to the eighth ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit, in Belgium, in October 2010. Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the fourth IBSA Summit, and the second BRIC Summit, in Brazil, in April 2010. In addition to the Brasilia Declaration, the fourth IBSA Summit adopted two documents, and two MoUs. In the second BRIC Summit, a joint Statement was adopted, and an MoU on cooperation amongst the BRIC development banks was signed. Leading the Indian delegation to the eight India-ASEAN, and the fifth East Asia Summit, in Vietnam, in October 2010, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh took the opportunity to announce new initiatives for India-ASEAN cooperation, in various sectors.

Various Ministerial meetings were attended by India during the period. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, represented India at the 14th Summit of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), in Serbia. A joint communiqué was adopted at the Summit. Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma led the Indian delegation to a joint BRIC and IBSA Business Forum. BRIC Foreign Ministers met in New York, on the sidelines of the UNGA, in September 2010. The Minister of State for Human Resource Development Smt. D. Purandeswari led the Indian delegation at the tenth meeting of the Ministerial Council of IOR-ARC, in Yemen. A communiqué was issued after the meeting.

The Minister of State for Human Resource Development Smt. D. Purandeswari led the Indian delegation to the ninth Asia Cooperation Dialogue meeting at Tehran, in November 2010. The Indian delegation also participated in the third Joint Working Group meeting on the establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat, in Sri Lanka, in December 2010, and the third BIMSTEC expert Group Meeting on Agriculture Cooperation, in Kandy (Sri Lanka), in November 2010.

G-20

India continued to actively participate in G-20 meetings. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh attended the fourth

G-20 Summit from 26-27 June, 2010 in Toronto, Canada with 'Recovery and New Beginnings' as the theme as well as the fifth G-20 Summit from 11-12 November, 2010 in Seoul, Republic of Korea under the theme 'Shared Growth Beyond Crisis'. India attaches importance to the implementation of the G-20 Summit decisions including the Framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth; reforms of the international financial institutions; financial regulatory reforms; and the G-20 development agenda.

Technical & Economic Cooperation and Development Partnership

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP), and the Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) under the Colombo Plan are important components of India's development partnership and cooperation with the developing world. Demand-driven and response-oriented, these programmes are a major component and dynamic part of India's bilateral assistance under the South-South Cooperation framework and aimed at capacity building, skills development, the transfer of technology, and the sharing of experiences. The usefulness and relevance of these cooperative interactions in different countries was reflected in the increasing number of participants in these programmes which have indeed acquired a brand name in the developing world.

During 2010-2011, around 5,500 civilian training slots under ITEC/SCAAP were allotted to 159 developing countries in the areas of interest and advantage to them. Under the TCS of the Colombo Plan, around 500 civilian training slots were allotted to the 18 participating member countries of the TCS of Colombo Plan. More than 800 defence personnel from several ITEC partner countries were allocated training slots at various defence institutions in India. Experts from the Defence Services as well as from the civilian side were deputed to countries like Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Laos, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia, etc. A number of bilateral projects were undertaken mainly in the fields of archaeological conservation, Information and Computer Technology (ICT), and small and medium enterprises, in countries like Burundi, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Grenada, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nicaragua, Syria, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. Under aid for disaster relief, assistance in the form of cash donations was provided to Chile, Liberia, Moldova, Myanmar, Niger,

Pakistan and Tajikistan. Feasibility studies were conducted in Guyana and Montenegro.

Investment and Technology Promotion (ITP)

With rapid liberalization of the Indian economy and its growing integration with the rest of the world, promoting India's economic and commercial interests abroad has acquired increased emphasis in recent years. The Ministry of External Affairs, through its Missions abroad, has been playing a very proactive role in promoting India's foreign trade and investment. A sum of ` 8.50 crores was allocated to our Missions, during 2010-2011, to take advantage of emerging opportunities by undertaking various promotional activities such as market surveys, seminars, workshops, buyer seller meets and industry interactions, etc.

The Ministry worked closely with other Government Departments on policy matters concerning investment and trade, and continued to interact with industry associations extending them support and assistance in their external initiatives. Information on the Indian economy was widely disseminated through the ITP Division's website www.indiainbusiness.nic.in and its annual publication entitled 'India - Dynamic Business Partner.'

Lines of Credit (LoC) remained an important focus of our economic diplomacy strategy in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. 16 LoCs worth US\$ 2548.33 million were extended during 2010-2011, which included LoCs of US\$ 1 billion to Bangladesh for infrastructure projects, US\$ 382.37 million to Sri Lanka for railway projects, US\$ 250 million to Nepal for infrastructure development, US\$ 213.3 million to Ethiopia for its sugar industry, US\$ 72.55 million to Lao PDR for power projects, and US\$ 61.6 million to Kenya for power transmission lines.

Energy Security

Given the country's increasing dependence on energy imports and the growing importance of energy security issues in international affairs, it was decided, in 2009, to upgrade the Energy Security unit into a full-fledged Division. As the nodal point in the Ministry of External Affairs for all energy security matters, the Energy Security Division maintained close coordination with all the energy line ministries, PSUs and territorial Divisions in the MEA, and supported their international engagement on energy issues. Internationally, the Energy Security Division played a major role in the process of India joining the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which was established on 26 January, 2009. The Energy Security Division also took part in the Technical Working Group

(TWG) and the Steering Committee Meetings of the proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline, leading to the eventual signing of the TAPI Intergovernmental Agreement, and the Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement, at the TAPI Summit, held on 11 December, 2010, at Ashgabat. In addition to energy security, food security has also become a mandate of the Energy Security Division. The Division coordinates the response of the various agencies and ministries in Government of India to international food security related deliberations.

Protocol

45 incoming and 24 outgoing visits, at the levels of the Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government, and Foreign Minister, took place during the April-December 2010 period. The large number of visits, their wide range in terms of geographical coverage, and the intensity of the interface was reflective of India's comprehensive engagement with the world in international affairs. Noteworthy was the fact that the Heads of State, or Government, from all the P-5 countries, visited India within the short span of six months, between July and December 2010. Five new resident missions were opened, in 2010, bringing their total number to 145, in New Delhi. Two Consulates General were opened, by Switzerland, and New Zealand, in Bengaluru, and Mumbai, respectively. Besides, 14 countries opened new Honorary Consulates in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata. During the course of the year, 148 new posts were created by foreign diplomatic missions.

Consular, Passports and Visa Services

During January-December 2010, our 37 Passport Offices issued 52.51 lakh passports, and rendered 6.76 lakh miscellaneous services. The number of passport applications received during the same period was 55.02 lakhs, which is the highest number ever received in a year. The total revenue generated through the Passport Offices, during the period, was ` 679.11 crores. The expenditure incurred by these Passport Offices was 100.98 crores.

Some of the important steps to make the passport issuance system simpler and speedier included decentralisation through District Passport Cells and Speed Post Centres, online receipt of applications, the centralised printing of passports for non-computerized Missions abroad, the strengthening of the public grievance redressal system, facilitation counters and help desks, Passport Adalats to address grievances, and the careful implementation of the

RTI Act. An Action Plan to bring down the pendency was initiated in November 2010. Special Passport Adalats were held in January, February, and March 2011.

The Passport Seva Project was launched in Karnataka, under the Regional Passport Office, Bengaluru, with the opening of Passport Seva Kendras at four centres, in May 2010, and at three Passport Seva Kendras in Punjab under the Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh, in August 2010. The complete roll out of 77 Kendras is scheduled for completion in 2011.

During the period, 2,610 Diplomatic and 24,646 official passports were issued, and 7,026 visas were issued to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders. A total number of 3,15,146 personal and educational documents, and 3,04,301 commercial documents were attested. 1,64,872 documents were also apostilled for use abroad.

New projects besides the Passport Seva Project, included the issuance of e-passports, outsourcing of visa work, and the launch of the 'Apostille Convention Project'.

Coordination Division

The Coordination Division functions as the nodal point of the Ministry of External Affairs, for all work relating to the Parliament, and the interaction between the Ministry of External Affairs and the other Government of India Ministries/ Departments, State Governments/Union Territories, and also autonomous bodies and private institutions, including NGOs. It also deals with the selection, nomination, and admission, of foreign students, from friendly, neighbouring, and developing countries for various professional courses in India under the Self Financing Foreign Students Scheme.

Administration & Establishment

There are 176 Indian Missions and Posts abroad. In pursuance of India's foreign policy aims and objectives, necessitating increase in India's diplomatic presence abroad, two new posts at Jaffna and Hambantota (both in Sri Lanka), were opened. The Mission in Guatemala City also opened during the period under report. Administration continued with its efforts to decentralise decision making and simplify the rules, regulations and procedures. Personnel related issues were dealt with sympathetically while following the procedures.

As in the previous years, efforts were made to streamline and simplify procedures and increase efficiency in processing requests received from officers and staff, in order to facilitate their functioning in terms of the supply and maintenance of movable properties, with which

responsibility this Division is charged. Rental ceilings were revised for several Missions/Posts, and proposals for renting and maintenance, expeditiously cleared. Renovation of two Hostels, and improvement at the Ministry of External Affairs Housing Complex, Chanakyapuri, in New Delhi, and a provision for piped gas at the two Hostels, and the MEA Housing Complex, Dwarka, were made. High-level teams of inspectors visited eight Missions/Posts during the period, and follow-up action was taken, based on their reports. Movable properties for Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, were acquired, and installed, and the maintenance of the same, and the premises, was initiated.

The Ministry has adopted a two-pronged approach by going in for both construction, and acquisition of built-up properties, abroad, and in India. Accordingly, construction at three stations, abroad, was completed, as projected, and it is continuing at six stations. Built-up properties were acquired at five stations, and land at our station. Plans are being finalised, in the same vein, for properties at many other stations. In India, the construction of Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, is nearing completion, as are two transit accommodation facilities.

Implementation of the Official Language Policy, and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

In order to propagate Hindi abroad, with the involvement of Missions/Posts abroad, Hindi teaching material, and software to work in Hindi, were supplied to about 70 Missions/Posts, and Hindi magazines to 100 of them. The Ministry also extended support to various foreign Universities and other educational institutions, through Indian Missions/Posts, for Hindi-related activities. Miscellaneous grants were sanctioned to four Missions/Posts, for the like purpose of propagation. 82 foreign students were granted scholarships to study at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, which was coordinated by the Ministry. To effect the implementation of the Official Language Policy, documents were prepared bilingually, training was imparted to use Hindi and Hindi Pakhwara, and Hindi Diwas were celebrated. The Parliamentary Committee on Official Language visited RPOs at Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kochi, also for the same purpose.

Public Diplomacy

The Public Diplomacy Division organized a wide range of outreach activities that are aimed at creating a greater understanding of India and its foreign policy objectives both within India and abroad. A number of novel initiatives have been taken to expand the Ministry's

engagement with diverse groups and to foster a more informed discourse on foreign policy issues. Ministry's use of Web 2.0 tools through a new Public Diplomacy website and channels on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube have won the Division a prestigious award for most innovative use of social media in government. The lecture series on India's foreign policy has enabled former ambassadors to speak on substantive issues at 27 university and IIT campuses around the country. The incoming visitors programme has been expanded and the Division has hosted parliamentarians, think tanks, young political leaders and others from key countries. Partnerships with universities, think tanks, business chambers and even private organisations have created a platform for projecting India and its foreign policy in forums as diverse as the World Economic Forum in Davos and the Jaipur Literature Festival. In addition, the Division has given a new direction to traditional areas of work such as production of documentary films, coffee table books and the India Perspectives magazine.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) actively worked in pursuance of its stated objectives and mandate to formulate and implement policies and programmes relating to India's external cultural relations and to foster and strengthen cultural relations between India and other countries. ICCR continued to run 28 Indian Cultural Centres abroad, including two sub-centres. ICCR opened one new cultural centre at Thimpu (Bhutan), entitled Nehru-Wangchuk Cultural Centre and commenced work of new Cultural Centres at Mexico City, Dar-es-Salam (Tanzania), Budapest (Hungary), Yangon (Myanmar) and Prague (Czech Republic). ICCR awarded 2,350 new scholarships to foreign students during this period. It, in consultation with the representatives of ICCR's 15 Regional Centres, implemented a number of measures to improve living conditions and welfare of around 4,700 foreign students in India under the ICCR's scholarship schemes. ICCR established 28 additional Chairs under various programmes like the Cultural Exchange Programme, Propagation of Hindi Abroad, and ICCR's Expansion Plan, taking the total number of Chairs to 70. Six Fellows completed their term, who had been appointed, under the Fellowship programme, while 12 are continuing, and eight more will come over. The 60th anniversary of the foundation of the ICCR was celebrated on 11 November, 2010. Thirty-one foreign cultural groups were hosted by ICCR in India. ICCR also organized 54 special events. ICCR sponsored two busts,

23 exhibitions in 34 countries, 16 artistes for performances and 85 cultural delegations abroad. Thirty-seven exhibitions, under the "Horizon Series", were also sponsored in India. The Festivals of India were held in China, France and Argentina. Forty-four eminent scholars from India were sent abroad, and 15 foreign dignitaries visited India under ICCR's Distinguished Visitors Programme.

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

The role of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), as a leading think-tank, and facilitator, and organizer of dialogue and discussion on India's external relations, is a prominent one. This was underscored by the activities of ICWA during 2010-2011, wherein it organized 15 lectures, nine seminars, 14 bilateral strategic dialogues, three panel discussions/background briefings, and three other events. A major international conference "India & GCC Countries, Iran & Iraq: Emerging Security Perspectives" was organized in November 2010 which was inaugurated by Vice President of India Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari. Prominent world leaders and important international personalities addressed the ICWA during this period. This included the Premier of China, President of Slovenia, First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine. As part of its outreach programme, ICWA signed an MoU with the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies, University of Calcutta, and five MoUs with institutions in Peru, Ethiopia, South Korea, Turkey and Nepal. ICWA also participated in four meetings organized by the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) and provided the Secretariat for ESCAP India Chapter.

The entire ICWA Library collection of books, journals, and UN-and EU-related documents, was automated, and made electronically searchable, as were the documents of the 1st Asian Relations Conference. Its collection of rare books, bound volumes of newspapers, and clippings, are being made similarly accessible to its readers. The Library membership is growing rapidly and its revenue has increased manifold.

ICWA is engaged in research and publication activity mainly focussed on our neighbourhood. Several of its programmes are directly connected with research. During the year ICWA Research Fellows undertook study and research on the political, security, and economic trends and developments in China, Japan, Nepal, Persian Gulf, and Russia/CAR.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, specializing in international economic relations and development cooperation. The RIS has the mandate to function as an advisory body to the Government, on matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues.

During the reporting period, the RIS prepared major research studies to assist in the negotiation processes in G-20, and WTO, amongst others. The RIS continues to be engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives, including the Track II Study Group of Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA). The RIS has been actively engaged in the regional network of think tanks in which the organization has been nominated as India's focal point. These include the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and the BIMSTEC Network of Think-Tanks. The RIS also organized several Policy Dialogues, Conferences, and Symposia. A major event organized by the RIS was the joint international conference on SAARC @ 25, which brought together the leading policy research institutions in South Asia, to deliberate on the prospects of deepening and widening South Asian regional integration.

External Publicity

The External Publicity Division (XPD) of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), continued to articulate the views and positions of Government, on various national and international issues, as well as, to publicize successes and priorities of Indian foreign policy, to the media, both Indian and international. This was done through regular and special press briefings, statements and background interactions, as well as, the MEA website, which was completely revamped. Arabic translations of the website postings were also introduced. XPD particularly focused on dissemination of information about India's relations with her immediate and extended neighbourhood, as also, major countries of the world. The division extended necessary facilitation to media travelling abroad along with President, Vice President, Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister, as well as, foreign dignitaries visiting India. Groups of editors / senior journalists from all across the world were regularly invited to India for familiarization tours.

Policy Planning & Research Division

The Division is tasked with many responsibilities, of which the most prominent are the processing of research projects, and studies of relevance to the Ministry of External Affairs, and releasing funds for the same, and their monitoring; sponsoring of Seminars, and the like (the Division funded three Seminars, one Conference, and one Workshop, during the period); interaction with the University Grants Commission (UGC), and its affiliates, and the area study centres of different universities, specialising in research on different regions of the world; preparing the Monthly Summary of important developments for the Cabinet; preparing the Annual Report of the Ministry and, the collation and compilation of materials for the 'India & Abroad' chapter of the India annual of the Publications Division.

PP&R Division coordinates with and provides funding to the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies, University of Calcutta, and is associated with the research project entitled 'India's Neighbourhood: Challenges in the Next Two Decades,' of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi. An MEA-IDSA Strategic and Perspective Planning Research Group has been set up within the purview of this Division.

An important responsibility of the Division is the establishment of video conferencing facilities in selected Missions/Posts, and three Missions were covered during the period. Another significant aspect of the Division's work is the running of the Situation Room, in South Block, which has been used for the purpose of conducting important video conferences between Ministry of External Affairs and Missions, and involving senior officers of the MEA and their counterparts in other countries, apart from its use, as a round-the-clock Control Room, during situations such as flash floods in Leh in August 2010, and developments in the Middle East in February 2011.

Conference of Indian Heads of Missions

The third Conference of Indian Heads of Missions was held in New Delhi from 27-29 August, 2010. The Conference was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna. One hundred and nineteen HOMs from Indian Embassies and High Commissions around the world attended the Conference.

The Heads of Missions called on the President and the Vice President of India. They were addressed by the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Raksha Mantri, Home Minister, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Minister

of Human Resource Development, Minister of State for External Affairs, President of ICCR, National Security Advisor and the Foreign Secretary. The Prime Minister observed that foreign policy was basically aimed at pursuing India's national interest and underlined the critical role of Indian diplomats in facilitating creating of an international environment that was conducive to India's progress, economic development and its global priorities.

The HOMs also participated in a series of interactive sessions covering a wide spectrum of foreign policy issues, including developments in our immediate and extended neighbourhood, relations with key nations and regions, as well as, regional and international issues of importance to India. Interaction with distinguished personalities from business and industry, including Ms. Indra Nooyi and Mr. Gurcharan Das were also organized in collaboration with CII and FICCI.

Foreign Service Institute

The Foreign Service Institute continued to conduct training programmes for the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Probationers, officers and staff of the Ministry of External Affairs, officers from other Ministries/Departments as well as for foreign diplomats.

The email-based Mid-Career Training Programmes for Director-level officers were carried out during the year. The Third Mid-Career Training Programme for Joint Secretary-level officers of the Ministry covering three batches is due to take place in May 2011. The FSI also conducted a training programme on facing and handling the media for Joint Secretaries/Directors/Deputy Secretaries of the Ministry, following up on the initiative taken by it in 2009 when the first such course was conducted. Another programme on Right to Information was conducted for senior officials of the Ministry in February 2011.

The fifth Special Course for ASEAN diplomats was organized during the year. A Special Course for diplomats from Afghanistan, the second during the calendar year of 2010, was also conducted. For the first time, a Course for diplomats from IOR-ARC Member Countries was organized. In another initiative, a Special Course for diplomats from the Member States of Pacific Islands Forum was delivered in Fiji. An MoU providing for an institutional framework of cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute and the Diplomatic Academy of South Africa was signed in June 2010.

Afghanistan

President Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan paid an official visit to India on 26 April, 2010 at the invitation of Prime Minister. During his visit, President Karzai met President, and held discussions with Prime Minister. The visit marked the continuation of high level exchanges between the two countries, and was a manifestation of the tradition of regular consultations between India and Afghanistan.

During the discussions between President Karzai and Prime Minister, the two sides reiterated their commitment to the strategic partnership between the two countries, and expressed satisfaction at the progress in their relations. They noted that these relations are rooted in historical and civilizational links, and serve not only the interests and welfare of the two countries, but also contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. Prime Minister stated that India desires to see a strong, stable and prosperous Afghanistan, at peace. India remained committed to assisting Afghanistan in its development efforts in accordance with the wishes and priorities of the people of Afghanistan. President Karzai expressed appreciation for India's assistance to the reconstruction and development efforts of the Government and people of Afghanistan.

Among other significant visits, External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation for the Kabul Conference on 20 July, 2010, which was co-chaired by President Hamid Karzai and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. National Security Advisor visited Kabul in March 2010 and met, among others, President Karzai. Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hakimi visited India for Foreign Office Consultations in July 2010. There were also exchanges of visits by other high dignitaries, including Parliamentarians.

Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister, visited Afghanistan from 8-9 January, 2011 at the invitation of Mr. Zalmai Rassoul, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The visit was part of the regular high level consultations between the two countries, and an expression of the friendship and understanding between India and Afghanistan. During the visit, EAM met

President Karzai, Foreign Minister Rassoul, NSA Spanta, former President Rabbani (Chairman of the High Peace Council), and other senior Afghan leaders and dignitaries.

The Government of Afghanistan reiterated its appreciation of India's positive role in Afghanistan. India pledged its long-term commitment to Afghanistan and its stability and development.

India's development partnership with Afghanistan aims to assist that country in its reconstruction efforts as a means to bringing about stability in that country. Our assistance, now over US\$ 1.3 billion, is spread across Afghanistan and spans almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities. India's development partnership is focussed on areas of infrastructure development, human resource development and capacity building, food assistance and small development projects that bring immediate benefit to the people at the grass-roots level. Despite persistent attacks, India has reiterated its commitment to assisting the Government and people of Afghanistan as they build a peaceful, democratic, pluralistic and prosperous country.

India's bilateral trade with Afghanistan rose in 2009-2010 to US\$ 588.74 million, a rise of about 13% over the previous year. Exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 463.55 million and imports at US\$ 125.19 million. India, with its large and growing market, is a key destination and potential market for Afghan goods, including agricultural products.

Realizing the importance of Agriculture as key to Afghanistan's development, India has committed 100 fellowships every year for the next five years for Afghans to pursue Master's and Ph.D. programmes in Indian universities, and another 200 fresh graduates for degree programmes in agriculture and related areas. India has also conveyed its continuing support for building indigenous Afghan capacities and institutions, including through support to the Afghan National Institution Building Project.

Bangladesh

There had been regular contacts between two countries at various levels. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh on the margins of 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu on 29 April, 2010. They discussed various issues of importance to both sides, including implementation of Joint Communiqué. On the sidelines of UNGA in New York, External Affairs Minister met his Bangladesh counterpart Dr. Dipu Moni on 23 September, 2010 and reviewed the status of bilateral relations.

Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid an official visit to Dhaka on 7 August, 2010 to witness the signing of US\$ 1 billion Line of Credit Agreement. He called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and met Finance Minister A. M. A. Muhith and Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni. A range of bilateral issues, including implementation of Joint Communiqué figured during the discussions.

Commerce Minister of Bangladesh Col. (Retd.) Faruk Khan undertook an official visit to India from 21-23 October, 2010. During the visit he met with Finance Minister, the Commerce and Industry Minister, besides attending a business meeting organized by FICCI in New Delhi. An agreement for setting up two border haats on Meghalaya's border with Bangladesh and an agreement on Standard Operating Procedure for allowing each other's trucks to move 200 metres into each other's territory were signed. Also an MoU between TATA Motors India and Uttara Motors of Bangladesh was signed to provide technical assistance to assemble and manufacture mini trucks in Bangladesh and make spare parts in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni visited Tripura from 10-11 November, 2010 at the invitation of Tripura Chief Minister Shri Manik Sarkar. On this occasion a 'Bharat-Bangladesh Maitree Udyaan' was inaugurated at Chottakhola in Tripura. Bangladesh Prime Minister's Advisors on Economic, International and Energy affairs visited India and held with discussions with Indian authorities on bilateral issues.

Dr. Mashiur Rahman and Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Advisors to Prime Minister of Bangladesh visited India from 22-25 December, 2010 to hold discussions on bilateral issues, and follow up on the implementation of decisions in the Joint Communiqué issued during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010.

Then Chief Election Commissioner Shri Navin B. Chawla visited Dhaka from 28-31 May, 2010 to attend a meeting on "Cooperation between Election Commissions of the South Asia Region" and Controller General of Accounts (CGA) Shri C. R. Sundramurti visited Dhaka from 28-29 May, 2010 for attending regional conference of the members of the Accounting Association of Asia. At the

invitation of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, a delegation led by Mr. Shaikh Md. Wahid-uz-Zaman, Secretary, Bangladesh Ministry of Water Resources traveled to India from 2-9 June, 2010 to visit Indian Institutes providing training in waters resources sector as well as dredging site on Ichhamati river. Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture led an eight-member delegation to Bangladesh for holding talks on the arrangements for the joint celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore from 19-22 December, 2010.

The Task Force on Human Trafficking had its First Meeting from 18-19 October, 2010 in New Delhi. Apart from discussing various issues pertaining to trafficking of women and children, the Task Force agreed to take coordinated action against the menace. The 32nd DG Level "Border Coordination Conference" between BSF and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) was held in Dhaka from 22-27 September, 2010. Both sides discussed a range of issues related to Border Management and agreed to strengthen joint efforts to prevent trans-border crimes. The Fourth Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) met in New Delhi from 10-11 November, 2010 and discussed all outstanding land boundary issues with a view to arrive at a comprehensive solution. Both sides agreed to undertake joint head-count in all enclaves and carry out joint survey of the territories under Adverse Possessions along India-Bangladesh border.

The economic and commercial interaction has been pursued to realize tangible results. A CII Business Delegation visited Bangladesh from 10-13 April, 2010. A joint declaration was signed between the business associations of both countries to work jointly to identify opportunities for Indian investments, technology transfer and joint ventures in Bangladesh. A 32-member delegation from Federation of Indian Exporters Organization (FIEO), Kolkata visited Dhaka from 22-24 June, 2010 and took part in a multi-product Buyer Seller Meet (BSM). A 14-member business delegation from Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI) visited Dhaka in June to explore opportunities to invest in Bangladesh in sectors such as power, poultry, technical education, health services, communication infrastructure development, ceramic, medicine, plastic and textiles. A 30-member business delegation from Merchant's Chambers of Commerce & Industry (MCCI), led by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, M.P. (Rajya Sabha) visited Bangladesh from 10-14 July, 2010. An MoU was also signed between MCCI and India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the President of the Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai, at the joint press conference, in New Delhi on 26 April, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Ms. Sheikh Hasina at the bilateral meeting, on the sidelines of SAARC Summit, in Thimphu, Bhutan on 29 April, 2010. Union Minister for External Affairs, Shri S. M. Krishna and the National Security Advisor, Shri Shivshankar Menon are also seen.

(IBCCI) declaring their mutual commitment to development of trade, investment, infrastructure and the general economic cooperation between the two countries.

Bangladesh Commerce Minister Lt. Col. (Retd.) Md. Faruk Khan led a 12-member business delegation to Kolkata to participate in the 24th Industrial Trade Fair 2010 from 24-27 December, 2010.

The seventh meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group on Trade and the second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Cooperation in Power Sector were held in Dhaka (May) and in New Delhi (June) respectively. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) and Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) signed a 35-year power transmission agreement on 26 July, 2010 in Dhaka. The 12th Meeting of the Standing Committee under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade was held in Dhaka in August. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) signed an MoU for setting up two coal-fired power plants of 1,320 megawatts each in Chittagong and Khulna under a joint venture on 30 August. A team from Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) visited Dhaka in August in connection with the up-gradation of Food Testing Laboratories and Cement Testing Laboratories of Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution (BSTI). On 30 November, 2010, Bangladesh Government signed an MoU with ONGC to permit trans-shipment of Over-Dimensional Consignments (ODCs) through Ashuganj for Palatana power project in Tripura.

The cultural interaction between two countries gained accelerated momentum after launching of Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in Dhaka on 11 March, 2010. Programs have been organized covering the entire gamut of cultural activities, including book launches, painting competitions, dance & music programmes, special and regular screening of Indian films and documentaries and art exhibitions and lectures. Teachers from India have been conducting workshops and training programmes in yoga, dance, and classical music at the Cultural Centre. Preparations are underway to jointly celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in 2011. A number of participants from Bangladesh have availed of training courses under the ITEC programme and Technical Cooperation Scheme of Colombo Plan. Mission introduced online submission of visa applications by nationals of all countries on 18 July. A Festival of India titled 'Ananda Jagya' was held in Bangladesh from 26 November-3 December 2010.

Dr. Mashiur Rahman and Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Advisors to Prime Minister of Bangladesh visited India from 22-25 December, 2010 to hold discussions on bilateral issues, and follow up on the implementation of decisions in the Joint Communiqué issued during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010.

Water Resources Secretary-level meeting took place in Dhaka on 10 January, 2011. Shri Dhruv Vijai Singh, Secretary (WR) led the Indian delegation for the meeting to discuss issues related to water related issues between both countries.

Bhutan

India and Bhutan enjoy close and friendly relations based on mutual trust and understanding. During the year, these relations were further consolidated with regular exchange of high-level visits and strengthening of bilateral cooperation. Bilateral interaction today encompasses almost all areas of importance to both countries such as hydropower, transport, communications, infrastructure, industry, information technology, agriculture, health, culture and education.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Bhutan from 28-30 April, 2010, for the XVIth SAARC Summit. Prime Minister's bilateral engagements during the visit included audiences with the King of Bhutan and the Fourth Druk Gyalpo of Bhutan, and a meeting with the Prime Minister of Bhutan, during which issues of mutual interest were discussed. During the visit, implementation Agreements for Punatsangchhu-II and Mangdechhu Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs) were signed by Minister of Economic Affairs Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk and External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, in the presence of the two Prime Ministers. The two Prime Minister's unveiled the Foundation Stones for these two HEPs and for the Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences, and launched the Information Communication Technology Project "Chipen Rigphel" or "Total Solutions Project".

The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, led a 14-member delegation to Bhutan from 26-29 May, 2010, which included Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj. This was the first visit of an Indian Speaker to Bhutan. The Speaker attended the opening ceremony of the fifth session of the Parliament of Bhutan and addressed its Joint Session.

Minister of State for Finance Shri Namo Narain Meena visited Bhutan for the fourth meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers from 22-24 August, 2010. Chief of Army Staff



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the King of Bhutan, HM Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, on the sidelines of SAARC Summit, in Thimphu, Bhutan on 29 April, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the President of Maldives, Mr. Mohamad Nasheed during a bilateral meeting, on the sidelines of the 16th SAARC Summit, at Thimphu, in Bhutan on 28 April, 2010.

General V. K. Singh visited Bhutan from 7-11 June, 2010. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources visited Bhutan from 30 July-2 August 2010. National Security Advisor Shri Shiv Shankar Menon and Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Bhutan from 13-14 August, 2010.

The King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck visited Kolkata from 5-7 October, 2010, during which University of Kolkata conferred upon him an Honorary Doctorate of Law. The Governor and Chief Minister of West Bengal called on the King.

The King again visited India from 20-29 October, 2010 for the National Defense College Golden Jubilee celebrations, where he was Special Guest of Honour. During the visit, the King had interactions with the President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj, UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao.

Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Jigmi Y. Thinley visited Bodh Gaya, Bihar from 24-29 September, 2010 for the 113th Annual General Meeting of the Mahabodhi Society, where he took over the Presidency of the Society. Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar called on the Prime Minister of Bhutan. Prime Minister of Bhutan visited New Delhi from 30 October-3 November 2010 in his capacity as current Chairperson of SAARC.

India continues to be Bhutan's largest trade and development partner. In 2009, Bhutan's imports from India constituted 80% of its total imports, and exports to India constituted 94% of its total exports.

The meetings regarding the ongoing cooperation with Bhutan in the important and mutually beneficial hydropower sector were held regularly, where the progress of work, especially of the three projects currently under implementation, was reviewed and noted to be as per schedule. Under the broad canvas of our bilateral ties, regular meetings were held of the various bilateral dialogue mechanisms. Under the Small Development Projects Scheme, 1,259 projects are at various stages of implementation.

Under the aegis of the India Bhutan Foundation, 35 renowned authors and poets from India participated at the literary festival 'Mountain Echoes' from 17-20 May, 2010. The Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centre at Thimphu was jointly inaugurated by the President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations Dr. Karan Singh and Bhutan's Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs Lyonpo Minjur Dorji on 21 September, 2010.

As part of its commitment to assist Bhutan in the development of its human resources, Government of India provided 85 slots at the under-graduate level and 77 slots at the post-graduate level to Bhutanese students in addition to 60 Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation slots, 50 slots under Technical Cooperation Scheme of Colombo Plan and Ambassador's Scholarship Scheme. The Nehru-Wangchuck Scholarships commenced this year.

The next meeting of SAARC Inter-Session Council of Ministers will be held in Thimphu from 8-9 February, 2011, during which bilateral meetings will also be held.

China

This year is an important milestone in India-China relations as it marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Republic of India and People's Republic of China. The period under review witnessed a number of developments in India-China relations. The year saw a host of high-level bilateral exchanges. The regular high-level interactions on the sidelines of regional and international gatherings and sustained exchanges in various fields continued. The two countries have also been furthering cooperation in regional and multilateral forums on global issues such as climate change and global financial situation.

After a gap of a decade and the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to China in January 2008, President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil had a successful visit to China from 26-31 May, 2010. During her visit to China the president had fruitful discussions with the top leadership of China. She also inaugurated and dedicated the Indian-style Buddhist temple in Luoyang in Henan province of China. The External Affairs Minister paid a bilateral visit to China from 5-8 April, 2010. During his visit the two sides signed an Agreement on establishment of a Direct Secure Telephone Link between the Prime Minister of India and Premier of China. The National Security Advisor visited China from 3-6 July, 2010 as Special Envoy to Prime Minister. From the Chinese side, Vice Premier Mr. Hui Liangyu paid a visit to India from 25-29 March, 2010 and Mr. Zhou Yongkang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China visited India from 31 October-2 November 2010 as part of the party-to-party exchange between two countries.

The leaders of the two countries also had fruitful exchange of views during their meetings on the sidelines of other multilateral events. Prime Minister met with the Chinese President Hu Jintao at Brasilia on 15 April, 2010 on the



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the Chinese Premier, Mr. Wen Jiabao, in New Delhi on 16 December, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Yousaf Raza Gilani, on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit, in Thimphu, Bhutan on 29 April, 2010.

sidelines of the BRIC Summit. Prime Minister and the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao had a meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam on the margins of the East Asia/ASEAN Summit on 29 October, 2010. During the meeting both leaders expressed satisfaction on the development of bilateral relations. External Affairs Minister met the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in Wuhan, China, on the margins of the India-Russia-China Trilateral Foreign Minister Meeting on 14 November, 2020.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of India, Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, paid a State visit to India from 15-17 December, 2010. It was a fitting culmination of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. Premier Wen held delegation level talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and called on the President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil. He also met with the UPA Chairperson and the leader of opposition. The two Prime Ministers had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest in a sincere and friendly atmosphere and reached broad consensus. During his visit, Premier Wen addressed an India-China business summit on 15 December, 2010 and visited the Tagore International School. He delivered a lecture on India-China relations at Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). The two Prime Ministers also attended the closing ceremony of the Festival of India in China on 16 December, 2010 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. During his visit the two sides signed six MoUs/Agreements for cooperation in the field of culture, green technology, media exchanges, water resources and banking cooperation. A joint communiqué was also issued during the visit.

In the area of Economic cooperation, the two sides agreed to establish a Strategic Economic Dialogue to enhance macro-economic policy coordination, to promote exchanges and interactions and join hands to address issues and challenges appearing in the economic development and enhance economic cooperation. While setting a new bilateral trade target of US\$ 100 billion by 2015, the two sides agreed to take measures to promote greater Indian exports to China with a view to reduce India's trade deficit. They also agreed to constitute an India-China CEO's Forum to deliberate on business issues and make recommendations on expansion of trade and investment cooperation.

Enhancing cooperation in the field of culture, the two sides declared 2011 as the "Year of India-China Exchange". In the field of educational cooperation, China welcomed the introduction of Chinese as an optional language in

school curriculum of CBSE from 2011 and agreed to offer support for training Chinese language teachers and providing Chinese language training materials. The two sides declared the establishment of the India-China Outstanding College Students Exchange Programme.

The 14th round of the Special Representative Talks was held in Beijing, China from 29-30 November, 2010. The two Special Representatives continued discussion on a framework for the settlement of the boundary question. The leadership of the two countries has on various occasions expressed satisfaction at the progress that is being made by the Special Representatives towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution. Both sides have declared that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and shall, therefore, be pursued as a strategic objective. Meanwhile, peace in the border areas was also maintained in accordance with the relevant agreements signed in 1993, 1996 and 2005, thereby creating an enabling environment for making progress on discussions on the boundary settlement.

China is one of India's largest trading partners. In 2009, the annual bilateral trade reached US\$ 43.27 billion, trade deficit standing at US\$ 15.87 billion. In the face of the global economic crisis our bilateral trade registered a decline of 16.54% compared to the previous year. In the first ten months of 2010 the bilateral trade between the two countries reached US\$ 49.84 billion (an increase of 45.29% over the same period last year) with a trade deficit of US\$ 15.90 billion. The growth in the trade deficit with China is a matter of concern to Government, and this issue was flagged by both Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister during their meeting with their Chinese counterparts. Chinese Premier told PM that they will try and make effort so that more Indian products enter China. The eight Ministerial level meeting of the India-China Joint Economic Group was held in Beijing on 19 January, 2010. An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Expansion of Trade and Economic Cooperation was signed covering bilateral trade, cooperation on quarantine requirements, IT and ITES services, pharmaceutical exports, inter-bank relations, simplifying visa procedures, infrastructure projects and promotional events by trade bodies. In order to increase awareness about the Indian products in China, business events were organized in 18 Chinese cities with IT, pharmaceuticals, engineering and agro-products as the thrust area.

Different dialogue mechanisms between India and China also showed a steady progress. The third round of Consular Talks between the two countries took place in New Delhi

on 23 March, 2010. The two sides held discussions on various consular and visa matter. The two countries had fruitful exchange of views on matter of regional and international interest under the Policy Planning Dialogue, held in Beijing in September 2010. The two sides discussed cooperation on trans-border Rivers during the fourth meeting of the India-China Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-Border Rivers which was held in New Delhi from 26-27 April, 2010. During the meeting the two sides also signed the Implementation Plan (IP) on provision of hydrological information on Sutlej River by China to India.

India-China military-to-military cooperation also continued; the third India-China Annual Defense Dialogue was held on 6 January, 2010. The fourth India-China Strategic Dialogue was held on 16 November, 2010, where the two sides had constructive discussion on taking the India-China relations to a higher level.

People-to-people contact has also emerged as an important aspect to India-China bilateral relations. This year, in order to commemorate the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries a "Festival of India" in China and a "Festival of China" in India were organized. The Festival of India in China which was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister on 7 April, 2010 in Beijing took India's performing arts to 33 Chinese cities this year. The Festival of China in India was inaugurated on 20 April, 2010, in New Delhi by Mr. Sun Jiazheng, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Peoples' Political Consultative Conference. The closing ceremony for the Festival of India was held in Chengdu, Sichuan on 24 October, 2010 with Dr. Karan Singh as the Chief Guest for the occasion. The Closing ceremony for the Festival of China in India was held in December 2010. India participated in the World Expo, held in Shanghai from 1 May-31 October 2010 with a national pavilion covering 4,000 square meters, on the theme of 'Cities of Harmony'. The Fifth Annual Youth Exchange between India and China also took place this year. The Indian Youth Delegation led by Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs visited China from 17-29 August, 2010 and the Chinese Youth delegation visited India from 16-25 November, 2010. The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, across Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh District of Uttarakhand, also proceeded smoothly this year from June-September 2010.

The two countries have also enhanced cooperation in functional areas. Minister for Human Resources and Development visited China from 11-16 September, 2010 and held fruitful discussions with his Chinese counterpart on cooperation in the field of Education. Minister for Road

Transport and Highways visited China from 14-16 September, 2010. During the visit the two sides discussed India-China cooperation in the field of infrastructure development in India.

Both countries have also interacted constructively on regional and international issues. Both sides have agreed to further work on their convergence of interests on issues such as world trade, climate change concerns, global financial crisis etc. MoS, Environment and Forest visited China in May and October 2010 to further discuss India-China cooperation on Climate Change, within the BASIC framework. Both sides also interacted at various regional forums like the East Asia Summit, ASEAN, RIC, & SCO as observers and as members.

Maldives

Both India and Maldives continued to work together in furthering the close and friendly relations existing between the two countries. Mr. Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Republic of Maldives, visited India from 2-5 October, 2010, to attend the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games-2010. During his visit, President Nasheed met Prime Minister on 4 October, 2010. He also called on the President.

Earlier, both Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Mohamed Nasheed of Maldives had also met on 28 April, 2010, on the sidelines of SAARC Summit held in Thimphu from 28-29 April, 2010. Both leaders reviewed the bilateral relations and exchanged views on matters of regional and international interest.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, paid an official visit to Maldives from 4-7 November, 2010. During his visit, Shri Vayalar Ravi called on President of the Maldives and met the Minister of Human Resources, Youth and Sports on 4 November, 2010 and discussed matters of bilateral interest.

Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, Special Envoy of the President of Maldives, visited India from 20-22 December, 2010. During his visit, Mr. Zaki met Foreign Secretary and National Security Advisor and reviewed the state of bilateral relations between the two countries. Earlier, Mr. Zaki had also visited India in August 2010.

Mr. Hassan Latheef, Minister of Human Resources, Sports and Youth of the Republic of Maldives, also visited India at the invitation of Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports for the 19th Commonwealth Games and fifth Commonwealth Sports Ministers' Meeting.

An Indian delegation led by Additional Secretary (CS), Ministry of Home Affairs, visited Maldives from 17-19 January, 2011 and held discussions with the Maldivian authorities on developing cooperation in police related matters.

India and Maldives signed Exchange of Letters on 23 January, 2011, under which India shall be providing financial assistance worth over ` 23 crores to Maldives for its project on education capacity building to promote technology adoption.

Both India and Maldives continued their cooperation in Maldives' developmental efforts. Medicines worth over ` 1 crore were provided to the Government of Maldives as aid assistance. In Maldives' efforts to promote sports activities in their country, India gifted sports equipment worth over ` 64 lakhs. India has also provided a Line of Credit of US\$ 40 million to build housing units in Maldives. India continued to provide training facilities to the Maldivian nationals both in civil and security related areas.

Mr. Mohamed Aslam, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, will be visiting India to attend India-LDC Ministerial Meeting on Harnessing the Positive Contribution of South-South Cooperation for Development of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), scheduled to be held from 18-19 February, 2011 in New Delhi.

Mr. Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Republic of Maldives, will be visiting India in February 2011 to attend the World Conference on Recreating South Asia: Democracy, Social Justice and Sustainable Development being organized by SACEPS and RIS from 24-26 February, 2011, New Delhi.

Myanmar

India and Myanmar are close and friendly neighbours linked, inter alia, by civilizational bonds, geographical proximity, culture, history and religion. Apart from a boundary that stretches over more than 1,640 kilometers and borders four North-Eastern states of India, there is a large population of persons of Indian origin in Myanmar. Our bilateral relations are reflective of these multifaceted and traditional linkages. Moreover, Myanmar being the only ASEAN Country having border with India, is also an important link between India and South East Asia.

The momentum of bilateral interaction and visits continued during the year. Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

of the Union of Myanmar visited India at the invitation of the Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India, on a State Visit from 25-29 July, 2010. During the visit, he also met Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister, which was followed by delegation level talks. At the various meetings, both sides agreed to further strengthen and broaden the multi dimensional relationship, including in the areas of security, trade and economic engagement, connectivity, infrastructure development, oil and natural gas, agriculture, railways, power, culture, etc. The following agreements/MoUs were also signed:

Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters;

MoU on Information Cooperation;

Agreement on the cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology;

MoU on small developmental projects.

MoU on conservation and restoration of Ananda Temple in Bagan;

Agreement for Line of Credit of US\$ 60 million for Railway Infrastructure Project

Mr. U. Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Civil Services Selection and Training led a delegation to India from 26 September-1 October 2010. The visit was intended to share learning from India's experience in reforms of the Civil Services selection procedure. During his visit, he met Chairman UPSC, the heads of the Indian Institute of Public Administration and the Foreign Service Institute. He also visited the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie.

The cooperation and exchanges in the Defense sector continued through bilateral visits and various training programme for Myanmar Armed Forces personnel. A total of 11 Indian Armed forces delegations and three Indian Navy/Coast Guard ships visited Myanmar in 2010. A total of nine delegations from Myanmar Armed Forces visited India during 2010.

India remains committed to continue developmental assistance to Myanmar. The projects that are currently underway under such aid assistance include railways, road and waterways development, power, health, Industrial training centres, telecommunications, etc.

India has extended various Lines of Credit to Myanmar as part of its development assistance. These include a) A US\$ 60 million Line of Credit (LoC) for procurement of railway equipments to be supplied by M/s RITES, b) US\$ 20 million LoC for setting up of a Truck Assembly Plant at Magway by Tata Motors, was inaugurated on 31 December, 2010, c) A Line of Credit

of US\$ 64.07 million extended for constitution of transmission lines by Powergrid Corporation of India Ltd., d) A US\$ 20 million LoC Thanbayakan Petrochemical Complex. Other projects under the Small Development Projects scheme, under discussion are up-gradation of Yangon Children's Hospital and Sittwe Hospital and building of Rice Silos. 16 transformers for installation in Yangon Division and 20 bio-mass gasoliers were also handed over as part of the rehabilitation in cyclone 'Nargis' affected areas.

The ground-breaking ceremony for commencing the construction work on the Kaladhan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project was held on 19 December, 2010. The contracts for the port development and inland waterways have been awarded to M/s Essar Ltd.

NHPC is currently engaged in preparing a DPR and carrying out additional investigation on the Tamanthi and Shwezaye hydro-electric projects in the Chindwin River valley, Myanmar.

The India-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre (IMITC) in Pakokku, Myanmar has been completed. The Centre was handed over to the Myanmar side and inaugurated by Prime Minister of Myanmar on 30 March, 2010. The first batch of training courses at the Centre commenced from July 2010. The Myanmar-India Centre for English Training (MICELT) is also fully functional and is conducting regular courses.

Bilateral trade crossed the target of US\$ 1 billion in 2009-2010 and achieved trade turnover of US\$ 1,207.56 million in 2009-2010. The trade during the current year (April-September) stood at around US\$ 422.37 million. Several Indian companies are also exploring opportunities for investments in Myanmar. OVL and GAIL announced investment of approx US\$ 1 billion in Energy Sector in Myanmar during 2010.

A delegation comprising of official representatives and businessmen from North-Eastern States of Manipur, Nagaland & Mizoram in India and Indian chambers of Commerce, Kolkata visited Myanmar (Yangon and Mandalay) from 13-16 September, 2010. The delegation included Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member Parliament, Rajya Sabha & Shri L. R. Sailo, Minister of Trade and Commerce, Government of Mizoram and 35 businessmen. Approximately 100 gems & jewellery businessmen from Myanmar visited India International Trade Fair New Delhi Jewel from 14-27 November, 2010.

India continued to extend assistance for capacity-building and development of human resources to Myanmar under

the ITEC, TCS of Colombo Plan and GCSS of ICCR. Utilization of the slots has been excellent and they have been increased over the years. The slots for Myanmar trainees in 2010-2011 were as follows: ITEC 140; TCS Colombo Plan-70; and GCSS of ICCR-10.

India and Myanmar share close cultural ties. There is a deep sense of kinship, particularly amongst the Buddhist community given India's Buddhist heritage. Various cultural troupes exchanged visits and performed in both countries in 2010. ICCR and NGO "SEHAR" organized a week-long camp "Puducherry Blue" involving 32 artists from 9 South Asian countries in March 2010. The art work produced during this camp was exhibited in Yangon from 17-23 November, 2010.

The 16th National Level Meeting (NLM) between India and Myanmar was held in New Delhi on from 27-31 December, 2010. The Indian delegation was led by Shri G. K. Pillai, Home Secretary and the Myanmar delegation by U Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs of Myanmar. At the meeting, issues related to security, border trade and border management were discussed.

On 31 December, 2010, the Prime Minister of Myanmar, Mr. Thein Sein inaugurated the Heavy Turbo Truck Factory of Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries (MADI) that has been set up by Tata Motors Limited under a US\$ 20 million Line of Credit (LoC) extended by Government of India to Myanmar. The Truck Automobile Plant, set up in the town of Magwe in Central Myanmar, has a capacity of producing 1,000 trucks annually, with the provisions for the facility to be scaled up for production of to 5,000 trucks per year.

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs led a delegation to Myanmar to attend 13th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting from 20-22 January, 2011.

Nepal

India and Nepal enjoy a special and unique relationship rooted in shared heritage, civilization and customs. India is Nepal's largest trade partner, and the largest source of foreign investment and tourist arrivals. India continued to work closely with the Government of Nepal and the major political parties with a view to support Nepal's transition to a democratic, stable, peaceful and prosperous State. India is committed to expanding its economic, commercial and infrastructural linkages with Nepal which would contribute to economic and social development of Nepal and would be happy to extend any assistance that

the Government of Nepal would like the Government of India to render.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met Prime Minister Shri Madhav Kumar Nepal on the sidelines of the XVIth SAARC Summit in Thimphu in April 2010. The two Prime Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the age-old, close, cordial and multifaceted relations between Nepal and India and agreed to expand these further.

Minister of State for Environment and Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh visited Nepal from 3-6 October, 2010 to attend an international symposium titled 'Benefiting from Earth Observation: Bridging the Data Gap for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region' organized by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). He had bilateral meetings with the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal and assured all possible assistance to Nepal in the field of environmental/climate change studies.

As part of efforts to encourage exchanges between our Parliament and the Constituent Assembly and Legislature Parliament of Nepal, a delegation of 11 Young Parliamentarians, representing seven political parties in Nepal visited India from 21-27 November, 2010.

Foreign Secretary visited Nepal from 18-20 January, 2011. During the visit, the Foreign Secretary called on the President, Prime Minister, Speaker, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Planning and Works and leaders from various political parties. The meetings focussed on the bilateral relations between India and Nepal and measures to further expand and strengthen the close and multi-faceted ties that exist between the two countries. Foreign Secretary stressed to all the leaders that India stands for a democratic, stable, peaceful and prosperous Nepal and assured them of India's support to the Constitution drafting process while strengthening an inclusive multi-party democracy in Nepal and also for successfully concluding the Nepali led peace process. Foreign Secretary urged early convening of meetings of various institutional mechanisms and emphasised the need for Government of Nepal's facilitation for speedy implementation of projects being executed in Nepal with Government of India assistance.

President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav paid an official visit to India from 27 January-5 February 2011, during which he met the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Chairperson of UPA, Minister of Finance, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Defense,

Minister of Home Affairs, Leaders of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. He was the Chief Guest at the convocations of the Medical College, Kolkata and the Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.

The period saw a sharp increase in bilateral trade over the past year. India continued to remain Nepal's largest trade partner and accounted for about 60% of Nepal's total external trade. India remained Nepal's largest source of foreign investment, accounting for 44% of the total foreign investment commitments in Nepal.

India continued its assistance at the grass-roots level with the Small Development Projects (SDPs) programme, focussing on the critical sectors of health, education and socio-economic community development. So far, over 400 projects have been completed/are under various stages of implementation in all the 75 districts of Nepal. India is also assisting Nepal to develop its infrastructure in the border areas adjoining India through the development of Integrated Check Posts, Cross-Border Rail Links and feeder and lateral roads in the Terai area of Nepal. This will facilitate development of the Terai region of Nepal and contribute to its economic development.

As part of India's continued assistance to Nepal for developing its human resources, the Government of India provided around 1,800 scholarships to Nepalese students for pursuing education in India and Nepal. In the field of higher education, ICCR India Chair for an initial period of two years was established in the Tribhuvan University on 23 July, 2010.

Government of Nepal assured the Government of India that it will not allow Nepalese territory to be used for activities directed against India.

Pakistan

India's concerns and expectations have been conveyed to Pakistan on several occasions, including Prime Minister-level talks on the sidelines of SAARC Summit in Bhutan in April 2010. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao held discussions with Pakistan Foreign Secretary on 24 June, 2010 in Islamabad. Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram visited Islamabad for the SAARC Interior/ Home Minister's Meeting on 26 June, 2010. External Affairs Minister visited Islamabad on 15 July, 2010. These meetings were aimed at reviewing India's bilateral relationship with Pakistan and to build trust and confidence between the two countries.

Regarding the ongoing trial and investigation in Pakistan of the Mumbai terrorist attacks, Pakistan has taken some



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, at the delegation level talks, in New Delhi on 9 June, 2010.



External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Prof. G. L. Peiris and Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao inaugurating the Consulate General Office of India at Hambantota on 28 November, 2010.

action but much more needs to be done. Government of India, therefore, conveyed to Government of Pakistan on 25 November, 2010, its regret that despite the repeated assurances given by Pakistan's leadership at the highest level and the extensive cooperation extended by India in connection with the ongoing trial and investigation in Pakistan on the Mumbai terrorist attacks, substantive and verifiable progress has not been made on bringing all the perpetrators and masterminds of the heinous attacks to justice. Government called upon Pakistan to fulfil its stated commitment to bring all the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks to justice and unravel the larger conspiracy behind these attacks. Government emphasized that a time-bound fulfilment of Pakistan's stated commitments would not only go a long way towards building trust and confidence between the two countries but would also be a reflection of Pakistan's commitment to combat terrorism comprehensively.

Despite the Mumbai terrorist attacks, the people-to-people contacts were allowed to continue. The transport links established in the previous rounds of the Composite Dialogue continued to operate successfully, facilitating the movement of people and bilateral trade.

Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan, Federal Minister for Population Welfare visited India from 16-21 April, 2010. During her stay in Delhi, She called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar and Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad.

The Times of India and Jang Group of Pakistan launched a campaign 'Aman ki Asha' on 1 January, 2010. The year-long event had cultural, literary and academic interactions. Under the 'Aman ki Asha' initiative an India Pakistan business meet was organized in New Delhi from 18-19 May, 2010. The inaugural address at the Meet was delivered by Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

A high-level delegation comprising of Deputy Chairman of Pakistan's Senate, Speakers and members of Pakistan's Provincial Assembly attended the fourth India and Asia Regions CPA Conference in Raipur from 25-29 October, 2010. Pakistan's Minister for Health Mr. Makhdoom Shahabuddin had visited India from 13-14 November, 2010 to participate in the 'Partner's Forum'.

FICCI organized a 'Conference on India-Pakistan Economic Relations: Prospects & Challenges' on 24 November, 2010 in New Delhi which had participants from industry and Chamber of Commerce from India and Pakistan. Foreign Secretary delivered the inaugural address. A panel discussion on enhancing India-Pakistan economic relations was also organized during this event.

A significant number of Indian prisoners, fishermen and boats are in Pakistani custody. Pakistan too has concerns about its nationals in jails in India. As per the recommendations of the India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners and Fishermen, lists of prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody were exchanged between India and Pakistan

As per available information, 170 Indian fishermen and 445 boats are in the custody of Pakistan. India has confirmed the nationality of 101 fishermen and has sought their urgent release. The process is underway for the nationality confirmation of 6 fishermen and Pakistan is yet to provide consular access to 75 fishermen. Pakistan has released 143 in 2006, 265 in 2007, 230 in 2008, 100 in 2009 and 442 in 2010 till date. Pakistan released 12 Indian fishermen on 14 December, 2010.

During 2009-2010, India's exports were valued at US\$ 1.573 billion, while Pakistan's exports amounted to US\$.275 billion, making a total trade of US\$ 1.849 billion. During 2009-2010, total bilateral trade grew by 2.17% over the previous year, while Indian exports to Pakistan increased by 9.27%, but imports from Pakistan decreased by 25.45%. Unofficial trade through third countries is also of significance and increases the transaction costs for end-users in Pakistan. While India has accorded MFN status to Pakistan, the latter continues to restrict items of import from India to a positive list of 1,934 items. On SAFTA, Pakistan has refused to extend the negotiated tariff concessions to items outside the positive list to India thereby negating the letter and spirit of the agreement, as exports are limited only to items on the positive list.

Pakistan had been severely affected by the massive floods that have caused widespread damage to life and property. India's Prime Minister called Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Yusuf Raza Gilani on 19 August, 2010, to express his sorrow and to condole the deaths resulting from the huge floods in Pakistan. As a gesture of solidarity with the victims of the massive floods in Pakistan, Government of India has given an assistance of US\$ 25 million through the United Nations.

Sri Lanka

India and Sri Lanka have close and friendly ties with shared cultural and civilizational heritage. The friendly relations between both countries continued to strengthen further across all sectors during the period under review. The period saw exchange of several high level visits between the two countries. The President of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa secured a convincing victory in

the Presidential elections in January 2010 and his ruling coalition won a comfortable majority in the Parliamentary elections in April 2010. He was sworn in as the President of Sri Lanka for a second term in office in November 2010.

Regular bilateral exchanges took place at all levels contributing to the close relations between the two countries. Prime Minister met President Mahinda Rajapaksa on the sidelines of the 16th SAARC Summit in Bhutan in April 2010 during which they discussed various aspects of bilateral relation. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna also met his Sri Lankan counterpart Prof. G. L. Peiris during the Summit.

President Rajapaksa visited India on a state visit from 8-11 June, 2010. During the visit a Joint Declaration was issued by both sides which covered the entire gamut of our relations with Sri Lanka. There was a mutual commitment to enhancing connectivity, promote economic integration and closer developmental cooperation. India & Sri Lanka agreed to establish Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota. Both the countries agreed to resume the ferry services between Colombo and Tuticorin and Talaimannar and Rameshwaram. The following Agreements/MoUs also signed during the visit:

- i) Renewal of MoU on Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small Development Schemes between India and Sri Lanka;
- ii) MoU on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners;
- iii) Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters;
- iv) MoU on Setting up of a Women's Trade Facilitation Centre & Community Learning Centre at Ballcaloa; v) Renewal of Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP);
- vi) MoU on Inter-connection Electricity Grids;

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Sri Lanka from 31 August-2 September 2010. During her visit, she travelled extensively in Northern Sri Lanka and visited Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Jaffna to witness the progress made in resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and reviewed various Government of India assisted projects. She also visited Trincomalee in the Eastern Province and called on the Governor of Eastern Province and discussed with him various projects assisted by Government of India in Eastern Province. During her visits she called on President of Sri Lanka, External Affairs Minister and met officials of Government of Sri Lanka to review various bilateral issues.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited New Delhi again from 14-15 October, 2010 to attend the closing ceremony of the XIX Commonwealth Games. In his meeting with Prime Minister, the two leaders agreed on the need to implement the conclusions and objectives of the Joint Declaration adopted during the earlier visit of President Rajapaksa in June 2010. Prof. G. L. Peiris, Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister also accompanied President of Sri Lanka and called on Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Human Resource Development and Minister of Commerce & Industry of India. He also delivered the R. K. Mishra Memorial Lecture on the theme of "Growth, Equity and Security: Constitutional Imperatives for South Asia".

Smt. Preeti Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, represented the Government of India at the ceremonial inauguration and swearing-in ceremony for the second term of President Mahinda Rajapaksa which was held on 19 November, 2010 in Colombo.

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Sri Lanka from 25-28 November, 2010 for the seventh meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. He co-chaired the meeting along with Prof. G. L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka on 26 November, 2010 in Colombo. The Joint Commission reviewed developments in bilateral relations since the visit to India in June 2010 of President Mahinda Rajapaksa and noted with satisfaction that the visit had laid a strong foundation for the future development of India-Sri Lanka relations. During his visit he inaugurated the offices of the Consulate General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota, launched a Pilot Project of 1,000 houses at Ariyalai near Jaffna and also carried out the ground breaking at Medawachchiya for the project for restoration of the Northern Railway line which is being carried out under a Government of India Line of Credit of US\$ 416.39 million. During the visit he also called on President, Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka and discussed various bilateral issues.

Amongst the other important visits from Sri Lanka, Minister for Economic Development Basil Rajapaksa, Secretary to the President Lalith Weeratunga and Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa visited India for Troika talks on 26 August, 2010.

Both India and Sri Lanka continue to cooperate in the area of Defense. India has been assisting Sri Lanka for training of their Armed Forces and police personnel in India. During the visit of President of Sri Lanka both the countries agreed to promote dialogue on security and

Defense issues of relevance to the bilateral relationship and enhance high-level military exchanges and institute an annual Defense dialogue between the two governments.

During the period, several high-level visits from both the Defense forces took place between the two countries. Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy visited Sri Lanka from 27 June-2 July 2010. He again visited Sri Lanka in December to participate in the Sri Lankan Navy's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. In September 2010 Indian Chief of Army Staff visited Sri Lanka. Defense Secretary of India visited Sri Lanka to discuss areas of India Sri Lanka Defense Cooperation in December 2010. Sri Lankan Naval Chief also visited India in October 2010.

The bilateral economic and commercial ties continued to expand during the year. India is now Sri Lanka's largest trade partner and Sri Lanka is one of India's largest trade partner in South Asia. The momentum generated by the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA) has continued to boost the sustained and rapid rise in bilateral trade turnover over the years. The overall trade turnover grew five times since the entry into force of the ISLFTA and crossed US\$ 3 billion for the first time in 2007. Due to the global economic downturn the bilateral trade figure between India and Sri Lanka came down to US\$ 2.035 billion in 2009 and has started picking up again. The India-Sri Lanka trade during the period January-October 2010 has reached US\$ 2.356 billion compared to US\$ 1.29 billion in corresponding period in 2009. The Indian exports to Sri Lanka stands at US\$ 1.983 billion compared to US\$ 1.10 billion in corresponding period in 2009. Sri Lankan exports to India stands at US\$ 373 million compared to US\$ 193.07 million in corresponding period in 2009. India is among the four largest investors in Sri Lankan economy. Sri Lanka's investments in India, too, have shown remarkable growth in recent years.

Development assistance to Sri Lanka is another significant plank of India's bilateral engagement with Sri Lanka. Immediately after the end of armed conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009, India had substantially scaled its involvement in this area.

In June 2009 Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced a relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction package of ` 500 crore for Sri Lanka. Initially India focussed on immediate humanitarian assistance for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). As immediate relief measure India had dispatched relief assistance; deployed an emergency field hospital and deployed seven demining

teams last year. India continued to assist Sri Lankan Government in resettlement and rehabilitation of these IDPs. In this regard India had deputed an Indian NGO for conducting a month long artificial limb fitting camp in Northern Sri Lanka for IDPs who were in need of Jaipur Leg. The team of seven de-mining teams in Northern Sri Lanka to assist in securing the area for early re-settlement of IDPs has been extended. To assist immediate resettlement of IDP families and to assist them repair their damaged houses, India has sent more than 7,800 tonnes of relief material and gifted four lakh cement bags. Another consignment of 2,600 tonnes of relief material will be despatched soon. India gifted 55 buses to Northern, Eastern and Central provinces.

India is also offering substantive assistance in the area of agriculture to restore livelihood activities of the resettled IDP families. A delegation from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) visited Sri Lanka to assess the scope of assistance required in rejuvenating agriculture sector in Northern Sri Lanka. As immediate measure in this regard about 95,000 agricultural starters' packs are being distributed since September 2009. Further, as grant assistance, India has gifted 500 tractors with agricultural implements to Agrarian Service Centers for the benefit of farmers in Northern Province. Agricultural inputs in the form of seeds for field crops have also been provided to Government of Sri Lanka.

India has also committed to construction of 50,000 houses for the IDPs in the Northern, Eastern and Central Provinces of Sri Lanka. A pilot project for construction of 1,000 houses was launched at Ariyalai in Jaffna during the visit of External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna on 27 November, 2010.

With the shift in focus from relief and rehabilitation to reconstruction and development, several projects are also being undertaken under India's assistance for various projects in Northern & Eastern Sri Lanka. These include restoration of Northern railway lines, rehabilitation of KKS harbour, Joint Venture between NTPC-CEB for a 500 MW thermal power plant at Trincomalee, construction of Cultural Centre at Jaffna, restoration of Duraiappa stadium, establishment of vocational centres, etc. and other projects under the Small Development Projects Scheme. India has extended concessionary Lines of Credit amounting to about US\$ 800 million to Sri Lanka for the railway projects.

India is assisting Sri Lanka in human resource and capacity building in the education sector. In this regard India continued to offer several scholarship programmes for

Sri Lankan students under ICCR Schemes, Colombo Plan, Commonwealth, IOR-ARC & SAARC fellowship programmes and also under India-Sri Lanka Cultural Exchange Programme. During the visit of President of Sri Lanka to India in June 2010 India & Sri Lanka agreed on the "India-Sri Lanka Knowledge Initiative". Under this Initiative a Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies is being established at the University of Colombo with the assistance from the Government of India.

On the cultural side, an exhibition of painting titled "Kalpana" and a photographic exhibition titled "Religions of India" were held at the Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo in May 2010. In June 2010 India and Sri Lanka signed the Programme for Cultural Cooperation for the period 2010-2013. An Odissi dance troupe led by Smt. Sharmila Biswas gave performances at Colombo, Kandy and Nuwera Eliya during the 64th Independence Day celebrations in August 2010. A team led by Archaeological Survey of India visited Sri Lanka in August 2010 to undertake a feasibility study for the restoration of the Thiruketheeswaram Temple. The

Ministry of External Affairs has commissioned for a fifth Century Gupta period idol of Lord Buddha from Samath which will be installed at Sri Dalada Maligawa International Buddhist Museum complex in Kandy, Sri Lanka. An Indian Gallery is also being established at the Museum. Two Indian films (Trishangi and The Land of Buddha) were screened at the Vesak 2010 International Buddhist Film Festival organized in Sri Lanka during May-June 2010. A short-term rotating ICCR Chair in contemporary Indian studies was established at the University of Colombo. Indian Cultural Centre assisted in presentation of 'Abhijnana Shakuntalam', the famous Sanskrit play in the form of a musical dance-drama in Tamil at Jaffna on 5 May, 2010. Performances of the Chitrasena Dance Group from Sri Lanka in the International Cultural Fiesta held at Dilli Haat, Pitampura during the XIX Commonwealth Games was organized by the ICCR as well as participation of a rock band from Sri Lanka in the South Asian Band Festival held in Delhi from 12-14 December, 2010. A familiarization visit to India of eminent editors from print and electronic media.

2

South East Asia and the Pacific

Australia

Bilateral relations with Australia continued to develop in various spheres. The incidents relating to Indian students in Australia, mainly in Melbourne, as well as the larger Indian community, which came to a head in mid 2009 and early 2010, gradually declined in the course of the year. Government of India took up the various issues with the Australian Government, at federal as well as at state level. The measures put in place by the concerned authorities were effective in dealing, to a large extent, with the various factors behind the incidents.

Bilateral trade in goods and services between India and Australia reached A\$ 22.40 billion in 2009-2010, comprising A\$ 19.89 billion Australian exports to India and A\$ 2.51 billion Indian exports to Australia. India was Australia's fourth largest export destination. Australia was India's sixth largest trading partner.

Shri Anand Sharma, CIM and Mr. Simon Crean, Minister for Trade of Australia co-chaired the 12th meeting of the India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission held in New Delhi in May 2010. The Ministers released the Report of the India-Australia FTA Joint Feasibility Study Group which recommended negotiation of a comprehensive bilateral FTA. Shri Sushilkumar Shinde, Minister of Power led a delegation to participate in the first Australia-India Energy and Minerals Forum held in Perth in June 2010. Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited Australia in June 2010.

Minister for Sports, Senator Mark Arbib and Governor of Victoria Prof. David de Kretser visited New Delhi to participate in the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2010. A six-member delegation led by Ms. Melissa Parke, MP comprising an MLA from Western Australia and four officials from various political parties visited India from 28 November-4 December for the inaugural visit under the Exchange Programme of Young Political Leaders. Mr. Dennis Richardson, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade visited India in December 2010 for the Senior Officials Meeting and Strategic Dialogue.

The Indian community numbering around 4,50,000 mainly consists of Teachers, Engineers, Accountants, doctors, IT Consultants.

Brunei

Bilateral relations are friendly and cordial. Brunei's legacy of Hindu and Buddhist cultural traditions is seen even today in its language, arts, and social customs, etc. Bilateral diplomatic relations were established in 1984, and resident diplomatic missions established in 1993.

India's exports in 2009-10 were US\$ 24.40 million and imports were US\$ 428.65 million.

Indian Community in Brunei is estimated about 6,000 which include doctors, teachers, engineers, businessmen, construction workers, shop and domestic assistants.

Cambodia

Bilateral relations between India and Cambodia remained cordial and friendly. Human Resource Development and capacity building activities continued to be focus of our bilateral cooperation.

President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid a six-day state visit to Cambodia from 13-18 September, 2010 for furthering cooperation in cultural, economic, Defense fields. Two agreements i.e. (i) MoU for Cooperation between C&AG of India and the National Audit Authority of Cambodia; and (ii) LoC between EXIM Bank and Cambodian Ministry of Economy & Finance for US\$ 15 million (for Stung Tasal Water Development Project) were signed during the visit. A donation of US\$ 2,46,000 to India-Cambodia Friendship School in Kampong Cham province and also laying the foundation stone for MGC Asian Traditional Textiles Museum at Siem Reap, were major outcomes during the visit. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister for Water Resources & Parliamentary Affairs paid a visit to Cambodia from 7-9 June, 2010 and during the visit signed an MoU for cooperation in Water Resources Management by WAPCOS Ltd.

A ten-member multi-party parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Chheang Vun, Chairman of the National

Assembly's Commission on Foreign Affairs paid a familiarization visit to India from 22-28 August, 2010.

Total bilateral trade in the year 2009-10 was US\$ 50.60 million (with Indian export of US\$ 45.54 million and Import US\$ 5.05 million). Substantial progress has been achieved in the ongoing restoration work of Ta Prohm Temple undertaken by ASI under Government of India's grants in aid. Two specialised training programmes: 1) "Cyber Crime and Network Course" (for ten-Cambodian police officer); and 2) "Investigation of Bank Fraud Cases" (for 12-Cambodian police officers) were organized by MHA in India. Under the 'Work Plan between India and Cambodia in the field of Agriculture', a proposal to organize special agricultural courses for five Cambodian scientists is being processed by ICAR.

Under Defense cooperation, two Indian Army officers took part in Multinational Peace Support Operations Exercise: "Angkor Sentinel 10" as observer in the Command Post Exercise in July 2010. In August 2010, India imparted training to RCAF personnel in Phnom Penh in (i) Advanced Demining and (ii) 'UN Peace Keeping Operations'.

A four-member delegation of Archeological Survey of India and Forest Research Institute participated in the Technical Meeting of the International Coordinating Committee for Safeguarding the Temples of Angkor held at Siem Reap from 8-9 June, 2010.

Cambodia has been consistently supportive of various Indian initiatives and interests in regional and international fora including our candidature for a permanent seat on the UNSC. Cambodia supported our candidature for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the years 2011-2012. Cambodia has sought India's support for its candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for the term 2013-2014. In the context of our 'Look East' policy and the ASEAN, Cambodia is an important interlocutor and a good partner. Currently, Cambodia is the country coordinator for India in ASEAN.

Taking note of increasing demand for training courses, slots under ITEC have been enhanced to 85 from 75 for 2009-2010. Separately 14 education scholarships have been offered, 10 under MGC, and 4 under CEP/GCSS (2 each). Till date, we have trained 790 Cambodian nationals in various disciplines under ITEC. An Indian expert in water management has been deputed for 1 year period under ITEC to assist Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem(APSARA) Authority at Siem Reap.

Fiji

India enhanced its cooperation and assistance in the fields of social and economic development and continued to maintain cordial ties with Fiji Islands.

In September 2010, India and Fiji Islands signed a MoU for setting up an Information Technology Centre of Excellence (CEIT) in Fiji Islands and have agreed to set up an IT Training Centre in Fiji Islands. India will provide teachers, hardware and courseware to benefit 500 students per year from this project.

India provided Grant-in-Aid to Fiji Ministry of Education to supply water tanks to more than 125 primary and secondary schools and for purchase of five new ambulances for the sub-divisional hospitals of Fiji Islands, covered by the Ministry of Health's Emergency Ambulance Services.

Health specialists from Fiji underwent prosthetic training at the Jaipur Foot Organization (Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti- (BMVSS) from July-September 2010, which was followed by discussions in the first JWG meeting on Health held in February 2010, in New Delhi.

An academic and administrative delegation from the University of South Pacific (USP) visited India to establish academic partnership with some of the leading universities of India. This followed the visit of Joint Asian Development Bank - Government of India Mission, which visited Fiji Islands in February-March 2010, to assess the progress of the project where India has provided US\$ 1 million to USP through ADB's Technical Assistance fund.

Indonesia

Our excellent relations with Indonesia continued in 2010 with further consolidation of the strategic partnership through rapid development of our ties in the political, security, Defense, commercial and cultural fields.

Then Minister of Road, Transport and Highways of India Shri Kamal Nath visited Jakarta to attend the Asia-Pacific Ministerial conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development 2010 in April 2010. Minister of Water Resources Shri P. K. Bansal visited Yogyakarta in October 2010 for the sixth Asian Regional Conference of the International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage. Minister for Health & Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad visited Yogyakarta in October 2010 for the Partners in Population and Development Conference and Meetings of PPD Executive Council and Board.

Indonesia is now India's second largest trading partner in the ASEAN. Bilateral trade was US\$ 11.72 billion in

2009-2010. A delegation from FICCI comprising of eight companies dealing in traditional medicines visited Indonesia in November 2010.

Defense Cooperation continued with regular Defense exchanges including exchange of high level visits, ship visits, officers studying in Staff Colleges in both countries and joint coordinated patrols. The second bilateral Joint Defense Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting was held at New Delhi in June 2010.

During the year, 20 major events of music & dance performances, visits and discussions by the distinguished visitors and visits of Indonesian troupes were organized. Year-long 'Festival of India' in Indonesia concluded with ICCR sponsored International Seminar on "Cultural and Historical Links between India & South-East Asia" in October 2010 which was attended by 14 scholars from various ASEAN Nations.

Indonesia was offered 75 training slots under ITEC, 35 training slots under Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) of Colombo Plan, 20 General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS) slots and two Hindi one-year course scholarships.

Lao PDR

Laos continues to lay emphasis on its socio-economic development and betterment of the people at large by building infrastructural facilities throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Laos has launched the seventh National Socio-Economic Development Plan for the period 2011-2015. The objectives of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and graduating the country from the Least Developed Country status by 2020 form the core part of its national policies. Laos plays a prominent role of South East Asia and encourages the region's participation individually and collectively in attaining its national goals.

India's relationship with Laos is based on development of cooperation. India is among the top eight development partners of Laos and our commitment to infrastructure development projects through credits stands at US\$ 162 million. India continues to figure prominently in the areas of human resource development, hydroelectric power, transmission lines and irrigation. The visit of President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil in September 2010 was the second Presidential visit to Laos, after 1959. It is a landmark in the relationship between the two countries. During the visit, a cultural exchange programme 2011-2013 and a loan agreement for US\$ 72.55 million between Exim Bank and Laos was

signed. During the visit of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal in June 2010, a work plan between Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) and the ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of irrigation of Laos was signed.

The Lao PDR has been supportive of all major issues of regional and international concerns to India, including our claim for UN Security Council Permanent Membership. At the 59th Session of the UNGA, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavad, Leader of the Lao Delegation, clearly articulated Lao PDR's support for an expanded UNSC that would include India. In terms of regional association of Lao PDR it has a very friendly and helpful attitude to encourage the third country in its regional formations by means of providing full support on different issues.

Malaysia

India-Malaysia bilateral relationship, marked by traditional friendship and cordiality, was further strengthened during the year with both countries deciding on a framework for strategic partnership.

There have been regular exchanges of visits between the leaders of the two countries, including the visit by Prime Minister to Malaysia in October 2010. Vice President met the Prime Minister of Malaysia on the margins of the ASEM Summit in Brussels in October 2010. Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma paid an official visit to Malaysia in July 2010.

During Prime Minister's visit to Malaysia, both countries announced a Framework for Strategic Partnership. Six documents were signed during the visit, namely Agreement towards implementing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Malaysia; MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Indian Medicine; MoU on Cooperation in the field of Tourism; MoU on Cooperation in the field of IT & Services; Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP); and Agreement between CSIR of India and UNIK of Malaysia. Both countries also agreed to set up a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.

India-Malaysia Defense relations have steadily grown over the years. Malaysia-India Defense Cooperation Meetings (MIDCOM) are held regularly. The eighth meeting of the MIDCOM was held in March 2010. Service Chiefs from both countries have regularly exchanged visits. The IAF Training Team deployed in Malaysia in February 2008 completed the training of Malaysian pilots on the SU-30SKM aircraft in September 2010.



President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil with the Chief Guest President of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the Vice President, Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh during the 'At Home', hosted by her, on the occasion of the 62nd Republic Day celebrations, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 26 January, 2011.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak at the Joint Press Conference after the signing ceremony, at Putrajaya, the Prime Minister Office, in Malaysia on 27 October, 2010.

During January-September 2010 period, bilateral trade increased to US\$ 6.84 billion marking an increase of 29% over the same period in 2009. Malaysia also became the first country to ratify the ASEAN-India FTA in Goods on 1 January, 2010. The first-ever India-Malaysia CEOs Forum, comprising 18 CEOs from both sides, was jointly launched in October 2010 by Prime Minister's of India and Malaysia.

Indian companies have invested about US\$ 2 billion, making it the seventh largest investor in Malaysia. During Prime Minister's visit to Malaysia, both countries have agreed to set up a Joint ICT Talent Development Consultative Committee to make specific recommendations to both the governments for IT skills training, talent development and greater engagement of Indian IT companies in Malaysia.

Air links have improved significantly following a bilateral agreement in 2007 to progressively increase the seat capacity to six major destinations in India.

A bilateral MoU on Employment and Welfare of Workers establishes an institutional framework to deal with issues concerning Indian workers. The second meeting of the JWG was held in April 2010, to consider measures for regulating, streamlining and devising welfare measures for about 1,50,000 legally recruited Indian workers in Malaysia. There are about 10,000 expatriates employed in IT, manufacturing, banking, etc. The Mission started the operation of two separate Centres for Counselling-cum-Shelter for men and women in March 2010 under the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF).

An MoU on Higher Education was signed during Malaysian Prime Minister Mr. Najib's visit to India in January 2010. About 2,000 Indian students are studying in Malaysia, while an estimated 3,000 Malaysian students are studying in India. A new Indian Cultural Centre was opened in Kuala Lumpur in February 2010. India offers about 30 slots under ITEC and 25 under the Colombo Plan.

Malaysia has one of the largest communities of PIOs in the world, numbering close of two million (about 8% of Malaysia's population).

New Zealand

India-New Zealand bilateral relationship has traditionally been friendly and supportive. The following important visits from India took place during the year: Shri Kapil Sibal, HRD Minister visited New Zealand in April 2010 and renewed Education Cooperation

Arrangement between the Ministry of HRD and Ministry of Education of New Zealand for a further period of five years. Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi visited New Zealand in June 2010 and discussed issues concerning the Indian community. Admiral Nirmal Verma, CNS visited New Zealand in November 2010. The Second round of IDSA-Asia New Zealand Track II Dialogue was held at Wellington in September 2010. The IDSA delegation was led by Dr. Arvind Gupta, Additional Secretary, Lal Bahadur Shastri Chair, IDSA.

The Governor-General Rt. Sir Anand Satyanand accompanied by Lady Susan Satyanand, and Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sport and Recreation and the Rugby World Cup visited New Delhi in October 2010 to represent the New Zealand Government at the XIX Commonwealth Games.

The first round of Free Trade Agreement negotiations between India and New Zealand was held in Wellington in April 2010 followed by the second round in New Delhi in August 2010 and the third round in October 2010.

An MoU between the ICCR and the Victoria University of Wellington for establishment of Council's Short-Term Chair in Indian studies at Victoria University of Wellington was signed in September 2010.

India-New Zealand Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) were held in New Delhi on 29 April, 2010. Indian delegation was led by Ms. Latha Reddy, Secretary (East) and New Zealand delegation by Mr. John Allen, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand.

Papua New Guinea

A five-member delegation led by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur, visited Vanuatu to participate in the Post Forum Dialogue meeting in August 2010 at Port Vila. PNG Minister for Education and Acting Minister of Sports Mr. James Marape, attended the Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting and CWG Delhi 2010.

India has offered fresh grant-in-aid of US\$ 1,25,000 per country under Government of India's Regional Assistance Initiative for Pacific Island Countries to Papua New Guinea. There is also a proposal in pipeline for setting up of an IT Centre of Excellence as well as three Hole-in-the-Wall (HiWEL) learning stations offered by Government of India under this Assistance.

As part of setting up of 13 vocational training colleges for disadvantaged sections of the society in Papua New

Guinea in collaboration with the Indian Council for Research and Development in Community Education (ICRDCE), Chennai, 33 teachers from the schools situated at different parts of PNG had undergone requisite training at ICRDCE, Chennai.

Under the ongoing ITEC programme, all 25 training slots allotted to PNG for 2010-2011, have already been availed of by the PNG Government. Another four slots offered under the TCS of Colombo Plan are not yet utilized.

A project has been conceived by the PNG University of Technology (UNITECH) in association with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for providing distant education facility in PNG. As suggested by IGNOU, a specific MoU between IGNOU and UNITECH is under process of finalization with UNITECH for launching the programmes of IGNOU in PNG.

Philippines

The year witnessed a peaceful transfer of power in the Philippines through democratic elections and assumption of office by President Benigno S. Aquino III on 30 June, 2010. The new Philippines Government has supported India for our candidature at various international forums, most significantly for India's non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for 2011-2012.

The Minister for Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah visited the Philippines in June 2010, to address an ADB Seminar on wind power in Asia, and the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vyalar Ravi, visited Manila in July 2010 and held discussions with the Philippines Government on migration issues.

According to latest figures, during 2009-2010, bilateral trade was US\$ 1061.84 million of which Indian exports constitute US\$ 748.77 million and the Philippines exports constitute US\$ 313.17 million. The rapidly growing sector of cooperation is BPO operations where Indian IT firms have a strong presence. Leading Philippines companies like PLDT (telecommunications), Ayala (real estate) and Del Monte (food processing) are also present in India.

A 12-member Royal Chhau Dance Group visited Manila in June 2010. A celebrated author and poetess, Prof. Merlie Alunan, visited India under the Ananda Kumaraswamy Fellowship at the invitation of the Sahitya Akademi for interaction with the eminent Indian writers and poetry reading during September-October 2010.

With growing people-to-people contacts and in consideration of our close ties, Prime Minister announced

at the Hanoi ASEAN Summit in October 2010 that the Philippines nationals will also be extended the tourist visa-on-arrival facility with effect from 1 January, 2011.

Singapore

Continued high-level engagement, launching of the second Review of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and strong recovery of bilateral trade were the main developments in Indo-Singapore bilateral relations during the year. Intensive and wide ranging interactions in the course of the year covering strategic, security, Defense, trade and investment further strengthened bilateral relations.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met Prime Minister Lee Hsein Loong on the sidelines of the eight India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits in Hanoi in October 2010. Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong during his visit to Delhi in March 2010 called on the PM, External Affairs Minister, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission. In his capacity as President of Singapore National Olympic Council, the Deputy PM and Minister for Defense Mr. Teo Chee Hean led a nine-member Singapore delegation to Delhi CWG and called on the Defense Minister and Home Minister. EAM paid an official visit to Singapore in March 2010 as part of the high-level bilateral interactions between the two countries. During the visit, EAM called on Prime Minister Lee Hsein Loong, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Prof. S. Jayakumar, Deputy PM and Minister for Defense Teo Chee Hean and also held discussions with Minister for Foreign Affairs George Yeo. Singapore's Foreign Ministers George Yeo visited New Delhi in August 2010 on a working visit and to participate in the sixth meeting of the Nalanda Mentor Group. He also paid an official visit to Tamil Nadu from 6-9 May, 2010.

National Security Advisor Shri S. Menon visited Singapore in June 2010 to attend the annual security conference Shangri-La Dialogue. The ninth India-Singapore Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) and second meeting of National Security Round Table were held in New Delhi. The annual India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue was held from 18-19 February, 2010.

Bilateral trade fell to S\$ 21.58 billion in 2009 on account of global economic meltdown. Following strong recovery of Singapore's economy in 2010, total bilateral trade registered a growth of 37% year-to-year reaching S\$ 24.99 billion during the period January-October 2010 as compared to S\$ 18.23 billion in corresponding period

of last year. FDI inflows from Singapore amounted to US\$ 11.32 billion (cumulative) over the period April 2000-September 2010.

The second review of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement was launched in May 2010 in New Delhi by Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma and Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Mr. Lim Hng Kiang. The Ministers agreed on a bilateral economic road that included, among others, target to double annual bilateral trade by 2015. The first round of meeting of the second Review of CECA was held in Singapore on 3 August, 2010.

The Government of Tamil Nadu and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) signed an MoU in March 2010 to restore rivers and water bodies in Chennai. The restoration, beautification and management of the Cooum River will be one of the first projects under the MoU signed between SCE and the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust. The Government of Kerala and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) signed an MoU on 3 May, 2010 to share Singapore's experience in Urban Governance and Management with the Government of Kerala.

The fifth Defense Working Group (DWG) meeting was held in New Delhi in August 2010. The sixth India-Singapore Defense Technology Steering Committee Meeting between Defense Science & Technology Agency and DRDO was held in September 2010.

The ICCR and National University of Singapore (NUS) signed an MoU for establishment of Council Chair of Indian Studies in the South Asian Studies Programme (SASP) at NUS on 12 March, 2010. The Chair will function at the South Asian Studies Programme under the aegis of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, NUS. Prof Makrand Paranjape from J.N.U. was selected as inaugural ICCR Visiting Professor of Indian studies.

Thailand

Bilateral relations with Thailand are multifaceted and have grown over the period of years.

Crown Prince Mahavajiralongkorn, accompanied by Princess Srirasmi and son Prince Dipangkorn Rasmijoti and other members of royal family piloted a special Thai Air flight to Bodhgaya to perform pilgrimage at Buddhist holy sites in November 2010.

The Framework Agreement on India-Thailand FTA was signed in Bangkok in October 2003. Negotiations on the comprehensive FTA have been ongoing and are yet to be

concluded. Thai authorities continue to express the hope that this bilateral FTA will be signed at an early date. Thai Deputy Commerce Minister Alongkorn Ponlaboot visited India in May 2010 and met Minister of State for Commerce Shri Jyotiraditya Scindhia and Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Kamal Nath to discuss bilateral commercial issues, including Thailand-India FTA.

The trade data for January-October 2010 shows bilateral trade at US\$ 5.46 billion, an increase of 37% over corresponding figure of same period last year. FDI inflow from Thailand into India has been US\$ 44 million during April 2000-November 2008.

Indian Navy and Coast Guard ships visit Thailand regularly for Operational Turn Around and Passing Exercises (PASSEX). An agreement for Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was signed in May 2005. Since then, 11 CORPATs have been successfully conducted, the last one being held from 15-22 November, 2010, with the debrief after completion of exercise done at Phuket on 22 November, 2010.

A large number of Thai students estimated to be around 5,000 are in India (school and college).

There is significant tourist traffic between the two countries. Last year, over 5.3 lakh Indians visited Thailand and nearly 40,000 Thais visited India - a majority of them for the Buddhist pilgrimage sites. Indian nationals are eligible for visa on arrival in Thailand.

Pacific Islands

India attended the 22nd Post Forum Dialogue (PFD) Partners Meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu (6 August, 2010) after the 41st Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Summit meeting there. During the PFD, Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur emphasized that Climate change is an important issue on the global agenda with significant implications for developing countries, for whom it is not merely an environmental issue, but directly impacts on their developmental aspirations and survival.

India is deeply conscious of the challenge faced by the Pacific Island countries and reiterated India's commitment for the economic development of the Pacific Island Countries and its greater integration with Indian economy. MoS Smt. Preneet Kaur also announced that those countries which did not utilize the grant-in-aid of US\$ 1,25,000 offered in previous years may avail of the same along with the offer made this year.

Niue

An amount of US\$ 71,000 was released as grant-in-aid to the Government of Niue to fund the renovation of the Liku Village Pastor's Housing Project and US\$ 29,000 for re-roofing and renovation of Niue Sports & Recreation and Training Centre.

Nauru

Mr. Marcus Stephen, President of the Republic of Nauru, accompanied by Lady Amanda Stephen and Mr. Mathew Batsiua, Minister of Sports, Government of Nauru, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Tricia Batsiua, visited New Delhi from 1-5 October, 2010 to attend the XIX Commonwealth Games.

Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia

Relations with Palau, Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia remain friendly and India's interaction with them has been growing steadily following India's participation in the First Dialogue Meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in August 2003.

They supported India's candidature for the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for

the years 2011-2012. Out of the ten seats allotted, under ITEC programme, to scholars from the Marshall Islands (five), Federated States of Micronesia (three) and Republic of Palau (two), one training slot each by the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau has been utilized during the current year till 30 November.

In implementation of the Government of India's commitment for grant-in-aid for development projects to member countries of the Pacific Islands Forum, till date US\$ 1,00,000 has been utilized by Republic of the Marshall Islands (for solar street lighting), US\$ 73,145 by the Federated States of Micronesia (purchase of machinery by the Coconut Development Authority) and US\$ 1,00,000 by Republic of Palau (for a boat and two pick-up trucks).

Solomon Islands & Vanuatu

The number of training slots under ITEC has been increased from five to ten for the year 2010-2011.

India has offered fresh grant-in-aid of US\$ 1,25,000 per country under Government of India's Regional Assistance Initiative for Pacific Island Countries to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Japan

India's relations with Japan have undergone a significant transformation in recent years, with the establishment of 'India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership' and the practice of annual summits during Prime Minister's visit to Japan in December 2006. In the year 2010-2011, bilateral relations continued to maintain an upswing, symbolized by a series of high-level visits, new areas of cooperation and new mechanisms of dialogue, deepening economic partnership, smooth implementation of joint flagship projects and cooperation in Defense and security areas.

One of the high points in India's relations with Japan in 2010-2011 was the Prime Minister's visit to Japan from 24-26 October, 2010 for the Annual Summit with Prime Minister of Japan Naoto Kan. The two PMs signed two documents: a Joint Statement "Vision for India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade" and a "Joint Declaration between the Leaders of India and Japan on the Conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement". In addition, an Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures between India and Japan was signed during the visit. Prime Minister had extensive discussions, both in restricted session and delegation-level talks, with the Japanese Prime Minister. The visit helped maintain the upward trend in the India-Japan relationship and summit-level commitment to this increasingly important relationship.

India and Japan enjoy a robust framework for political dialogue. The two Prime Ministers met briefly on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Toronto on 27 June, 2010 within a month of Mr. Kan taking over as Japan's Prime Minister; the two leaders expressed a continuing desire to forge strong relations between the two countries. India and Japan have conducted an Annual Strategic Dialogue between the Foreign Ministers since 2007. Japan's the then Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada visited India for the fourth round of this Dialogue on 21 August, 2010. Other dialogue mechanisms at Ministerial level are Japan-India Policy Dialogue at the level of Commerce & Industries Minister and Japanese METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industries) Minister, and High-Level Energy Dialogue

between Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and METI Minister. The last round of both these dialogues took place in New Delhi on 30 April, 2010 during the visit of the then METI Minister Masayuki Naoshima. The two sides have also begun annual visits by the two Defense Ministers since 2009. In pursuance of this, Japan's Defense Minister Mr. Toshimi Kitazawa visited India from 30 April-1 May 2010, and held extensive discussion with Defense Minister. During the Annual Summit in October 2010, the two sides agreed in principle to establish a Ministerial Level Economic Dialogue to give strategic and long-term policy orientation to their bilateral economic engagement, taking into account the regional and global context and to coordinate economic issues of cross-cutting nature, including infrastructure development and financing.

There are regular visits of Government Ministers, parliamentarians and senior officials in both directions. Apart from the regular Ministerial dialogue mechanisms referred to above, the following Ministers of the Government of India visited Japan in 2010-2011: Minister of State for Finance (22-25 July, 2010) and Minister of State for Science & Technology (2-7 October, 2010). Minister of State for Rural Development visited Japan from 15-20 January, 2011 while Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources led a delegation of Parliamentarians on a goodwill visit to Japan from 27 January-2 February 2011. India and Japan have a comprehensive mechanism of official-level dialogues at all levels and majority of these dialogues were held with regularity in 2010-2011. Besides bilateral issues, these dialogues cover issues of regional and global interest. India and Japan, bilaterally and with other G-4 nations, cooperate for reform of the United Nations Security Council, and the G-4 Foreign Ministers met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2010. Among the new dialogues launched in 2010-2011 was a Dialogue on Africa, which had its first meeting in Tokyo from 4-6 October, 2010.

Economic cooperation has a lot of potential in India-Japan relations. In September 2010, the two countries completed negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh holding talks with the Japanese delegation, in New Delhi on 30 April, 2010.
The Defence Minister of Japan, Mr. Toshimi Kitazawa and the
Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Mr. Nasayuki Naoshima are also seen.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at a bilateral meeting with the
President of the Republic of South Korea, Mr. Lee Myung-bak, on the sidelines of the
17th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 29 October, 2010.

Agreement. This was announced formally during the Annual Summit of October 2010. The Agreement is the most comprehensive of all similar agreements concluded by India so far, as it covers more than 90% of the trade, a vast gamut of services, investment, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), customs and other trade related issues. CEPA is likely to be formally signed at the Ministerial level in February 2011. India has been the largest recipient of ODA from Japan for the seventh consecutive year in 2010-2011. Cumulative commitment of Japanese ODA to India so far (upto July 2010) is Yen 3.3 trillion. In 2010, trade has continued to grow, reaching US\$ 13.3 billion in the first 11 months, according to Japanese Government statistics. Japan's exports to India during this period increased 44% over the corresponding period last year to US\$ 8.08 billion, while Japan's imports from India rose 57% to US\$ 5.22 billion. Japan currently ranks sixth largest in cumulative foreign direct investment flows into India, accounting for 3.62% of total FDI inflows into India. Under Special Economic Partnership Initiative of 2006, India and Japan have launched flagship projects like Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) projects, which are proceeding as per schedule. The Agreement for Phase-I of the DFC was signed in the last week of March 2010, while Engineering Services Loan for Phase-II of the project was signed on 26 July 2010. Four Japanese Consortiums involved in building "Smart Communities and Eco-friendly cities" along the DMIC signed MoUs with the four concerned state governments concerned on 30 April, 2010. Five Japanese Early Bird Projects (EBPs) located in the DMIC states of UP, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat are currently at early stages of implementation, while a sixth one was announced by the Japanese side in June 2010. India and Japan held an exploratory round of talks from 12-15 January, 2011 on negotiating a Social Security Agreement.

India and Japan have sound cooperation in the field of energy, where Japan has been assisting India in sectors like coal and new and renewable energy and areas like enhancing energy efficiency through training and model projects. At the conclusion of the forth India-Japan Energy Dialogue in New Delhi on 30 April, 2010, a Joint Statement was issued between the Planning Commission of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, reflecting the range of energy cooperation. The Government of Japan announced on 25 June, 2010 its decision to commence negotiations with India for civil nuclear cooperation. Three rounds of negotiations have been held between the two sides on this issue.

Defense and security cooperation has gradually emerged as a key facet of our Strategic and Global Partnership with

Japan and is recognized by both sides as beneficial to peace and prosperity in Asia and the World. Within the framework of the October 2008 India-Japan Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, which was the first such document signed by India with any other country, a concrete Action Plan was issued in December 2009. Cooperation covers a wide range of issues, ranging from maritime safety and security, fight against piracy and trans-national crimes, safety of transport, protection of marine environment and non-traditional security threats like disaster management through consultation and cooperation in multilateral frameworks in Asia. In 2010-2011, Defense and security cooperation proceeded on the basis of the two agreed documents, as well as Annual Calendar of Defense Exchanges. Among the new dialogues launched in the year was the first-ever Two-plus-Two Dialogue held in New Delhi on 6 July, 2010 between Foreign Secretary and Defense Secretary of India and Deputy Foreign Minister and Administrative Vice Minister of Japan. A Ground-to-Ground Staff Talks was introduced in 2010. Indian Coast Guard ship "Vishwast" held a combined exercise with Japan Coast Guard alongside the tenth High-Level Meeting between the Directors General of the two Coast Guards in Kobe from 29 November-3 December 2010.

Republic of Korea (RoK)

The "Long Term Cooperative Partnership" established between the Republic of Korea (RoK) and India during the visit of President Roh Myun-hwan to India in 2004 is the bedrock of India-RoK bilateral relations. This partnership has become appreciably more intense and diversified in the recent years, and has been elevated to the level of 'Strategic Partnership' during the visit of RoK President to India Lee Myung-bak in January 2010. A number of high level visits, signing of a number of Agreements, increasing economic and commercial interactions and expanding exchanges in the field of art and culture have been the high point of India-RoK bilateral ties during the year.

At the summit level, following the visit of RoK President Lee Myung-bak in January 2010, Prime Minister and RoK President met on 29 October, 2010 in Hanoi on the sidelines of East Asia Summit. During the meeting the two leaders reviewed the bilateral relations and discussed issues related to the upcoming G-20 Summit. President Lee mentioned the need for systematic implementation of decisions taken at G-20 Summit. Prime Minister visited RoK for G-20 Summit from 10-12 November, 2010 during which he addressed the G-20 Summit.

A number of high level delegations also followed the January 2010-visit of RoK President. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited RoK from 17-19 June, 2010 in connection with the Sixth Meeting of the India-RoK Joint Commission. Besides co-chairing the Joint Commission meeting, External Affairs Minister also called on the President and the Minister of National Defense of RoK. External Affairs Minister also addressed a meeting at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security. The following three documents were signed during the visit: (i) MoU between the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of India and the Small and Medium Business Administration of the RoK on Cooperation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises; (ii) MoU for Cooperation between ICCR and Korea Foundation; and (iii) MoU for Cooperation between Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and the Institute for Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) of the RoK.

Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee led a delegation to visit Gyeongju, RoK from 21-24 October, 2010 for G-20 Finance Minister's meet. Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Mayalar Ravi visited RoK in October 2010. During the visit, Social Security Agreement between the two countries was signed on 19 October, 2010. The Agreement will enhance movement of professionals between the two countries and strengthen trade and investment. Minister of State for Power Shri Bharat Singh Lolanki visited RoK from 11-14 May, 2010. MoS called on the RoK Minister for Knowledge Economy Dr. Choi Kyung-hwan during his visit. Minister of State for Home Mr. Mullappally Ramachandran visited RoK from 25-29 October, 2010 to attend the fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDDR) in Incheon, RoK.

India-RoK cooperation in the field of Defense and security continued apace during the year. Minister of Defense Shri A. K. Anthony visited RoK from 2-4 September, 2010 on a bilateral visit. Two agreements were signed during the visit: (i) MoU on Defense Cooperation; and (ii) MoU on Defense Research and Development between Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Defense Acquisition Programme Administration (DAPA) of RoK.

The India-RoK Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue (FPSD), which was announced during the visit of RoK President to India in October 2004, has met every year since 2005. The fourth round of the FPSD was held in Seoul, RoK on 9 April, 2010 at the Secretary/Vice-Minister level. Indian side was led by Secretary (East

Vijaya Latha Reddy. The level was elevated from Joint Secretary/Director General level to the Secretary/Vice-Minister level in pursuance of the decision taken during the visit of RoK President to India in January 2010. India-RoK Defense cooperation, as well as regional and international security issues including terrorism and non-proliferation was discussed.

The third meeting of India-RoK Joint Committee on Defense Industry and Logistics was held in RoK at Secretary/Vice-Minister Level from 15-16 April, 2010. The Indian delegation was led by Special Secretary (Defense Production) Shri Ajoy Acharya. The fifth bilateral High Level Meeting at DDG-level between Indian Coast Guard and Korean Coast Guard was held in New Delhi on 10 August, 2010. Matters related to search and rescue, maritime pollution, joint exercises, training programme for Indian Coast Guard, and mutual exchange of personnel on petrol vessel were discussed. It was decided to hold the sixth High Level Meeting in 2011 in South Korea.

An MoU between the Korean Meteorological Administration of RoK and the Ministry of Earth Sciences of India for cooperation in the field of Earth Sciences and Services was signed on 29 September, 2010 in New Delhi. An MoU between KIIT University in India and Hanseo University in RoK was signed on 15 July, 2010.

As a follow-up to the signing of the MoU on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), a team of experts from ISRO visited RoK in January 2011 for exploring bilateral cooperation in this important sector.

Following the implementation of CEPA between the two countries in January 2010, India-RoK bilateral trade has witnessed a growth of 47% in the first nine months of this year over the corresponding period last year. The bilateral trade with RoK stood at US\$ 12.3 billion during this period. A new trade target of US\$ 30 billion, to be achieved by 2014, has been set during the visit of RoK President in January 2010.

During the first year of its implementation, CEPA, has contributed in enhancing trade and investment flows between the two countries. Minister of Trade Mr. Kim Jong-Hoon visited New Delhi for the 1st meeting of the Joint Committee headed by trade Minister of two countries on 20 January, 2011 to review the status of the implementation of the CEPA.

Mr. Yoon Jeung Hyun, RoK Minister of Strategy and Finance led a Korean delegation for the second Korea-

India Finance Ministers' Meeting held on 17 January, 2011 in New Delhi to strengthen cooperation in the economic and financial sectors between the two countries.

In the field of art and culture, during the visit of RoK President in January 2010, it was decided to organize 'Year of India' in RoK and 'Year of Korea' in India in the year 2011. An exhibition "Realism in Asian Art" was held at the National Museum of Contemporary Art in RoK. Indian exhibits by Raja Ravi Verma, Amrita Shergil etc. from the National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi were put on display. Kathak Maestro Padma Vibhushan Pandit Birju Maharaj, led a 22-member team Ritu Samhara sponsored by ICCR. They performed at the Jeonju Sori Festival, Nami Island, and the National Museum and at the Baekje Festival in RoK from 1-13 October, 2010.

Mongolia

India and Mongolia continued to build on their centuries old friendly and cordial relationship. The visit by Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur and Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia in 2009 gave fillip to bilateral relationship. Two countries entered into cooperation agreements in number of newer fields like nuclear energy, mines and statistics while strengthening the cooperation in the fields of Defense, Security, Border Management, Human Resource Development and Parliamentary exchanges. Though there was no high level visit in 2010, the two countries made efforts to implement the agreements reached between two countries in 2009.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, visited Mongolia from 26-30 June, 2010. The Speaker held bilateral talks with her counterpart, Mr. Damdin Demberel, Chairman of the State Great Hural where she stressed the need for enhanced cooperation between two parliaments. A India-Mongolia Parliamentary Group in the Indian Parliament headed Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (Lok Sabha) has been set up. Lok Sabha Secretariat and State Great Hural of Mongolia signed a Protocol on Cooperation to promote friendly relations and cooperation between two Secretariats. The two sides agreed to mutually exchange Parliamentary laws, legal documents and other related documents.

Mining is one of the fields where India and Mongolia see convergence of interest. Smt. Santha Sheela Nair, Secretary (Mines) led Indian delegation (which had representatives of Public sector and private sector companies in this field) to Mongolia from 6-10 June, 2010 for participating in first Joint Working Group on Mines,

Minerals and Geology sector. India is interested in sectors such as cooking coal, thermal coal, uranium and fluorspar. Mongolian side expressed its interest in getting foreign investment and technical assistance in the areas of mineral processing, laboratory scale studies and training, computerized ore body modeling, satellite based mapping and targeted surveys and studies

Mr. Chuluundorj Khaschuluun, Chairman, National Development and Innovation Committee (NDIC) of Mongolia which is counterpart of our Planning Commission, held meeting with Secretary (Mines) at New Delhi on 7 September, 2010, and handed over a document titled "The Brief Introduction of Large 26 Investment Projects" prepared by NDIC. He said that Mongolian authorities would be willing to design an industrial park exclusively for Indian companies if an interest is shown in the list of the 26 projects handed over. Indian side is studying the proposal. Many Indian public sector (like NALCO, SAIL, TAMIN and GMDC) and private sector (like Tega Industries, MESCO Steel, Mohan Energy and Steelworks Gujarat) companies have shown interest in mining sector of Mongolia and are likely to benefit from the cooperation between two countries. Indian interests are primarily in coal, iron ore, fertilizer related minerals, uranium and rare earth. During the visit of Mr. Khaschuluun, two sides finalized the text of MoU between Planning Commission of India and National Development and Innovative Committee of India.

India and Mongolia have signed an MoU for peaceful use of nuclear energy and radio-active materials. The two sides have agreed to hold first meeting of Joint Working Group in Mumbai. India has offered training to Mongolian nuclear experts in BARC. India has also offered to assist Mongolia in setting up of a regulatory/radiation protection framework. Indian Public Sector Company, NALCO-NPCIL is interested in uranium mining in Mongolia.

The border security is another area of cooperation where two sides have progressed well. A five-member delegation of Border Security Force led by Shri Raman Srivastava, DG, BSF, visited Mongolia from 16-19 June, 2010. The two sides agreed to examine and work out a system for imparting training to Mongolian trainers on Special Force Operations. BSF prepared Human Resource Management software for Mongolian Border Guarding Forces keeping in view their specific requirements. The third training programme for Mongolian Border Protection Force personnel was organized at BSF Academy, Tekanpur, from 27 December 2010-12 February 2011. The seven-week course includes training in Basic English, Border Management in difficult terrain, Special Operations,

Instructors Profile and Border Study Tour of two weeks.

The National Security Council of India and Mongolia hold annual dialogue on the issues of mutual interest. The last such dialogue was held in Ulaanbaatar from 1-2 September, 2010. The Indian side was led by Shri H. Upadhyay, Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee. The Mongolian side requested India's assistance in setting up 'National Network Monitoring Centre for Detection and Prevention of Intrusion' and 'Information Security Training Laboratory'. A team of Mongolian IT experts visited India in December 2010 in this regard.

Mr. D. Demberel, Chairman, State Great Hural of Mongolia (Mongolian Parliament) visited India from 8-14 December, 2010 at the invitation of the Speaker of Lok Sabha. In New Delhi, Chairman Demberel met the Vice President, Speaker and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, External Affairs Minister, Chairman and the Members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and Minister of Steel. Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy called on him. An MoU on cooperation between Planning Commission of India and National Development and Innovation Committee of Mongolia was initialed on 9 December, 2010. An MoU on Cooperation between Lok Sabha of Republic of India and State Great Hural of Mongolia was signed on 9 December, 2010.

"Nomadic Elephant", a bilateral Defense cooperation exercise was organized in Belgaum from 6-19 December 2010. A total of 30 members of Mongolian Armed Forces,

including 28 servicemen and two observers participated along with 50 officers and personnel of the Indian Army.

Mongolia has emerged as one of the major beneficiaries under the ITEC Training Programme. Mongolia has utilized ITEC slots to train Mongolian citizens in various disciplines including English language course, Hotel Management, Small Scale Business, Computer Hardware/Software, Management Development Programme, Oil and Gas Measurement, Flour Milling Technology, Meteorology, Textile Research, Standardization, Journalism and Mass Communications and Applied Manpower. 11 slots have been allocated to Mongolia for training in Defense Institutions under ITEC/SCAAP 2010-2011.

Mongolia supports India's bid for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. It also supported India's candidature for non-permanent seat in UNSC for 2011-2012.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

The relations between India and DPRK continue to be cordial with a focus on humanitarian and human resource development assistance. Exchanges in the area of culture, sports and education continued to make progress. Our assistance for development of human resources in DPRK continues. DPRK has been allotted 18 slots under ITEC for the Year 2010-2011, as was done last year. India and DPRK have continued cooperation at UN bodies and other international organizations.

Russian Federation

Relations with Russia continue to be one of foreign policy priorities for India and represent a 'special and privileged' strategic partnership. The high tempo which marked India's engagement with the Russian Federation in the previous period continued throughout 2010-2011. Russian Prime Minister Mr. Vladimir Putin visited India on 12 March, 2010 and President Mr. Dmitry Medvedev from 21-22 December, 2010 for the 11th Annual Summit. In addition to several Ministerial and official visits, meetings of the India-Russia Inter Governmental Commissions on Military Technical Cooperation (MTC), and on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (TEC) were also held in October and November respectively. Thus, our bilateral cooperation continued to expand in scope and deepen in intensity throughout the year.

Prime Minister Mr. Vladimir Putin paid a working visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister on 12 March, 2010. He was accompanied by a high level delegation that included Ministers and business leaders from Russia's Defense, space, nuclear energy, and S&T sectors. During the visit, the Russian Prime Minister held talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and called on President. He also interacted with prominent business leaders, intellectuals and students from other cities through a video conference organized from the New Delhi office of a Russian Telecom company. During the visit, the following bilateral cooperation agreements were signed: (i) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on uses of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes; (ii) Roadmap for the Serial Construction of Russian design Nuclear Power Plants in the Republic of India; (iii) MoU between ISRO and the Federal Space Agency of Russia on Joint Enterprises for production of Satellite Navigation Equipment and Services for Civilian Users; (iv) MoU between the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers of the Republic of India and Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation for cooperation in the fertilizer sector; and (v) Framework agreement between IFFCO and IPL (Indian Potash Limited) from

India and FOSAGRO from Russia on the import of DAP Fertilizers. Several commercial agreements were also signed on the margins of this visit.

President Mr. Dmitry Medvedev paid an official visit to India from 21-22 December, 2010 for the 11th Annual Summit meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. This was an historically significant Summit marking a decade of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership, during which the relationship has become a 'special and privileged' one. The Russian President held talks with Prime Minister and called on President, who hosted a banquet in his honour. He also visited Agra and Mumbai. In Mumbai, his programme included interaction with students of IIT, Mumbai and with representatives of the Indian film industry. The following 11 agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister and the Russian President: (i) Memorandum on Mutual Understanding and Cooperation in the Field of Elections between the Election Commission of India and the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation; (ii) Agreement on Mutual Simplification of Travel Documents for Certain Categories of Nationals of the Republic of India and the Russian Federation; (iii) Agreement on cooperation in the field of emergency management; (iv) Inter-Governmental Agreement for Enhancement of Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector ; (v) Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation; (vi) Joint Work Document for Establishing of the Indian-Russian Scientific and Technological Centre Between Department of Science & Technology, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation; (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" and the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India Concerning Broader Scientific and Technical Cooperation; (viii) Memorandum of Mutual Understanding on Combating Irregular Migration; (ix) MoU between Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (Department of Information Technology) of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Information Technology;



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry A. Medvedev, at the Joint Press Conference, in New Delhi on 21 December, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, at Washington, on 11 April, 2010.

(x) Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the Pharmaceutical Sector; and (xii) Framework Agreement on Cooperation in Hydrocarbon Sector between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and JSFC Sistema. A Joint Statement titled "Celebrating a Decade of Indo-Russian Strategic Partnership and Looking Beyond" was also adopted at the end of the Summit. Besides, about 20 other contracts were concluded in the government and private sectors on the margins of the Summit, in a range of sectors including Defense, banking, trade, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and petrochemicals and communications and Information Technology.

In addition to these two, the following important bilateral visits took place during the year:

Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar visited Moscow for the first meeting of the Brazil-Russia-India-China (BRIC) Agriculture Ministers from 24-27 March, 2010. He also held a bilateral meeting with his Russian counterpart Ms. Yelena Skrynnik.

Deputy National Security Advisor Shri Alok Prasad visited Moscow for the meeting of the Joint Coordination Group with his Russian counterpart Mr. V. P. Nazarov. The two had a second round of meeting in New Delhi from 24-25 November, 2010.

Commerce & Industry Minister (C&IM) Shri Anand Sharma visited Moscow and St. Petersburg from 18-19 June, 2010. During his visit to St. Petersburg, C&IM led a high level Indian business delegation to the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF). In Moscow, he also called on Prime Minister Mr. Vladimir Putin to discuss bilateral cooperation.

Deputy Minister of Industry & Trade Mr. G. V. Kalamonov visited India from 20-21 July, 2010 for discussion on bilateral cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector.

National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon visited Russia from 17-18 August, 2010 for a bilateral security dialogue with Secretary of the Russian Security Council Mr. Nikolai Patrushev. He also held a second bilateral meeting with his Russian counterpart in Sochi in October 2010, on the margins of the International Meeting of High Representatives on Security.

Russian Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. V. B. Khristenko visited India from 15-19 February, 2010. During the visit, the Russian Minister had a meeting with Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma where they reviewed

the entire gamut of bilateral economic relations. Mr. Khristenko later took part in the MIG 29K induction ceremony in Goa, where Defense Minister Shri A. K. Antony was present. Mr. Khristenko visited India for the second time from 29 September-1 October 2010 and met Commerce & Industry Minister. A round table discussion on cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector was also held during the visit.

Russian Defense Minister Mr. Anatoly E. Serdyukov visited India for co-chairing the tenth meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) in New Delhi on 7 October, 2010, with Defense Minister Shri A. K. Antony.

Former Minister of Communications & Information Technology Shri A. Raja visited Russia from 10-15 October, 2010 at the invitation of his Russian counterpart Mr. Igor Shegolev.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sergey Ivanov visited India on 18 November for the 16th session of IRIGC-TEC, which he co-chaired with External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna. Mr. Ivanov also called on Prime Minister and held meetings with Defense Minister Shri A. K. Antony, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Shri T. K. A. Nair and National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon. The IRIGC-TEC meeting was preceded by the meetings of the various Working Groups under the Inter-Governmental Commission, which are headed by senior officials from Ministries concerned in both countries. These include the Working Group on Tourism and Culture (Moscow, 14 May, 2010); Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (New Delhi, 5-6 October, 2010); Sub-Group on Banking and Financial Matters in Nizhny Novgorod (7-9 June, 2010); Working Group on Science & Technology (New Delhi); and Joint Task Force on Mutual Financial Obligations (New Delhi).

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov visited India on 29 November for a bilateral meeting with Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister. He also called on Prime Minister during the visit. A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations for the period 2011-2012 was signed by the two Foreign Ministers during the visit.

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Jitin Prasad visited Russia from 12-16 December, 2010. He inaugurated an Investor

Meet on opportunities in the ninth round of India's New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP IX) during the visit.

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Moscow from 2-3 August, 2010 for Foreign Office Consultations with Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Andrei Denisov. Both sides reviewed bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on key regional and global issues. During the visit, the Foreign Secretary also called on Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sergey Sobyenin and held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Alexei Borodakin. In addition, the two Foreign Offices held consultations on the following subjects during the year: (i) Middle East and Gulf (Moscow, January 2010); (ii) Consular Issues (February and October 2010); (iii) Diplomatic Properties (New Delhi, June 2010); (iv) Iran and Afghanistan (Moscow, August 2010); (v) Central Asia (Moscow, August 2010); and (vi) Combating International Terrorism (Moscow, November 2010.)

Shri T. K. A. Nair, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister led an Indian IT and Pharmaceuticals business delegation to Russia from 31 January-1 February 2011. During this visit, a Business Meet was organized along with business round tables on the two sectors. Shri Nair also held bilateral meetings with senior Russian dignitaries including the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission (IRIGC) Co-Chairman & Deputy Prime Minister Sergei B. Ivanov.

Enhancing economic cooperation remained a key priority for both countries during the year. Accordingly, the trade growth target was achieved and several large investment deals/partnerships were announced. Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma led a high-level business delegation to the prestigious St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in June 2010. The first-ever India-Russia Business Dialogue within the framework of SPIEF was held on that occasion. CII and SPIEF Foundation also entered into an MoU to institutionalize B2B interactions and exchanges. The 16th session of IRIGC-TEC held in New Delhi on 18 November, 2010 also identified further steps to promote business-to-business (B2B) interactions. The fourth session of the India-Russia Forum on Trade & Investment held in New Delhi on 20 December witnessed large participation of business delegations from both sides.

Bilateral trade between India and Russia continued to grow during the year. In 2009, bilateral trade was US\$ 7.46 billion & during the first ten months of 2010, bilateral trade increased by 19.69% (YoY basis).

Armenia

Relations between India and Armenia have traditionally been friendly and cordial. There has been understanding and convergence of views on a wide range of issues of mutual concern, bilateral as well as international. In conformity with the tradition of periodic high level contacts, Armenian Foreign Minister Mr. Edward Nalbandian visited India from 9-13 November, 2010. He met External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed ways to further strengthen and expand them. The two Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern. The Armenian Foreign Minister called on Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari and Governor of West Bengal Shri M. K. Narayanan, in Kolkata. An Executive Programme on Cultural Cooperation between the two countries was signed during the visit.

India has been consistently contributing towards Armenia's efforts for the development of infrastructure. This was acknowledged and much appreciated at various levels. During the period under report, a rural development project undertaken with India's assistance to the tune of US\$ 2,15,000 was completed in September 2010. The Government of India-funded project for the establishment of the India-Armenia Centre for Excellence in Information and Communication Technology in Yerevan, made further headway as two batches of Armenian Master Trainers were sent to India for training at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). Over 30 Armenian nationals attended various training programmes in India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). Establishment of direct air links between New Delhi and Yerevan in April 2010 has enabled further promotion of trade and tourism. Important forthcoming events in the first quarter of 2011 include the scheduled visit of the Secretary, National Security Council of Armenia to New Delhi (1-5 March, 2011).

Azerbaijan

India's relations with Azerbaijan in various spheres were consolidated and strengthened during the period under review.

Negotiations on proposed Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil, Commercial and Criminal Matters and an Extradition Treaty were concluded. An Agreement on Cooperation in Communications and IT has also been finalized. These documents are expected to be signed in the near future.

Bilateral trade with Azerbaijan registered a growth of 8% during January-September 2010 and stood at US\$ 327.32 million, as compared to US\$ 302.37 million during the corresponding period in 2009. The growth was due primarily to increase in offtake of Azeri light crude by Indian refiners, restoration of bauxite ore exports from India and some new items being imported by Azerbaijan like electronic cards, engineering goods, cars and mobile telephones. India Tourism Office, Frankfurt and three tour operators from India participated for the first time in an international tourism fair in Baku in April 2010. An agricultural delegation led by Minister of Agriculture of Punjab visited Baku in October 2010. A 'Hindi Chair', sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), was inaugurated at the Azerbaijan University of Languages in Baku in October 2010. The 'World Hindi Day' was commemorated at Azerbaijan University of Languages on 11 January, 2011.

Belarus

India's traditionally friendly relations with Belarus were further consolidated during the year through a number of high-level visits from both sides. Chief Justice of India Shri K. G. Balakrishnan visited Minsk in April 2010 to participate in the International Forum of the Judiciary on the Problems of Judicial Protection of Rights. Belarusian First Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Vladimir Semashko visited India to participate in the fourth Ministerial Level Conference on Renewable Energy in New Delhi in October 2010. He was accompanied by Belarusian Minister for Industry Mr. Alexander Radevich and Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Sergei Aleinik. During the visit, Mr. Semashko called on Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari and Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur. Apart from these visits, there have been contacts at the international multi-lateral fora. Speaker of the Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar met with the Chairman of the Council of the Republic of Belarus Mr. Anatoly Rubinov at the third Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva in July 2010. First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Mr. Vladimir Semashko met Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna in Tehran on the margins of the G-15 Summit in May 2010.

Economic and commercial relations progressed steadily during the year. Bilateral trade turnover was estimated at US\$ 378 million during the period January-September 2010. An agreement for the US\$ 56 million Government of India Line of Credit for the Grodno-II Power Project was signed between the Exim Bank of India and Grodnoenergo in April 2010. Belarusian

company Belaz signed an MoU in October 2010 with an Indian company Ultramax for establishing a joint venture for servicing the Belarusian dump trucks in India. The fifth meeting of the India-Belarus Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Trade, Industrial, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation is likely to be held in January 2011 in Minsk. The Work Plan on Agriculture with Belarus signed in June 2008 was extended for the years 2010-2012.

Cooperation in Defense related research and development remained on track. The third meeting of the India-Belarus Joint Commission on Military Technical Cooperation was held in Minsk from 8-10 December, 2010.

The Digital Learning Centre being set up by India at the High Technology Park in Minsk is scheduled to be inaugurated in 2011. It is to be named after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The ITEC Programme has been successful and much appreciated in Belarus. The ITEC slots, to meet the increasing demand, were enhanced from 15 to 40 for the year 2010-2011.

Cultural and educational contacts and cooperation have been good during the year under report. The Embassy of India in Minsk arranged "Rangoli" - a concert of Indian classical and modern dances in April 2010 to observe the anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Belarus at the prestigious Belarusian State Academy of Music. An Indian film week was held in Gomel in May 2010. An exhibition "Kalpana-Masterpieces of Figurative Indian Contemporary Paintings" received from the ICCR was held at a prestigious art gallery G. Vashenko Art Gallery - at Gomel in September 2010. An International Scientific Conference "Great Cultural Heritage of India and Belarus" - dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Roerich Pact was held at the 'Friendship House' in Minsk on 17 September, 2010 in cooperation with the Belarusian chapter of the International Center of the Roerichs, Belarusian State University, Belarus-India Friendship Society and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. With the support of Public Diplomacy Division of MEA, a leading Belarusian literary magazine 'Neman' brought out a special number on India on the International Day of Non-violence and Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in October 2010.

Third Meeting of the India-Belarus Joint Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation took place in Minsk from 8-10 December, 2010. The Indian delegation was led by Shri V. Somasundaran, Additional Secretary, Department of Defense Production, and Ministry of Defense.

Georgia

Relations with Georgia during the year remained cordial. Georgia opened its resident Mission in New Delhi in early 2010. Ambassador of India to Armenia with concurrent accreditation to Georgia maintained a sustained dialogue for promotion of mutual understanding on issues of bilateral and multilateral dimensions. Foreign Office consultations held in New Delhi on 30 March, 2010 provided an opportunity to take stock of bilateral relations. An agreement for setting up an Inter-Governmental Commission, and two other agreements for cooperation in the fields of culture and science and technology were signed. As part of our commitment to assist Georgia in capacity building, several Georgian nationals were trained in India under ITEC Programme.

En route to Tbilisi from Shanghai, Prime Minister of Georgia Mr. Nika Gilauri stopped over for a private visit to Mumbai where he addressed the "Invest Georgia" Business Forum organized by Financial Times on 1 November, 2010. Bilateral trade registered steady growth. Two exhibitions of Indian consumer goods were organized in Tbilisi and Batumi.

Kazakhstan

India-Kazakhstan relations have been nurtured and diversified at the highest level. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met with President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev on the margins of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington on 11 April, 2010. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed issues relating to promotion of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction on the way the bilateral relations were shaping. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna accompanied by senior officials from the Ministries of External Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Culture and a high-level business delegation from CII, visited Astana from 11-13 May, 2010. Discussions on expanding bilateral cooperation, particularly in economic and commercial fields, were held with President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Mr. Karim Masimov and Foreign Minister Mr. Kanat Saudabayev. EAM also addressed an India-Kazakhstan Business Forum during the visit.

Secretary (East) Ms. Latha Reddy chaired a Conference of Head of Missions in Central Asia in Almaty from 13-14 May, 2010. Discussions on expanding India's engagement with Central Asian countries were held during the Conference.

Two business delegations from the Leather Export Promotion Council and ASSOCHAM visited Kazakhstan

from 25-29 May and 1-4 September, 2010 respectively. Minister of Agriculture of Punjab led a delegation of agri-export companies to Kazakhstan from 9-12 October, 2010.

The eighth Meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation was held on 6 December, 2010 in New Delhi. The IGC was co-chaired by Shri Murli Deora, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Mr. Sanat Mynbayev, Minister of Energy & Mineral Resources of Kazakhstan. Then two sides reviewed progress with regard to various decisions taken at the seventh Inter-Governmental Commission meeting held in Astana in March 2009. Both sides agreed to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation between the two countries. At the conclusion of the meeting, a Protocol was signed between the two sides. The first Joint Working Group Meeting on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held from 13-14 January, 2011 in New Delhi.

Kyrgyz Republic

The first ever Parliamentary elections under a revised constitution were held in Kyrgyzstan on 10 October, 2010. Ministry issued a press release congratulating the people of Kyrgyzstan on the successful conduct of the elections. As a gesture of solidarity, India donated computers to the Election Commission of Kyrgyzstan to help in the smooth conduct of elections. A coalition government was formed in the end of December with Mr. Atambaev Almazbek Sharshenovich of the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan (SDPK) as Prime Minister.

The fifth Session of India-Kyrgyzstan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 4 March, 2010. The delegation from Kyrgyzstan was led by Mr. Kapar Kurmanaliev, Minister of Natural Resources and the Indian side was headed by the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia. A protocol was signed between the two countries for promotion of mutual investments in mineral exploration and development, food processing, chemicals & petrochemicals, Information Technology, healthcare, science & technology, tourism, education, sports and culture.

In the wake of ethnic violence in southern Kyrgyzstan (Osh and Jalalabad) in June 2010, India provided 60 tonnes of humanitarian aid comprising food items, medicines and tents worth about US\$ 1 million to Kyrgyzstan. Requisite training at the Indo-Kyrgyz Centre

for Information Technology in Bishkek by Indian IT experts was completed in October 2010. Presently, this Centre is imparting short-duration IT courses, and has so far trained over 600 professionals from Kyrgyzstan.

The potato processing plant in Kyrgyzstan is at an advanced stage of implementation. Transportation of all equipment from India to the plant site in Kyrgyzstan has been completed. The Indian Government is also providing assistance to the Kyrgyz Government for setting up a mountain medical research centre at Too Ashu Pass. Defense Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences, New Delhi (DIPAS) is the implementing institute from India. The civil works for the project and procurement and installation of laboratory equipment have been completed. Operation of the centre is likely to start in the near future.

Technical assistance under the ITEC programme, particularly in terms of human resources development, is the cornerstone of India's economic involvement in Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan has been allotted 80 slots on an annual basis for civilian training under ITEC.

Tajikistan

Minister of Power Shri Sushilkumar Shinde visited Dushanbe from 24-25 November, 2010 to attend the SCO Heads of Government meeting. In his speech at the conference, he emphasized that India can play a more constructive and meaningful role at the SCO platform by bringing security, stability and development in the region. He also expressed India's willingness to work more closely with SCO members to combat terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking.

Chief of Army Staff General V. K. Singh visited Tajikistan from 10-13 November, 2010 and met the Tajik Defense Minister Col. Gen. Sherali Khayrulloev and called on President Mr. Imomali Rahmon. General Singh also visited Kulob and interacted with the Governor there.

Shri U. N. Panjiar, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources represented the Government of India at the International Conference on Water held in Dushanbe from 8-10 June, 2010.

Shri Sudhir Devare, Director General, Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) led a five-member delegation to the conference on India-Tajikistan relations, jointly organized by ICWA and the Tajik Academy of Sciences in Dushanbe on 29 June, 2010.

India contributed two million doses of polio vaccines for the sixth and last round of polio immunization campaign

in Tajikistan in November 2010. The Indian Government also provided humanitarian assistance of US\$ 2 lakhs for the victims of May 2010 floods in the Khatlon province.

India and Tajikistan signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors on 7 October, 2010.

In 2010, 32 Tajik scholars were awarded ICCR scholarships in different universities of India. A total of 244 Tajik scholars have been awarded ICCR scholarship since 1995-1996. Under ITEC, 100 slots have been allocated for Tajikistan for the year 2010-2011.

'International Students Day' was celebrated in the Embassy on 3 December with participation of around 60 Tajik scholars and professionals who had studied in India under ICCR scholarships. On the same day, Indian Ambassador handed over 200 books sent by the Ministry of External Affairs to the Tajik National Library at a separate function organized by the Tajik Ministry of Culture. The function was attended by Tajik Deputy Minister of Culture who thanked the Indian Government for the generous contribution.

Turkmenistan

President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov paid a State Visit to India from 24-26 May, 2010. During the visit, he met President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and held delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari, External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, and Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Muri Deora called on the visiting Turkmen President. The following six bilateral documents were concluded during the visit: i) Agreement between India and Turkmenistan on Visa Free Regime for holders of diplomatic passport; ii) Education Exchange Programme between India and Turkmenistan; iii) Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Turkmenistan; iv) Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology between India and Turkmenistan; v) Programme of Cooperation between India and Turkmenistan in the field of science, education, culture, art, tourism, sports and media for the period 2010-2012; and vi) MoU between the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan.

In a significant development for the successful implementation of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline Project, TAPI Summit, hosted by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, was held in Ashgabat on

11 December, 2010. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora participated in the Summit from the Indian side. All four sides reaffirmed their commitment to implement the gas pipeline project. The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) and the Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GPFA) were signed during the TAPI Summit. As per the plan, India will receive 38 million cubic metres of natural gas per day (mmscmd) for a 30-year period from the TAPI gas pipeline on its completion. Earlier, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Jitin Prasada had attended the TAPI Steering Committee Meeting in Ashgabat on 20 September, 2010.

Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur visited Ashgabat from 7-9 February, 2010, to co-chair the Inter-Governmental Commission. During the visit, an MoU on establishment of an IT Centre by India in Turkmenistan was signed. For the implementation of the MoU, ten Turkmen candidates are being imparted training by C-DAC, India for a period of six months. India is to build an IT Centre in Ashgabat as a friendly gesture to Turkmenistan.

Ukraine

Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Viktor Mayko visited New Delhi for the eighth round of Foreign Office Consultations with Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy, Secretary (East) on 22 September, 2010. During these consultations, wide-ranging discussions took place on intensification of bilateral ties and on several other issues of mutual interest.

Bilateral trade during 2009-2010 was estimated at US\$ 1.882 billion. India's exports were worth US\$ 289.03 million and imports worth US\$ 1,593.52 million. A 16-member agriculture delegation from Punjab led by Shri Sucha Singh Langah, Agriculture Minister of Punjab visited Kyiv from 16-20 October, 2010 to explore the possibility of export of fruits, vegetables, processed food, contract farming etc. During the visit, the delegation held a detailed meeting with Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Agriculture. The Indian delegation also visited the Academy of Agrarian Science and the National University of Life and Environment Sciences of Ukraine. India Tourism Frankfurt office, Spice Board, Tea board and Coffee Board of India participated in the World Food Ukraine and Handloom Export Promotion Council took part in the Ambience Ukraine exhibition in Kyiv.

A military delegation headed by Air Force Commander of Ukraine's Armed Forces Lieutenant General Serhly Onyshchynko visited India from 19-22 October, 2010, and discussed military cooperation with Indian Defense

officials. He held meetings with the Chief of Naval Staff and the Chief of Air Staff, who is also the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

The Indian Embassy in Kyiv commemorated the World Hindi Day (12 January) by organizing a Hindi essay competition for the students learning Hindi language in various universities of Ukraine and by distribution of cash prizes, Hindi books.

Uzbekistan

Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee visited Tashkent from 1-4 May, 2010 to participate in the 43rd meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). On the sidelines, he held bilateral talks with Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyayev and Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr. Rustam Azimov.

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Tashkent from 10-11 June, 2010 to participate in the Meeting of the Heads of State Council of the SCO. During the visit, EAM also called on President of Uzbekistan Mr. Islam Karimov and discussed bilateral and regional issues.

The Chairperson of Uzbekistan Small Industries Mr. Ilkham Khaydarov visited India in the last week of September 2010 and held talks with Union Minister for Textiles Shri Dayanidhi Maran on matters relating to mutual cooperation in the field of textiles.

During this year, 81 nationals of Uzbekistan attended different short-term courses under the ITEC Programme of the Government. Also, a number of Uzbek students have taken admission in different educational institutions in India under the scholarship programme of the ICCR.

India-Russia-China Trilateral Cooperation

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Wuhan, China from 14-15 November, 2010 for the tenth Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China. The three Foreign Ministers reviewed trilateral sectoral cooperation in disaster management, agriculture and healthcare and also had a detailed exchange of views on a number of regional and global issues, including UN reforms, global financial architecture, combating international terrorism, cooperation among emerging markets, climate change, security in the Asia Pacific region, SCO, and the situation in Afghanistan, Iran and the Korean Peninsula. A Joint Communiqué on the outcome of the discussions was issued at the conclusion of the meeting. On the margins, EAM held bilateral

meetings with his Russian and Chinese counterparts Mr. Sergei Lavrov and Mr. Yang Jiechi. The Foreign Ministers' Meeting was preceded by the meeting of Expert Group on Disaster Management (New Delhi, November 2010) and the Trilateral Academic Seminar (Moscow, September 2010).

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

India intensified its engagement with the SCO during the year. Minister of Power Shri Sushilkumar Shinde represented India at the Council of Heads of Governments of Member States Summit in Dushanbe on 25 November, 2010.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Tashkent from 10-11 June, 2010, to represent the Prime Minister in the Meeting of the Heads of State Council of

the SCO. India indicated its readiness to scale up its participation in the organisation.

Director of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the SCO Mr. Jenisbek M. Jumanbekov visited India from 7-9 September, 2010 and held talks with National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon and Secretary (East) Ms. Vijay Latha Reddy and exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan and in the region. The two sides agreed to exchange information on issues of mutual interest, and to draw up a programme of future cooperation on the basis of the relevant decisions taken by the SCO.

Solicitor General of India Shri Gopal Subramaniam participated at the SCO Prosecutor General's Conference in Xiamen, China on 22 October, 2010.

Bahrain

India and Bahrain enjoy warm and friendly relations that can be traced back to the old civilizations of Indus Valley and Dilmun. Indian Nationals constitute the largest expatriate community numbering around 4,00,000 out of a total of 1.04 million residents of Bahrain and are considered the community of first preference.

During the year, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission paid a visit to Bahrain from 14-15 May, 2010 to attend the Bahrain Global Forum (Geo-Economic Strategy Summit) organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). He was one of the key speakers at the event.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development visited Bahrain from 8-10 October, 2010 to take part in the 'Bahrain Education Project 2010' conference organized by the Economic Development Board. During his visit, he called on Labour Minister Dr. Majeed Al Alawi and discussed bilateral cooperation in education and vocational training.

Iran

Smt. Nirupama Rao, Foreign Secretary, visited Tehran from 2-3 February, 2010 for the seventh round of Foreign Office Consultations/Strategic Dialogue at the invitation of her counterpart Dr. Mohammad Ali Fathollahi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia & Oceania of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During her stay in Tehran she called on Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini, Minister for Economy and Finance and Dr. Saeed Jalili, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council. Foreign Secretary held extensive discussions on bilateral relations with her Iranian interlocutors. It was agreed that the next meeting of the India-Iran Joint Commission will be held in New Delhi at an early date. She also exchanged views with the Iranian side on the regional situation, including on Afghanistan, the menace of cross-border terrorism and other matters of regional and global relevance.

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation to the 14th G-15 Summit held in Tehran in

May 2010. In his address on May 17 EAM said that the Summit provided an opportunity to review the progress of the G-15 since its inception two decades back. The G-15, he underlined, had made collective efforts to inject issues of interest to developing countries into the global agenda, and to seek outcomes that addressed its concerns. He suggested that the G-15 should be made an effective platform not only for South-South cooperation but also for policy articulation in the global discourse in the areas of trade, money & finance, equitable development, food & energy security, climate change, etc. During the visit, he called on President Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Majlis Speaker Dr. Ali Larijani and met Foreign Minister Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki. During his interactions with the Iranian dignitaries, EAM exchanged views on bilateral issues and regional and international developments of mutual interest.

The 16th Session of the India-Iran Joint Commission was held in New Delhi from 8-9 July, 2010. The Session was co-chaired on the Iranian side by Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, Islamic Republic of Iran and on the Indian side by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna. The meeting of the Joint Commission provided an opportunity to review bilateral economic and cultural cooperation. It was agreed that the next Session of the Joint Commission would be held in Tehran. The following MoUs/Agreements were signed during the Joint Commission Meeting: i) Air Services Agreement ii) Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons iii) MoU on Cooperation in New & Renewable Energy iv) MoU on Cooperation in Small Scale Industry between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Iranian Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) v) Programme of Cooperation on Science & Technology and vi) MoU on Cooperation between Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute of India (CPPRI) and Gorgan University of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources (GUASNR).

During his visit, Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. He also met Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Finance and Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor, and

inaugurated a business seminar organized by FICCI on 'Investment Opportunities in Iran'. The business delegation accompanying Dr. Hosseini also held meetings with ASSOCHAM and CII.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Oceania, Dr. Mohammad Ali Fathollahi, visited New Delhi from 5-8 August, 2010 for the eighth round of Foreign Office Consultations at the invitation of Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao. The two sides discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest, covering, inter alia, bilateral cooperation, the regional situation including Afghanistan, and the menace of cross-border terrorism. During the visit, Dr. Fathollahi called on External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna.

Among other Ministerial-level visits were those by Minister for Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Tourism, Kum. Selja [for the fifth Bureau meeting of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference for Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)] which was held in Tehran on 23 February, 2010, and by Minister of State for Human Resource Development Dr. D. Purandeswari [for the ninth Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial meeting held in Tehran] from 8-9 November, 2010.

India-Iran commercial relations remain dominated by Indian import of Iranian crude oil. The total volume of bilateral trade between the two countries amounted to ` 63,443.00 crores (US\$ 13.394 billion) during April 2009-March 2010 as compared to ` 67,387.01 crores (US\$ 14.91 billion) in April 2008-March 2009. India's exports to Iran during April 2009-March 2010 were ` 8,807.43 crores (US\$ 1853.17 million). India's imports from Iran were ` 54,635.56 crores (US\$ 11,540.85 million) during April 2009-March 2010. There were also exchanges of trade delegations and participation in trade fairs and exhibitions.

Iraq

As countries with millennia old civilizations, both India and Iraq have all along enjoyed close and friendly relations. India has supported a free, democratic, pluralistic, federal and united Iraq and remained committed to assist the Iraqi Government and people in overcoming the many challenges of economic reconstruction both directly and as part of the international effort.

During the year 2010, Iraq consolidated its democratic processes and institutions. The landmark elections to the 325-member Council of Representatives (COR) were held successfully in March 2010. After eight months, agreement was reached by all parties on the formation of

the new national unity government. Jalal Talabani was re-elected as President and incumbent Prime Minister Nuri Kamel al-Maliki, retained his post for the second consecutive term. President and Prime Minister congratulated Iraqi President, Jalal Talabani and the Prime Minister Nuri Kamel al-Maliki, respectively on their resumption of office.

India lifted the Advisory against travelling to Iraq in May 2010 to facilitate travel of Indian nationals to Iraq for the purpose of employment and visits

India is deeply committed to help Iraq in capacity building. Under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, India has been training hundreds of Iraqis in diverse areas of technical education. The ITEC slots given to Iraq have been increased to 120 in 2010-2011. Similarly, under the Cultural Exchange Programme Scholarship Scheme (CEPSS) and the General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, India has increased the number of scholarships for Iraqis to 55 per year for pursuing higher studies in India. The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has provided training to more than 200 Iraqi officials in India on various subjects related with downstream oil sector for running the refineries in Iraq.

A preparatory team from Iraq in connection with the holding of the Joint Commission Meeting in Baghdad is expected to visit India in February 2011. In the financial year 2009-2010, bilateral trade between India and Iraq was US\$ 7.50 billion.

India has become a favourite destination for cost effective and quality medical treatment, higher studies and tourism. During the period January-December 2010, the Embassy of India, Baghdad issued approximately 27848 visas to Iraqi nationals.

Kuwait

Bilateral relations between India and Kuwait have traditionally been warm and friendly. Both countries share common perceptions on various regional and international issues and have cooperated with each other at the international fora.

The Minister of Oil and Minister of Information of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah visited India from 25-28 September, 2010. He called on the Vice-President and Prime Minister, besides meeting Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Information and Broadcasting. He held discussions with top officials of ONGC and IOC. He also inaugurated the "Sabah Cultural

Library" at the India Arab Cultural Centre in Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi which is the first and largest cultural project by Kuwait in India.

The second Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development was held in Kuwait in January 2010 which aimed at further strengthening bilateral cooperation in issues related to employment and manpower development.

An Indian Army delegation led by Lieutenant General HPS Klair, Commandant, Defense Services Staff College, Wellington, India, visited Kuwait from 23-25 November, 2010. The delegation interacted with the Commandant of Kuwait Staff College and met with the Commanders of Land Forces, Naval Forces and Air Force.

There were several ministerial visits to Kuwait from the State Governments of Goa and Kamataka during the year.

Two teams of Kuwaiti journalists from prominent Arabic and English language newspapers visited Kerala and Goa in May and November 2010. A team of six Indian journalists visited Kuwait from 18-25 May, 2010.

Indian Oil Corporation signed a Crude Oil Supply Contract with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation for import of nine million MT of crude oil during the year 2010-2011.

Bharti Airtel Ltd. of India purchased the Africa (South of the Sahara) operations of Kuwait's Zain telecom company in June 2010 for about US\$ 9 billion. Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd signed in August 2010, a one-year contract valued at US\$ 10 million with the Ministry of Communication of Kuwait for the supply of spare parts and electronic cables to maintain Kuwait's landline telephone network.

In November 2010, Kuwait's Kharafi Group decided to invest US\$ 150 million in Cals Refineries, Haldiya, India, through its investment company Al Qebala Al Watya.

Special Kuwait Cell

The Special Kuwait Cell deals with compensation claims of Gulf War (1990-1991) returnees. All the valid claims have already been settled. The United National Compensation Commission (UNCC) has closed its claims disbursement operations and no claim is due to Indian claimants any more. The Cell currently handles certain residual issues such as audit of claims account. The section attends to RTI queries from claimants.

Oman

The existing warm and friendly relations between India and Oman were further strengthened with the visit of Shri A. K. Antony, Minister of Defense to Oman in May 2010. Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce & Industry led a delegation to Oman in September 2010 to co-chair the sixth session of India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM). As is customary, on the sidelines, the Joint Business Council (JBC) was also held. The JCM discussed a number of topics related to joint investments and cooperation in small and medium enterprises besides reviewing economic and trade cooperation in identified areas. Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Minority & Corporate Affairs visited Oman in November 2010 as a Special Representative of Government of India on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of National Day celebrations of Oman and delivered greetings to Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said and the people of Oman. There are around 5,73,000 Indians living in Oman who have contributed to enriching the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. In the financial year 2009-2010, the bilateral trade jumped to US\$ 4.5 billion (both oil and non oil) from US\$ 2 billion in 2008.

Mr. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman led a delegation to India in October 2010. Delegation level talks led by External Affairs Minister and Omani Foreign Minister were held which comprehensively reviewed existing bilateral relations apart from sharing views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. The economic and commercial ties were further consolidated with the visit of Mr. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki, Minister of National Economy and Deputy Chairman of the Financial Affairs and Energy Resources Council of Oman to India in July 2010. During the visit, the joint venture document pursuant to the MoU on Joint Investment Fund was signed. A four-member Omani delegation led by Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Mahrouqi, Chairman of Public Authority for Water & Electricity, Oman, visited India to attend 'Delhi International Energy Conference (DIREC)-2010 in October 2010. Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission visited Oman during December 2010 to sign a comprehensive report on ways and means of enhancing the existing strategic partnership in identified areas between the two countries. From Omani side the report

was signed by Mr. Mohammed Bin Al Zubair, Advisor to the Sultan.

Qatar

India's historical and friendly ties with Qatar continued to expand with multifaceted engagement and close people-to-people contacts. A delegation led by Qatar's Minister of State for International Cooperation Dr. Khalid Al Attiyah visited India in February 2010 to participate in the second India-Arab Investment Projects Conclave. The Qatari Minister met with Minister for Commerce and Industry during the visit and also discussed various proposals for bilateral cooperation with Principal Secretary to PM, with whom he co-chairs the India-Qatar High Level Monitoring Mechanism (HLMM).

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister for New and Renewable Energy visited Qatar in March 2010 and discussed various possibilities for cooperation in the field of renewable energy with Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy and Industry Abdullah Al Attiyah.

Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry Abdullah Al Attiyah paid a three-day visit to India in March 2010. Besides meeting Minister for Petroleum and National Gas, he also called on Prime Minister and had a separate meeting with External Affairs Minister. Qatar's Minister of State for Industry and Energy Mohammed Al Sada led the Qatari delegation to the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) from 27-29 October, 2010. The third meeting of the India-Qatar High Level Monitoring Mechanism (HLMM) was held in New Delhi from 13-14 January, 2011. The two sides agreed on specific steps to further intensify cooperation in areas such as petrochemicals, fertilizers, power, banking and finance sector, civil aviation and HRD.

India's bilateral trade with Qatar has reached US\$ 5.18 billion in the year 2009-2010.

"Days of Indian Culture" were organized in Doha in September 2010 to celebrate Doha's nomination as the Cultural Capital of the Arab World. Three troupes, sponsored by ICCR participated in the event. The large Indian community of 5,00,000 acts as a catalyst for enhanced ties.

Saudi Arabia

India's friendly relations with Saudi Arabia were significantly enhanced by the three-day visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh from

27 February-1 March 2010. PM and King Abdullah signed the "Riyadh Declaration," which put in place "a new era of strategic partnership" between the two countries. Saudi Foreign Minister, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister and Commerce and Industry Minister called on Prime Minister. Several bilateral agreements were signed during the visit, including the Extradition Treaty, the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons, the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation and Agreements on Scientific and Technological cooperation.

Former Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Jeddah in March 2010 to sign the Haj agreement. Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz, Governor of the Central Province visited India in April 2010 at the invitation of Vice President Hamid Ansari. Prince Salman called on President and held meetings with Vice President, External Affairs Minister and Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Prince Salman and the accompanying business delegation interacted with the Indian businessmen in New Delhi, at a function jointly organized by the FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM. Prince Salman also visited Mumbai and met Governor of Maharashtra.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited Saudi Arabia in September 2010 and met Acting Labour Minister Dr. Abdulwahid bin Khalid and Acting Governor of Riyadh, Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz. Saudi Commerce and Industry Minister Abdullah Zainal Alireza paid a three-day visit to India in November 2010. He called on the Prime Minister and held meetings with Finance and Commerce and Industry Ministers.

The first review meeting of the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission took place in Riyadh in October 2010 and specific areas for follow-up action were identified. Shri B. K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission, led a three-member delegation to the G-20 Energy Security Workshop in Riyadh in October 2010.

Economic ties were boosted by the exchange of business delegations during the year. A 36-member Indian business delegation visited the Kingdom during the visit of the Prime Minister, and interacted with Saudi businessmen at the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Later, a 14-member delegation from the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) participated in a Buyer-Seller Meet in Riyadh in May 2010. A four-member delegation led by Additional Secretary, Department of Fertilizers visited Saudi Arabia in November 2010. A multi-sector catalogue exhibition, India CATEX-2010 was

organized in Riyadh, Dammam and Jeddah. Indian companies won major contracts in the Kingdom in various sectors like railways, automobiles, engineering, and infrastructure etc. In 2009-2010, bilateral trade between India and Saudi Arabia was US\$ 21 billion.

A 16-member delegation from Saudi Command and Staff College visited India in June 2010. During the year, several Saudi Defense personnel attended training courses at the Defense Services Staff College, Wellington, and National Institute of Hydrography, Goa. The over two million Indian community in Saudi Arabia is the largest expatriate community in the Kingdom.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The relations between India and UAE have been traditionally close and friendly and rest on firm foundations of political, economic and cultural links. UAE and India are the largest trading partners of each other in terms of non-oil merchandise trade, with bilateral trade in excess of US\$ 43 billion (including crude imports). India is also the largest export destination of UAE products. More than 1.75 million Indian expatriates live in the UAE, engaged in various economically productive activities.

President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid five-day State visit to the UAE in November 2010. She was accompanied by Shri Bharatsinh Solanki, Minister of State for Power, MPs, business and media delegations. She held meetings with Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and other dignitaries and discussed bilateral and multi-lateral issues of mutual interest and ways to strengthen them, particularly in the fields of trade and investments, agriculture, food processing, science & technology etc. She met with the Chambers of Commerce & Industry in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and also inaugurated the Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) in Dubai.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President & PM of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, visited India in March 2010.

The India-UAE bilateral Foreign Office Consultations took place in Abu Dhabi in September 2010 where the Indian side was led by Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy, Secretary (East), MEA and the UAE side by Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Both sides exchanged views on a number of bilateral issues as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern. The India Show 2010 was organized at the Dubai Convention and Exhibition Centre, Dubai in June 2010 in coordination with the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO).

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce & Industry participated in the show.

Several Ministerial visits were exchanged during the year. Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Corporate Affairs & Minority Affairs visited UAE in April 2010. Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development visited UAE in May 2010. Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indians Affairs also visited UAE in May 2010. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs represented India in the first Afghanistan International Investors Conference (AIC) held in Dubai on November 2010 hosted by UAE and Afghanistan. The Chief of Naval Staff visited UAE to participate in the second Indian Ocean Naval Symposium held in Abu Dhabi in May 2010.

Yemen

India-Yemen relations date back to ancient times. The seventh Session of the Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) took place in Sana'a in March 2010. The Indian side was led by Ms. V. Latha Reddy, Secretary (East), and the Yemeni Side by Eng. Hisham Sharaf Abdulla, Vice Minister for Planning and International Cooperation. The Agreed Minutes issued at the conclusion of JCM covered entire gamut of bilateral issues. Smt. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development visited Sana'a in August 2010 as the leader of the Indian delegation for the tenth Council of Ministers' meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim-Association of Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). India assumed the Chair of the IOR-ARC in 2011.

Mr. Ameer Salem Al-Aidroos, Yemeni Minister of Oil and Minerals visited India in October 2010 to attend PETROTECH 2010. During the visit, he interacted with public and private Indian petrochemicals companies for bilateral cooperation in the field of hydrocarbon. Mr. Awadh Al-Socotri, Yemeni Minister of Electricity and Energy visited India in connection with Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) in October 2010.

A Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) delegation visited Yemen in May 2010. During their visit they met with Yemeni Government officials as well as with members of Federation of Yemen Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The delegation also visited Aden and interacted with Members of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Aden. The delegation identified trade, energy and infrastructure as the core areas of cooperation between India and Yemen. Indian public/private sector companies

are actively engaged in the hydrocarbon sector in Yemen.

India's bilateral trade with Yemen reached US\$ 2.3 billion in the year 2009-2010.

India-Arab Investment Projects Conclave

The second India-Arab Investment Projects Conclave was held in New Delhi in February 2010. It was organized jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs, League of Arab States, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and the General Union of the Arab Chambers for Trade, Industry & Agriculture. The meeting was attended by 21 member-states of the League of Arab States, which included several Ministers of Trade & Economy. The Conclave was inaugurated by Shri. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce & Industry.

West Asia and North Africa

During the period, India's relations with the countries of the West Asia and North Africa region were further strengthened through exchange of high-level visits and bilateral cooperation.

Algeria

An Algerian satellite, ALSAT 2A was successfully launched into space by the Indian Space & Research Organization (ISRO) through its PSLV-C15 launch vehicle on 12 July, 2010.

A 13-member business delegation visited Algeria under the aegis of CAPEXIL from 21-22 July, 2010, and participated in a Buyer-Seller Meet.

An Indian Film Festival was held in Algiers from September-December 2010.

Egypt

The eighth Round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Egypt took place on 5 August, 2010 in Cairo during the visit of Secretary (East). Bilateral issues and regional developments were discussed at the talks. Secretary (East) also called on Egyptian Foreign Minister Mr. Abul Gheit and had a meeting with Secretary to the President and Spokesperson of the Presidency.

The third Joint Defense Committee Meeting took place in Cairo from 9-13 April, 2010. The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defense. Both sides reviewed the bilateral Defense relations and agreed to continue conducting training visits in each other's country.

Several Indian companies participated in three Egyptian fairs - Organization of Plastics Processors of India in PLASTEX 2010 (13-16 May), EEPC in MACTECH 2010 (25-28 November) and Electronic & Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) in ELECTRIX 2010 (4-7 December). Buyer-Seller-Meets (BSMs) were organized in Egypt for delegations from FICCI (17-20 April), Mumbai Pharmaceutical Association (21-23 April), Solvent Extractors Association (29 April-2 May), CHEMEXCIL (16-17 June), CAPEXCIL (24-29 July), TEXPROCIL (23-26 October) and ESC (28 November-1 December). For Reverse BSMs in India, Egyptian businessmen and journalists participated in events organized by CHEMEXCIL (in May and in October), Indian Handicrafts & Gifts Fair (in October) and CAPEXCIL (in November). Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) opened a representative office in Cairo.

An Indian Cultural Week was organized in Egypt from 26 September-4 October 2010 during which ICCR troupes of Manipuri, Odissi, Gujarati folk dances and fusion music gave their performances in Egyptian cities of Cairo, Port Said, Alexandria and Beni Souef. An exhibition of contemporary art by four women artists was also organized during Indian Cultural Week. Director General, ICCR also visited Egypt for the event. Six Indian films participated in the 34th Cairo International Film Festival (30 November-9 December 2010) with the presence of some Indian actors as Jury members.

Israel

A six-member Parliamentary delegation from India visited Israel in July 2010. The delegation called on President Peres, Speaker of the Knesset Reuven Rivlin and Leader of Opposition Tzipi Livni.

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao met Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Daniel Ayalon in New York on 22 September, 2010 on the sidelines of the 65th UNGA.

Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee met Israeli Finance Minister Mr. Yuval Steinitz in Washington DC on 8 October, 2010 on the sidelines of an IMF meeting.

From Israeli side, Chairperson of India-Israel Parliamentary Friendship League Mr. Rachel Adatto visited India in April 2010 and Ms. Ruth Kahanoff, DDG (Asia & Pacific), Ministry of Foreign Affairs in June 2010.

Shri Sukhbir Singh, Minister of State for Agriculture, Haryana led an eight-member delegation to Israel from 1-6 August, 2010 to study Cultivation Technology & Post Harvest Management for crops of citrus, olives and mango under the Indo-Israel Project.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the Prime Minister of Morocco, Mr. Abbas El Fassi, on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit, in Washington on 12 April, 2010.



President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil with the Prime Minister of Syria, Mr. Muhammed Nazi al-Otri, at Prime Minister's Office, in Damascus, Syria on 27 November, 2010.

Mr. John Rotluangliana, Deputy Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly visited Israel from 10-13 September, 2010 on a study tour.

Important Defense related visits during this period included visit of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma from 10-15 October, 2010. The fifth Sub Working Group on Defense Production, Procurement and Development (SWG DPPD) was held in Israel from 1-7 May, 2010. The Indian delegation was headed by Shri Shashi Kant Sharma, DG (Acquisition). The fifth Air Force-to-Air Force Staff Talks were held in Israel from 31 October- 4 November 2010. The sixth Army-to-Army Staff Talks were held in Israel from 28 November-2 December 2010.

Shri Anil Mukim, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, led a six-member delegation composed of government officials and senior representatives of the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) to Israel from 21-24 June, 2010.

The third India-Israel Forum, jointly organized by Confederation of Indian Industries and Tel Aviv University, was held in New Delhi from 1-2 November, 2010. The forum discussed opportunities in business cooperation and technological collaboration between the two countries in a variety of fields including biotechnology, biomedicine, water technology, alternative energy and ecology.

A two-member Indian Army delegation led by Col. M. S. Jodha, grandson of Captain Aman Singh Bahadur (one of the martyred Indian soldiers in Haifa war) visited Israel on 22 September, 2010 to attend the ceremony commemorating the sacrifice of Indian soldiers in the liberation of Haifa during the First World War.

A five-member Hindustani vocal music group led by Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan visited Israel from 21- 24 November, 2010 to perform at the International Oud Festival in Jerusalem organized by Confederation House. A six-member puppet group led by Shri Raj Kumar Bhat performed at the 35th International Arts and Crafts Fair, Jerusalem from 2-8 August, 2010.

Jordan

A 14-member National Defense College (NDC) delegation visited Jordan from 9-15 May, 2010 as part of the Foreign Countries' Study Tour of the 50th NDC Course. During the visit, the delegation called on the Prime Minister of Jordan and met with senior local dignitaries.

A two-member delegation led by Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary (SE&L), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, visited Amman to participate in the Second International Policy Dialogue Forum.

A ten-member Indian delegation led by Shri Som Mittal, President, NASSCOM, and comprising members of prominent Indian IT companies, participated in biennial Middle East and North Africa-Information and Communications Technology Forum 2010 (MENA-ICT Forum 2010) in Amman from 10-11 October, 2010. An MoU aimed at enhancing joint collaboration and cooperation between the Information Technology Association of Jordan (Int@j) and NASSCOM as also between the ICT industries of Jordan and India was signed during the Forum.

Libya

Dr. Ali Abdussalam Al-Treki, formerly Minister for African Affairs of Libya, who had led the Libyan delegation for the India-Africa Forum Summit at New Delhi in April 2008, visited India as President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in April 2010.

Morocco

Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, met Moroccan Prime Minister, Mr. Abbas El Fassi, in Washington in April 2010 on the sidelines of the Nuclear Safety Summit, and discussed issues of bilateral and international interest to both countries.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Mr. Taieb Fassi Fihri, had a meeting with Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna, in September 2010 on the sidelines of the 65th session of UNGA, and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, visited Morocco in October 2010, and attended the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa, held at Marrakesh, Morocco. On the sidelines of the Forum, he met the Moroccan Minister for External Commerce Mr. Abdellatif Maazouz, during which various aspects of economic relations, and bilateral trade were discussed.

During the year, a number of business and export promotion delegations visited Morocco and vice versa.

Palestine

India continued its unwavering support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for a homeland of their own.

Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna participated in the NAM Ministerial as well as IBSA+Indonesia+Palestine on 'Palestine' in New York on the sidelines of 65th UNGA in September 2010 during which India welcomed "direct talks" between Israel and Palestine.

India made its annual contribution of US\$ 1 million to the United Nations Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Sudan

Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna addressed the high level meeting on Sudan held on the sidelines of the UNGA on 24 September, 2010. In his bilateral meeting with the Sudanese Foreign Minister Ahmed Ali Karti on 22 September in New York, bilateral relations, developments in Sudan, preparations for the referendum and the Darfur issue were discussed. EAM hoped for a peaceful resolution of the issue.

Sudanese Minister of Petroleum Dr. Lual Acuek Deng, accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry attended the ninth International Oil & Gas Conference and Exhibition 'PETROTECH 2010' in New Delhi from 31 October-3 November 2010.

The Minister of Science and Technology of Sudan Dr. Isaa Bushra Mohamed Hamid, and the Minister of State for Electricity and Dams Elsadig Mohamed Ali Elshiekh, accompanied by senior officials from the two Ministries, participated in the fourth Global Ministerial-level Conference on Renewable Energy entitled "The Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC 2010)" at New Delhi from 27-29 October, 2010.

The first meeting of the India-Sudan Joint Working Group on Cooperation in the oil and gas sector was held in Khartoum from 29-30 November, 2010.

The Minister of Industry of Sudan Mr. Awad Al Jaz, visited India from 2-3 November, 2010, and called on the Minister for Commerce & Industry Shri Anand Sharma on 3 November, 2010.

Syria

Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India paid a state visit to Syria from 26-29 November, 2010. She met Syrian President Dr. Bashar Al Aasad and held extensive discussions on wide-ranging issues with focus on upgrading India's economic engagement with Syria. She also met and held discussions with Prime Minister Muhammad Naji Al Otri and Speaker of the Syrian Assembly Mahmoud Al Abrash. She met and interacted with business delegations from India and Syria and also attended the India-Syria Business Summit where she launched the

India-Syria Business Council. Two MoUs for cooperation in the field of media and a cultural exchange programme between the two countries were signed during the visit. President visited a Syrian NGO-AAMAL, an institution for disabled children and donated Syrian Pounds 2 million (approximately ` 20 lakhs) for AAMAL's activities. India also offered Syria a new Line of Credit for US\$ 100 million and an increase in the number of scholarship under the ITEC programme from 45 to 90. The Indo-Syrian Joint Working Group on Tourism met in New Delhi in May 2010.

Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister, visited Damascus in June 2010 and co-chaired the second Session of the India-Syria Joint Commission meeting. Shri Santanu Behuria, Secretary (Fertilizers) visited Damascus in October 2010 when an MoU for long term cooperation in the phosphates sector was signed.

Tunisia

Against international bidding, M/s KEC International Ltd. secured a US\$ 93 million contract from STEG, the state-owned Electricity and Gas Production & Distribution Agency, for fabrication and erection of transmission towers. M/s Jyoti Structures Ltd. was also successful in winning a second contract from STEG valued at US\$ 73 million.

As part of a visit to the Maghreb region, FICCI sponsored a 17-member multi-sectoral delegation of senior executives of companies dealing with tractors and other farm equipments, computer software, tyres, textiles, assorted electrical appliances, tobacco, spices and miscellaneous consumer products. The visiting delegation participated in a Buyer-Seller Meet in Tunis from 4-5 October, 2010.

As part of the Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Tunisia, an exhibition of paintings of 14 figurative artists of India titled "Kalpana" sponsored by ICCR was held in the cities of Sousse, Sfax and Tunis from 13 April-22 May 2010. Government of Tunisia, Ministry of Culture, sent an 11-member cultural troupe "IFRIGA" to India to perform at the Africa Festival organized by ICCR in Delhi and Chandigarh from 18-20 May, 2010 respectively.

Arab League

The fifth Round of India-Arab League Political Consultations was held in Cairo on 8 August, 2010 between Secretary (East) and Chief of Cabinet of Secretary General of Arab League. Discussions focussed on regional and international developments of common interest and review of functioning of Arab-India Cooperation Forum (AICF). Secretary (East) also called on Secretary General of Arab League.

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Africa (South of Sahara)

India's relations with 20 countries of East & Southern Africa Region have further strengthened with several high level visits taking place from both the sides and signing of a number of agreements/MoUs.

India hosted several high level visits from the region:

Seychelles President Mr. James Alix Michel paid a state visit to India from 1-3 June, 2010.

The President of South Africa Mr. Jacob G. Zuma, paid State Visit to India from 2-5 June, 2010. The Vice President of Botswana Lt. Gen. Mompoti S. Merafhe visited India from 16-19 June, 2010.

President of Burundi Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, on a private visit came to New Delhi from 13-22 September, 2010.

The Mozambican President Armando Guebuza, paid a state visit to India from 29 September-4 October 2010.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities of Mauritius, Dr. Ahmed Rashid Beebeejaun visited New Delhi from 26-29 October, 2010 to participate in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference 2010 (DIREC).

President of Malawi Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika paid a State Visit to India from 2-7 November, 2010.

Prime Minister of Kenya Mr. Raila Odinga, visited India to participate in the India Economic Summit organized by the World Economic Forum from 14-17 November, 2010.

Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia led a 13-member high level delegation including Minister of State for Finance and Economic Development and Minister of State for Trade to attend first Joint Commission Meeting from 30 November-3 December 2010.

The Ethiopian Prime Minister met with the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the G-20 meeting in Seoul on 11 November, 2010 and they discussed further strengthening bilateral, trade and investment relations.

Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia visited Addis Ababa on 12 October, 2010 to participate in the third and final meeting of the UNSG's high level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing (AGF) co-chaired by Ethiopian Prime Minister.

Other important visits to India during the year included:

Minister of Information, Sports and Culture of Tanzania (October 2010)

Minister of Industry and Commerce of Mauritius (June-July 2010).

Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology of Mauritius (July 2010).

Deputy Minister of Finance and National Planning Mr. David Phiri, and Deputy Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Mr. Lwipa Puma of Zambia visited India in July 2010.

Minister of Youth and Sports of Mauritius (October 2010)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities of Mauritius (October 2010)

Minister of Industry and Commerce of Mauritius (October-November 2010).

Important visits from India include:

Secretary (West) visited Seychelles (May 2010).

External Affairs Minister visited Mauritius, Mozambique, and Seychelles (July 2010).

Minister of State for External Affairs visited Namibia in July 2010.

Minister of Defense visited Seychelles (July 2010).

Secretary (West) led a delegation to Kampala to attend African Union Summit (July 2010)

Secretary (West) visited Addis Ababa (September 2010)

Speaker, Lok Sabha visited Kenya (September 2010).

Commerce and Industry Minister visited Kenya (October 2010).

MoS for Communications and Information



President of the Republic of South Africa, Dr. Jacob Zuma and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at the joint press conference, in New Delhi on 4 June, 2010.

Technology, Shri Gurudas Kamat led a four-member delegation to Addis Ababa (December 2010)

Burundi

India's relations with Burundi continued to be warm and cordial. Burundi views India as a successful model of democracy and development. There is admiration for India's achievements and a desire to obtain India's help in Burundi's economic development.

Based on a specific request made by the government of Burundi, two consignments of essential medicines were delivered to Burundi in June and July 2010 for distribution in the refugee camps in Burundi.

In July 2010, Secretary (West) met the Foreign Minister of Burundi in Kampala where he attended the African Union Summit as observer. The two sides discussed various bilateral issues.

The President of Burundi visited Delhi from 13-19 September, 2010 for medical treatment. A large delegation including the Foreign Minister accompanied him. Secretary (West) paid a courtesy call on the Burundi President and discussed bilateral issues.

The Pan African e-Network project installed in Bujumbura was formally inaugurated by External Affairs Minister on 16 August 2010, along with the Burundian Foreign Minister.

Mr. Moise Bucumi, Minister of Energy and Mines of Burundi visited India to attend fourth Joint Ministerial Conference on Climate Change in Delhi from 27-29 October, 2010.

Botswana

India's relations with Botswana have been close and friendly. Botswana is a developing country with democratic credentials and an active member of Southern African Development Community (SADC). India established diplomatic relations with Botswana immediately after its independence in 1966 and opened its diplomatic mission in Gaborone in 1987. During 1990 apartheid struggle, India and Botswana worked together to protect interests of majority of South Africans. They have similar perception on various issues including expansion of United Nations Security Council and have also cooperated at WTO, SADC and South African Customs Union (SACU).

The Vice President of Botswana Lt. Gen. Mompoti S. Merafhe visited India in June 2010 accompanied by a high level delegation. During the visit, agreements on

Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology and an MoU on MSME/SMME sector were signed. MoU between the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) of India and Local Enterprises Authority (LEA) of Botswana was signed on the sidelines of the visit.

Pan African e-Network Project in respect of Botswana was inaugurated by the EAM on 16 August, 2010.

Comoros

India and Comoros have always enjoyed cordial relations. India has been expressing its keenness to lend a hand in the development of Comoros. Pan African e-network started its operation in Comoros in September 2010. Comorian Foreign Minister Mr. Fahmi Said Ibrahim had declared Comoros' support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council on 2 November, 2010. The Minister had stated that India deserved the honour in view of its demography, geography, economy, democracy and significant contribution towards global peace and security.

Djibouti

Djibouti received the third Exim Bank Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 14 million as an additional amount for completing the 600 TPD Ali Sabeih cement plant project.

Djibouti continued to offer warm reception and hospitality to Indian Naval Ships which made port calls on the port of Djibouti in their operational turn around and anti-piracy patrols with INS Investigator making a port call on the port of Djibouti from 12-14 December, 2010.

Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssef, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Republic of Djibouti is likely to visit India for the Foreign Ministerial level meeting of LDCs in New Delhi from 18-19 February, 2011.

Eritrea

India continued to offer 15 annual ITEC slots for Eritrean nationals to undergo training in various course in India.

Ethiopia

India and Ethiopia continue to build strong institutional foundation to the existing bilateral relationship by holding first ever meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission. The Indian delegation was led by Shri S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of India. Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn led a 13-member high level delegation to attend the first Joint Commission meeting between India and Ethiopia from

30 November-3 December 2010, at New Delhi. Mr. Ahmed Tusa, State Minister of Trade and Mr. Ahmed Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia were also part of the delegation.

India and Ethiopia enjoy warm and cordial relations in political, commercial, cultural and other areas. The overall matrix of bilateral commercial relations is led by private sector investment, Lines of Credit and by Indian companies engaged in various infrastructure projects, while trade constitutes a smaller but growing segment.

During the Joint Commission Meeting, both sides reviewed the bilateral relations and expressed their satisfaction over the progress made in the last five years and exchanged views on regional and international issues of interest to both sides. Ethiopia reiterated its support for Permanent Membership for India on a reformed UN Security Council. An agreement for release of third tranche of US\$ 213.31 million to support the sugar development was signed between EXIM Bank and Government of Ethiopia on 1 December, 2010. To enhance cooperation in Science & Technology sector, a programme of cooperation on Science & Technology was also signed on 1 December, 2010. The Ethiopian side mentioned that the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) was a unique initiative and had contributed to African development.

During the visit, the Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister also met with Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Finance and Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce & Industry of India to discuss bilateral issues.

At the eighth Organizational Congress of the Ethiopian Ruling Front, EPRDF, held in Adama from 15-17 September, 2010. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi praised Indian Government's help to Ethiopian people despite India facing similar challenges herself. The last General Election in Ethiopia was concluded in May-June 2010 and ruling coalition Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) had a landslide victory. Out of 547 seats, the ruling coalition got 545 seats. The new cabinet was formed in September 2010 and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi was re-elected Prime Minister.

A four-member delegation led by Shri Gurudas Kamat, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology attended the fifth International Conference on Federalism from 13-16 December, 2010 in Addis Ababa. MoS (C&IT) also gave a key note address at one of the sessions of the Conference, had bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and handed over medical equipments worth US\$ 0.5 million which

were part of the tele-medicine pilot project as donation from Government of India. The Ethiopian Minister of State for Health Dr. Kebede Worku received the equipment and thanked the Government of India for the noble gesture.

Secretary (West) visited Addis Ababa from 12-13 September for talks with the Ethiopian leadership and African Union Commission. He met with Ethiopian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson, Mr. Jean Ping.

Deputy Chief of Staff of Indian Army Lt. Gen. V. S. Tonk visited Ethiopia in June 2010 to have an overview of the activities of the Indian Army Training Team (IATT) and met the Chief of Army Staff of Ethiopia and other senior officials of the Ethiopian Ministry of Defense. The Ethiopian Chief of Army Staff expressed his country's gratefulness to the Government of India for sending the IATT. The Ethiopian leadership continued to be appreciative of the work done by Indian Army Training Team.

An MoU was signed between Ethiopian Civil Services College and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie for the cooperation in the civil services.

The bilateral commercial economic and investment relations continued to strengthen in 2010. India continued to be the largest investor in Ethiopia with US\$ 4.7 billion committed investment and over US\$ 1 billion on ground. The two-way trade volume also picked up reaching nearly US\$ 660 million and the two countries are committed to raise it to US\$ 1 billion by 2015. Exim Bank's Regional Office for East Africa was inaugurated in Addis Ababa on 21 September which will cater to the requirement of eastern region of Africa.

Several Indian business delegations visited Addis Ababa during the year including a 21-member delegation consisting of industry representatives from diverse sectors led by Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS), one of India's leading infrastructure development and finance companies in July 2010, a ten-member PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation led by its President from 15-16 November, 2010, a 20-member delegation led by Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 15-16 November, and a 20-member, 16-company delegation led by Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) from 2-4 December, 2010.

A multi-member team of Indian Customs officers made several visits to Ethiopia to provide consultancy in WTO

customs valuation to Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority. The Ethiopian leadership continued to be appreciative of the work done by this team as well as the 40-member team of leather professionals from Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) and Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI), who are here on a commercial contract signed by the Ethiopian government.

There has been a continued overwhelming response to the ITEC programme with 90 slots allotted to Ethiopia being utilized in the first eight months of the year. Consequently, the Government of India has tentatively raised the number of slots to 120 for the year. Ethiopia also utilized 40 ICCR training slots, six special agricultural scholarships and eight CV Raman Fellowship under the India Africa Forum Summit during the current year. Under the decisions of the India Africa Forum Summit, Government of India will set up a vocational training centre in Ethiopia.

A 13-member Indian folk and music dance group led by Shri Subhash Goyal and Smt. Anju Goyal visited Ethiopia from 5-12 November, 2010 and gave performances in Dire Dawa, Ambo University, Hailom Araya Military Academy, Holetta, apart from two performances in Addis Ababa. A festival of Indian Films was organized in October-December 2010 which resulted in an overwhelming response especially for the film show on Gandhi held on 2 October, 2010.

A delegation led by MoS (PK) and including Secretary (West) visited Addis Ababa from 26-28 January, 2011 to participate in the 18th Ordinary Session of the African Union and had bilateral meetings with the Ethiopian Leadership.

Mr. Sufian Ahmed, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia visited New Delhi from 3-4 February, 2011 and had bilateral discussions with External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister.

To further the bilateral agricultural cooperation, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, ICAR, New Delhi has agreed to send a five member delegation from 9-16 February, 2011 led by Dr. S. Ayyappan, DG, ICAR for the purpose of assessing the possibilities of cooperation and develop a concrete framework of cooperation based on a proposal for cooperation submitted by the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture. Separately, the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute has sent two delegations of Ethiopian scientists to ICAR for an exchange of experience visit.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn paid a visit to India for the Foreign Ministerial level meeting of LDCs in New Delhi from 18-19 February, 2011.

Kenya

India and Kenya enjoy close and friendly relations which witnessed a momentum in this year with the visits of Speaker (Lok Sabha) and Commerce & Industry Minister to Kenya and the visit of Prime Minister of Kenya to India. Government of India approved a line of credit of US\$ 61.60 million for power transmission lines.

Indian naval ships INS Ganga and INS Aditya paid a goodwill visit to Mombasa port from 23-26 August. Kenyan Foreign Minister Moses Wetangula visited the ships in Mombasa.

Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker, Lok Sabha led the Indian delegation at the 56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference held in Nairobi from 10-19 September. The delegation included several presiding officers of State Legislatures.

Kenya sent its largest ever contingent to the XIX Commonwealth Games held in New Delhi from 3-14 October.

Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) Shri Anand Sharma, led the Indian delegation to the sixth Session of the India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee which was held in Nairobi from 12-13 October. The Kenyan side was led by Kenyan Trade Minister Mr. Chirau Ali Mwakwere. India-Kenya cooperation in a wide range of sectors was discussed, including infrastructure, agriculture, textile, ICT, pharmaceuticals, tourism, civil aviation, power and energy, roads, rapid transit, railways, scientific and industrial research, SMEs, EPZs and SEZs. CIM also inaugurated a business event 'Namaskar Africa' organized by FICCI in association with Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Nairobi from 14-15 October. The two-day event comprised an 'India Exhibition' and 'India-East Africa Business Forum' with participation of business persons from nine East African countries. The Forum had a large business delegation participating from India.

A 25-member delegation from the College of Defense Management, Secunderabad, visited Kenya from 31 October-6 November.

Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of Kenya, visited India from 14-17 November to participate in the India

Economic Summit organized by World Economic Forum. During the visit, Prime Minister Odinga met with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. He also met Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission. During the above visit, an agreement for the extension of US\$ 61.6 million Line of Credit for power transmission projects offered by Government of India to Government of Kenya was signed.

Lesotho

Since 1996, the High Commission in Pretoria has been concurrently accredited to Lesotho. Following the visit of Prime Minister Mosisili to India in August 2003, Lesotho opened a resident mission in New Delhi. Mr. Shabir Peerbhai was appointed as Lesotho's High Commissioner to India.

The Indian Army Training Team (IATT) stationed in Lesotho since June 2001 has played a significant role in promoting close bilateral ties. After the signing of an Inter-Governmental Cooperation Agreement on Military Training Cooperation in May 2001, a 17-member Indian Army Training Team (IATT) was sent to Lesotho in June 2001. Government of India agreed to the extension of the IATT in Lesotho till 2011; on request of government of Lesotho, further extension of the IATT for one more year has been approved by EAM recently.

Malawi

President of Malawi Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika paid a State Visit to India from 2-7 November, 2010. Prof. Mutharika was accompanied by the First Lady Madame Callista Mutharika and six Ministers and a 45-member business delegation. During the visit Prof. Mutharika held fruitful discussions with the President of India, the Vice President, and the Prime Minister of India. During the talks the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest - bilateral as well as regional and international. During the visit India and Malawi signed the following bilateral Agreements/MoUs: General Cooperation Agreement; MoU on Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources Development; MoU on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development; MoU on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.

Prime Minister announced a new line of credit of US\$ 100 million for developmental projects and a grant of US\$ 5 million for the social sector, including the construction of a small industry incubator. Prime Minister also announced that Indian Mission will be re-opened in Lilongwe.

The Pan-African e-Network Project in Malawi was successfully inaugurated through Video Conferencing at the Chancellor College Zomba, Malawi, on 16 August, 2010.

Madagascar

Engagement with Madagascar continued in capacity building through ITEC training programmes. Similarly the Pan African e-network programme continued with its tele-education and tele-medicine programmes.

Mauritius

Relations between India and Mauritius are historical and time-tested, based on a shared kinship. These are extensive, multi-faceted and mutually beneficial. The comprehensive partnership between India and Mauritius in the political, economic, technical, Defense & security areas and cultural field continued to intensify and expand.

Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister paid an official visit to Mauritius from 2-4 July, 2010. He discussed bilateral, regional and international issues with the President, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and other leaders of Mauritius. Five agreements were signed during EAM's visit. Mauritian Ministers visited India during the year to discuss further measures to expand bilateral relations. India continued to be the largest source of imports for Mauritius. Mauritius was the largest source of FDI for India. The Defense and security cooperation with Mauritius continued through the visit of Indian Naval Ships on goodwill visits; our ships also conducted EEZ surveillance and anti-piracy patrols. The Indian Navy assisted Mauritius in carrying out hydro-graphic related activities. There was increased demand for ITEC courses in both the civilian and Defense categories. Mauritian students continued to avail of ICCR and other Government of India scholarship schemes. Cooperation in the field of information and technology continued apace. With Mauritius feeling the impact of the Eurozone crisis, it increasingly looked towards India and the countries of the East as trade and economic partners. Tourism formed an important constituent in this direction.

At the invitation of the Election Commission of Mauritius, Shri Naveen Chawla, then Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) accompanied by the Legal Consultant of the Election Commission of India was in Mauritius from 2-6 May, 2010 coinciding with the General Elections in Mauritius on 5 May, 2010. CEC called on the President and the Prime Minister of Mauritius and had meetings with the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Showkutally Soodhun, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Mauritius visited Mangalore and New Delhi from 27 June-2 July 2010. During his visit, an agreement to renew the contract for the supply of petroleum products by Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Limited to the State Trading Corporation of Mauritius for the period 2010-2013 was signed on 1 July, 2010 in New Delhi.

Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister made an official visit to Mauritius from 2-4 July, 2010. He met Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of Mauritius; Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius; Dr. Rashid Beebeejaun, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities; Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development; and Dr. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Regional Cooperation. EAM discussed bilateral, regional and international issues with his interlocutors. Five agreements were signed during the visit. These included: supply of an off-shore patrol vessel; programme on cultural cooperation for the period 2010-2013; cooperation in early warning of coastal hazards; cooperation in information security; and setting up of a chair of Sanskrit and Indian philosophy at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

Dr. Rajeshwar Jeetah, Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology of Mauritius attended the Times Education Boutique 2010 in New Delhi. He met Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resources Development on 5 July, 2010 and Shri Prithviraj Chavan, then Minister of State (I/C) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences on 6 July, 2010.

A 17-member delegation from the National Defense College led by Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, Senior Directing Staff was in Mauritius on a study tour from 19-22 September, 2010. The delegation called on the President and the Prime Minister of Mauritius on 21 September, 2010.

Mr. Satyaprakash Ritoo, Minister of Youth and Sports led the Mauritian delegation to the Commonwealth Games (CWG 2010). He met Dr. M. S. Gill, Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports on 5 October 2010. Mauritius sent an 89-member composite delegation of athletes and officials to CWG 2010.

Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet Rear Admiral R. K. Pattanaik visited Mauritius on board INS Mysore from 6-8 October, 2010. He called on Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of Mauritius, Ministers and officials.

Dr. Rashid Beebeejaun, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities of Mauritius participated in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference 2010 (DIREC 2010) from 26-29 October, 2010. He called on Dr. Hamid M. Ansari, Vice President of India; Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy; and Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India.

Mr. Showkutally Soodhun, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Mauritius participated in the PETROTECH 2010 Conference in New Delhi from 31 October-3 November 2010. He met Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture; Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry; and Shri Murli Deora, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The third meeting of the Indo-Mauritius Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 4 November, 2010.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of Mauritius, accompanied by Lady Sarojni Jugnauth was on a private visit to India from 14-28 November, 2010. He visited Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Patna, Faizabad, Lucknow, Udaipur, Rohtak and New Delhi.

Indian Naval Ship INS Nirdeshak carried out hydrographic survey around Mauritian waters from 26 March-27 April 2010. Fair survey sheets relating to the southern part of St. Brandon Island and Southern approaches of Grand Port; the bathymetric survey and digital chart of the Flic-en-Flac area for development of Land Based Oceanic Industry; and Survey charts of the northern part of St. Brandon Islands were handed over to Dr. Abu Twalib Kasenally, Minister of Lands and Housing of Mauritius. Indian Naval Ship INS Trishul was deployed in Mauritian waters to conduct EEZ surveillance and joint anti-piracy patrols of Mauritian waters from 23 May-12 June 2010. INS Mysore and INS Tabar were in Mauritius from 6-8 October, 2010 and carried out EEZ surveillance and anti-piracy patrol of Mauritian waters. During the visit of the ships, joint exercises with the National Coast Guard personnel were carried out. An Indian Naval Marine Commando team trained the Mauritian National Coast Guard in commando operations and deep sea diving during May 2010. During their visits, the Indian Naval Ships also conveyed personnel of the Outer Island Development Corporation and commodities to Agalega.

The first meeting of Indo-Mauritius Task Force on IT Solutions was held in Mauritius from 22-28 August, 2010.

According to Department of Commerce, Government of India figures, India's exports to Mauritius during the Financial Year 2009-2010 were US\$ 453.43 million with India's imports from Mauritius at US\$ 10.89 million. India remained Mauritius' largest source of imports during Financial Year 2009-2010. According to the figures released by the Central Statistics Office of Mauritius, imports from India during the period January- September 2010 were valued at US\$ 517.63 million, totaling 21.9% of Mauritius' total imports.

According to Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India, Mauritius continued to be the single largest source of FDI for India during the Financial Year 2009-2010 with inflows of US\$ 10.376 million or 42% of the total FDI volume into India. From April 2000-May 2010, Mauritius accounted for US\$ 48.534 billion or 42.33% of total FDI inflows into India.

According to Bank of Mauritius figures, India invested US\$ 91.067 million from January-July 2010 in Mauritius. Mauritius invested US\$ 0.267 million in India during the same period.

Indian Oil Mauritius Ltd. secured a contract for supply of fuel to all Government vehicles in Mauritius in September 2010.

Mauritius continued to avail of ITEC opportunities in a significant manner with deputation of experts from India to Mauritius and from Mauritius to India. The training slots under the ITEC Programme for Mauritius for the year 2010-11 have been upwardly revised to 125 for civilian courses and 46 for Defense courses. Till date, 79 civilian trainees and 22 Defense trainees attended courses in India under the ITEC programme. 97 scholarships were awarded during the year to Mauritian students under various ICCR and other schemes.

Agreements

- i. The Agreement for the renewal of the contract for the supply of petroleum products from August 2010-July 2013 by M/s. Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemical Ltd. to the STC of Mauritius was signed on 1 July, 2010.
- ii. An Inter-Governmental Agreement for the Supply of an Offshore Patrol Vessel from the Government of India to the Government of Mauritius was signed on 3 July, 2010.
- iii. An MoU on Cooperation in Information Security was signed between the Standardization, Testing and

Quality Certification (STQC), Department of Information Technology, Government of India and the National Computer Board of Mauritius on 3 July, 2010.

- iv. An MoU on Cooperation for Early Warning Arrangement for Coastal Hazards was signed between the Indian Centre for Ocean Information Services and the Meteorological Services, Mauritius on 3 July, 2010.
- v. An MoU on the establishment of a Visiting Chair of Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy was signed between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute on 3 July, 2010.

Mozambique

India's relations with Mozambique continued to be warm and friendly. The state visit of Mozambican President Guebuza to India from 29 September-4 October 2010 contributed towards further strengthening of the bilateral relationship between India and Mozambique. India's offer of US\$ 500 million worth of Line of Credit for projects in the fields of infrastructure, energy and agriculture was well appreciated by the Mozambican side. Earlier, External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna paid a visit to Mozambique in July 2010 and held wide-ranging talks with the Mozambican side.

The Mozambican President Armando Guebuza, accompanied by five Ministers and a large business delegation paid a state visit to India from 29 September-4 October 2010. Prime Minister of India announced Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million to Mozambique. Three agreements viz: Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), MoU on cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources and MoU on cooperation for promoting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises were signed during the visit. The two sides also set a target to enhance bilateral trade to US\$ 1 billion by 2013.

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna accompanied by senior officials, visited Mozambique from 4-5 July, 2010. EAM called on President Guebuza, and Prime Minister Aires Ali. He held tête-à-tête and delegation level talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation Mr. Oldemiro Baloi and discussed bilateral and other issues of mutual interest. An agreement on Line of Credit for US\$ 25 million granted by Government of India to Mozambique was signed between EXIM Bank and the Mozambican Government. The LOC is meant for rural electrification project. EAM also announced assistance for setting up a training institute and a research

institute in the coal sector in Mozambique and a grant of US\$ 5 million for projects in the fields of health and education. EAM inaugurated the second phase of Pan-African e-Network Project on 16 August, 2010 in 12 African countries including Mozambique.

Four Indian Naval Ships namely INS Mysore, INS Tabar, INS Aditya and INS Ganga from the Western Fleet visited Maputo from 5-8 September, 2010.

Namibia

Indo-Namibian bilateral ties were further consolidated and strengthened in 2010. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Namibia in July 2010 in connection with the 13th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership 2010 along with a 21 member CII delegation. The number of high-level visits between the two countries in the past underscores the importance and value attached to the warm and close ties. The volume of trade between the two countries, though small, continued to grow steadily. Namibia consistently supported India in the UN, Commonwealth and other regional and international fora; supported India's candidature to numerous UN bodies and, significantly, continued to support India's candidature for permanent membership to expanded UNSC. Namibia also supported India's successful election to a non-permanent seat for 2011-2012.

Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba took over the Chairpersonship of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) from the outgoing Chairperson, President Joseph Kabila of DR of Congo at the 30th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Jubilee Summit held in Windhoek from 16-17 August, 2010.

Rwanda

Relations between India and Rwanda have been warm and cordial.

11 artists from the Rwandan National Ballet URUKEREREZA visited India from 18-20 May, 2010 to participate in the Africa Festival in New Delhi.

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in cooperation with the School of Banking and Finance of Rwanda, organized a 10-day programme in Kigali from 16-26 November, 2010. The training programme was attended by 35 participants from various institutions in Rwanda.

The Rwanda Private Sector Foundation signed MoUs with the Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and

Industry, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association and the All India Granite and Stone Association in October 2010.

Seychelles

A high level delegation led by Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West) visited Seychelles from 10-12 May, 2010 for seventh Indo-Seychelles Joint Commission Meeting. An agreement granting a line of credit of US\$ 10 million by Government of India through EXIM Bank of India was signed on 11 May, 2010.

President James Alix Michel paid a state visit to India from 1-3 June, 2010 and held discussions with President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on bilateral cooperation and other issues of mutual interest. He also extended visit to President Pratibha Patel to visit Seychelles. President Michel extended Seychelles support for India's candidature for permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council as well as India's candidature for a non-permanent seat in UNSC. On 2 June, 2010 agreement on Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA) was signed in New Delhi between India and Seychelles.

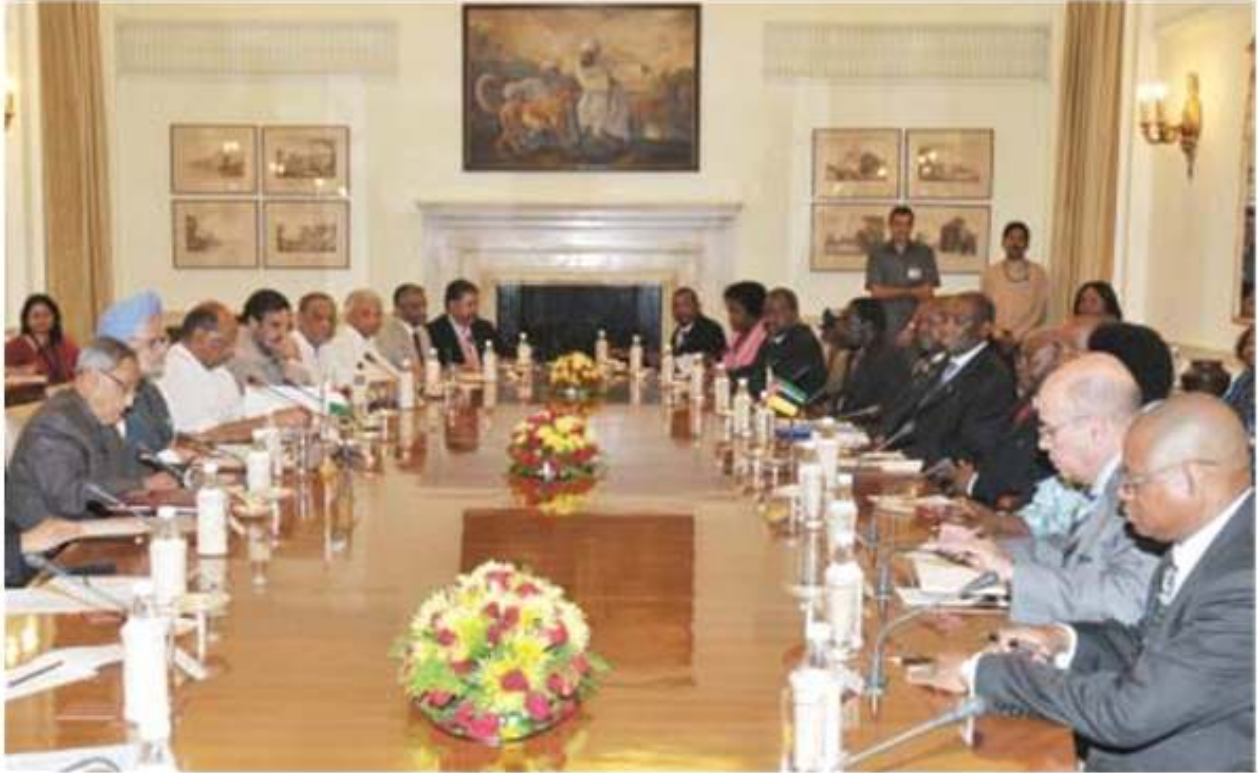
External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna paid a visit to Seychelles from 5-6 July, 2010 and held discussions with President James Alix Michel on bilateral cooperation, security interest in Indian Ocean, fight against piracy and economic development.

Minister of Defense Shri A. K. Antony led a delegation to Seychelles from 18-20 July, 2010 as a follow up to President James Alix Michel's visit to India. On 19 July, 2010 discussions were held with President of Seychelles on bilateral issues of interest. During the visit it was announced that India will donate three aircrafts to Seychelles to boost surveillance (a Dornier and two Chetak helicopters). This gesture was praised by President Michel.

South Africa

Bilateral relations between India and South Africa are based on our historical contacts and engagement, beginning with Gandhiji's political struggle in South Africa as well as consistent support for the ANC led movement against apartheid. Post 1994, political relations have developed well, as reflected in a series of important high level visits as well as greater appreciation of each others' views on international issues, which has been further consolidated through the IBSA framework.

The President of South Africa Mr. Jacob G. Zuma paid State Visit to India from 2-5 June, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the President of Mozambique, Mr. Armando Emilio Guebuza, at the delegation level talks, in New Delhi on 30 September, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the President of Seychelles, Mr. James Alix Michel, at the signing ceremony, in New Delhi on 2 June, 2010.

President Zuma's delegation included seven Ministers of his Cabinet and a 200-member strong business delegation. During the visit an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors, Air Services Agreement and MoU on cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Diplomatic Academy of South Africa were signed. Bilateral trade target of US\$ 10 billion by 2012 was set.

Swaziland

Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar, accompanied by Secretary General of Lok Sabha Shri P. D. T. Achari and three officials from Lok Sabha Secretariat, visited Swaziland to attend the Mid-year Executive Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) held in Swaziland from 8-13 May, 2010. Apart from attending CPA meeting, Speaker was received by Swazi King Mswati III. She had a meeting with Prime Minister Mr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini and had interaction with President of Senate and Speaker of National Assembly and a number of members of Parliament.

Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) signed an agreement with Swaziland Government to set up Pan-African e-Network Project in Swaziland.

Tanzania

India's relations with Tanzania which is traditionally friendly and cooperative, were further strengthened and expanded.

During the period under report, bilateral engagement with Tanzania was further reinforced. The warmth of our relations was highlighted by Tanzania by extending its support to India's candidature in the UN, specifically on the non-permanent seat and in various other international organizations. India continues to be the largest source of Tanzania's imports. Cooperation in the capacity building sector was also reinforced. Apart from the training under the ITEC and scholarship, for which Tanzania is among the largest beneficiary, 19 Indian professors joining the University of Dodoma. Also, 16 Tanzanian Police Officers were trained in India on Cyber Crime. An Indian Cultural Centre was also set up.

On the economic front, bilateral trade and investment continues to grow as India's trade with Tanzania stood at US\$ 965 million, despite the big slump in overall external trade on account of international economic crisis, with India ranking as the biggest source of Tanzania's imports. Indian investment in Tanzania also continues to grow which stood at US\$ 1.32 billion till 2009, ranking India

as the second largest investor in Tanzania. Several export promotion councils including PHARMEXCIL, CAPEXCIL and HCG-Health Global - team of doctors (South Asia's largest cancer care network) visited Tanzania. Tanzania was likewise represented in important buyer-seller meet organized in India.

India also gifted sports equipments and items to the Tanzanian Commonwealth Team that participated in the 19th Commonwealth Games held in October 2010.

The Tanzanian Minister of Information, Sports and Culture visited India during the Commonwealth Games and attended the Commonwealth Sports Ministers' Meeting.

30 Indian companies, under the aegis of ITPO, participated at the 34th Dar-es-Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) showcasing India's support to the "Kilimo Kwanza" initiative of the Tanzanian government.

In the field of Defense cooperation, a delegation from Tanzanian Peoples Defense Forces (TPDF), led by Maj. Gen. C. L. Makakala in September 2010 paid a visit to National Defense College to study from our experiences, as Tanzania is in the process of developing its own National Defense College. Four Indian Naval Ships, under the command of Rear Admiral R. K. Pattanaik, YSM, visited Dar-es-Salaam from 28-31 August, 2010. During the visit, Indian Naval cruise performed free medical check-ups at an orphanage donating medicines and other items. The Naval Brass Band also performed at a school and conducted technical exchanges with the Tanzanian counterparts. Navies of the two sides exchanged technical expertise.

Uganda

India's relations with Uganda continued to be warm and friendly. The following high-level visits took place during the year:

In May 2010, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade conducted a two-week course in international trade in Kampala. It was attended by more than 60 participants drawn from all parts of the country. Ugandan authorities as well as the participants were very pleased with the course.

In May 2010, an Indian cotton delegation visited Uganda to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of cotton cultivation and processing.

An Indian observer delegation led by Secretary (West) attended the meeting of the AU Council from 22-23 July, 2010. The Indian delegation also had meetings

with more than ten delegations regarding bilateral issues and UN Security Council reform.

Five-members of Parliament from the Ugandan Parliamentary Service Commission visited New Delhi in April 2010 on a three-day study tour at the invitation of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

A six-member delegation led by Mr. Kirunda Kivejinja, Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs visited India from 19-21 July, 2010 on a marketing and promotional initiative aimed at attracting private sector partners for the Police Force Accommodation.

Mr. Kajara Aston Peterson, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development visited Minnow Marine Projects Limited (MMPL) Biogas plant in India from 14-16 July, 2010.

Seven-members of Ugandan Parliament led by Mr. Daudi Migereko, Government Chief Whip visited New Delhi on a study visit from 24-31 July, 2010 to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Ms. Hope Mwesigye, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries visited New Delhi from 6-10 August, 2010 to attend meetings with Tata Solar and Himalaya Natural Herbal Pharmaceutical group.

Mr. Simon D'Ujanga, Minister of State for Energy and Mineral Development visited New Delhi from 27-20 October, 2010 to attend the Renewable Energy Conference and Petrotech-2010.

Zambia

A Public Private Partnership (PPP) delegation from Zambia visited India on 28 July, 2010. Delegation included Deputy Minister of Finance and National Planning Mr. David Phiri, and Deputy Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Mr. Lwipa Puma, and officials of Ministries of Finance, Communications, Works and Supply, Agriculture and Zambia Development Agency. The delegation had a meeting with Secretary (West). They also held a seminar which was opened by Zambian Minister of Education Dora Siliya, who was already in India.

The Pan-African e-Network Project for Zambia was successfully inaugurated through Video Conferencing at the Mulungushi University in Kabwe on 16 August, 2010.

Bharti Airtel limited launched its new brand in Zambia on 22 November, 2010, called Airtel Zambia. Announcement was made at a press conference in Lusaka by Airtel Chairman Shri Sunil Mittal on 22 November, 2010.

Zimbabwe

India's bilateral relations with Zimbabwe have always been close and cordial. India has extended support to its liberation movement and has been a partner in Zimbabwe's development since its independence in 1980. India has assisted Zimbabwe in the fields of telecommunications, power, transport sectors and contributed to its capacity building through ITEC programme.

India and Zimbabwe share a similarity of views on most international issues and closely cooperate at UN, NAM and other multilateral fora like WTO and G-15. Zimbabwe generally supports India in most of the elections in the multilateral fora and our Resolutions in the UN. During the year Zimbabwe supported India's candidates for election to the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Question (ACABQ). Zimbabwe also supported our candidature to the non-permanent seat in the UNSC.

West Africa Division

Angola

Jose Maria Botelho de Vasconcelos, Minister of Petroleum attended the Petrotech 2010 Conference in New Delhi from 1-3 November. An MoU for promoting cooperation in the Oil and Natural Gas Sector was signed on 1 November, 2010.

A six-member delegation from the Angolan Ministry of IT and Telecommunications visited India from 5-9 December to know about the Pan African e-Network Project and also for interaction with the Department of Information Technology on implementation of e-Governance programme. The delegation also visited the Common Service Centres in Bhopal and Indore to get a first-hand knowledge of e-Governance implementation in rural areas.

A four-member delegation from Indian oil sector visited a Refinery Project in Angola from 12-14 September. A two-member delegation from MMTC limited visited the State Diamond Company, ENDIAMA from 23-24 November.

Government of India approved two Lines of Credit for setting up:-(i)an industrial development park (US\$ 30 million); and (ii) a Cotton Spinning and Ginning Mill (US\$ 15 million)

Benin

Government of India supplied 60 ambulances, 310 computers and accessories and 4 air-conditioned buses

as grant during the year. Benin opened its resident Embassy in India in July and Ambassador Andre Sanra presented his credentials on 18 October. In response to an appeal from the President of Benin, Government of India sent a cash grant of US\$ 5,00,000 (in December 2010) as relief assistance to help in the rehabilitation process following severe floods and torrential rains which had devastated most parts of the country.

Cameroon

A Rajasthani Cultural troupe from India gave performances in Cameroon in November.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Following MoUs were signed:

- (i) for setting up an IT Centre for Excellence in Bangui (March 2010)
- (ii) for setting up two work stations under the Hole-in-the-Wall Education Project (3 September)
- (iii) a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (3 September).

Chad

Chadian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mahamat Bechir Okormi led a seven-member delegation to India from 4-8 September. Official talks were held with Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs. An MoU on Foreign Office Consultations was signed.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) was signed between India and DRC in April 2010. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Kinshasa from 29-30 June to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the independence of Democratic Republic of the Congo. Government of India approved two lines of credit worth US\$ 42 million and US\$ 168 million respectively for the Kakabola hydroelectric power project and Katende hydroelectric power projects. An MoU was signed on 21 October, 2010 for setting up an Information Technology Centre of Excellence (CETI) in DRC. In November, an Indian private sector company, Kalpa Taru Power Transmission Ltd. signed a US\$ 76.9 million contract with the Congolese National Electricity Company for laying power transmission lines of 400 KV over a distance of 260 kms in the Bas Congo province.

Republic of Congo (ROC)

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mr. Basile Ikoube, accompanied by Senior Officials, visited India from 13-18 March. The Congolese Foreign Minister held extensive discussions with Dr. Shashi Tharoor, the then Minister of State for External Affairs, and covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Both sides identified specific areas for expanding and strengthening bilateral cooperation. Republic of Congo assured India of its support for a Non-Permanent seat for the term 2011-2012. On 17 March, a Protocol on Foreign office Consultations was signed by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, the then MoS for External Affairs from the Indian side and Mr. Basile Ikoube, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation from the ROC side.

Madam Antoinette Sassou N'Guesso, First Lady of the Republic of Congo, accompanied by a 24-member delegation attended the fourth International Congress on Sickle Cell Disease organized at Raipur from 22-27 November.

Equatorial Guinea

Minister of Health of the Government of Equatorial Guinea participated at the fourth International Congress on Sickle Cell Disease organized at Raipur from 22-27 November.

The Republic of Gambia

Gambian Foreign Minister Dr. Mamadou Tangara, accompanied by a delegation paid an official visit to India from 17-21 August. Official talks were held on 19 August with Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs. MoS (PK) announced a grant of US\$ 5,00,000 to the Gambia to be utilized in the education and health sectors. She conveyed India's offer to set up one 'Hole-in-the Wall' work station in Gambia. A Protocol for Foreign Office Consultations was signed during the visit.

Cash assistance of US\$ 50,000 was provided as flood relief following unprecedented rain and consequent flooding and damage to infrastructure in the country.

Ghana

Dr. Joseph Annan, Deputy Minister of Education Ghana visited India from 28 March-4 April 2010. Dr. Annan held discussions with Smt. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development and Dr. Shashi Tharoor, then Minister of State for External Affairs. Dr. Annan also had interactions at National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

A preliminary Memorandum of Understanding for setting up a joint venture gas-based fertilizer plant in Ghana at an investment of over US\$ 1 billion, was signed on 6 July. The project is expected to produce one million tons of urea.

Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister visited Accra from 2-3 September where the first meeting of the Joint Trade Committee was held.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Narh Adinkrah, Chief of Army Staff of Ghana visited India from 28 June-July.

Guinea Bissau

A cash grant of US\$ 1,00,000 was provided to Guinea Bissau for emergency purchase of medicines and other essential requirements.

Liberia

Under Government of India's programme to assist the countries of Africa, 25 buses were sent to Liberia as a gift. An MoU for implementation of the Hole-in-the-Wall project with two work-stations was signed in July.

Mali

Mali opened its resident Embassy, and its Ambassador Mr. Ousmane Tandia presented his credential on 29 September. A delegation led by Mr. Aghatam AG Alhassane, Minister of Agriculture, visited New Delhi to participate in the conference 'The Farmers of the World and Green Growth' from 9-17 December.

Mauritania

Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister met the Prime Minister of Mauritania on 24 September during the UN General Assembly Session at New York. EAM offered Indian expertise for the agricultural development of Mauritania. Mauritania is exploring the possibilities of opening their resident Mission in New Delhi.

Nigeria

Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Minority Affairs represented India at the 50th anniversary celebrations of Nigeria's Independence (30 September-2 October)

A Rajasthani folk dance group visited Nigeria in November 2010 and gave performances in the Abuja Carnival.

A three-member delegation led by Smt. D Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development

visited Abuja to participate in the eighth E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting. (22-23 June)

A Nigerian delegation led by Science & Technology Minister Prof. M. K. Abubakar visited India to participate in the Bengaluru Space Expo (25-28 August)

Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah, Special Advisor to Nigerian President on Petroleum Matters visited India in November as Head of the Nigerian delegation to PetroTech-2010 in New Delhi and met Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

A 16-member delegation from CII-Gujarat comprising representatives of Reliance, Essar and Adani, among others, visited Nigeria during 21-25 August.

An 11-member CAPEXIL delegation visited Nigeria from 7-9 November.

An US\$ 100 million Line of Credit was approved by Government of India in September 2010 for power projects in Nigeria.

An 104-member strong Nigerian contingent led by Nigerian Minister of Sports participated in the 19th Commonwealth Games in New Delhi in October 2010.

Niger

The first ever resident Ambassador of India to Niger presented his credentials on 12 October.

Cash assistance of US\$ 1,00,000 was given to the Government of Niger in August 2010, as relief assistance to overcome their food crisis.

Sao Tome and Principe

Education equipment and medicines worth Rs.10 million were supplied as Government of India grant.

Togo

Togo opened its resident Mission in New Delhi in October 2010.

Two Lines of Credit (LOC) worth US\$ 15 million each (i) for rural electrification and (ii) for mechanization of farming and cultivation of crops were approved by Government of India.

African Union (AU)

Secretary (West) led a delegation to participate as Observer in the African Union Summit in July 2010 at Kampala. On the sidelines of the summit, he had bilateral

meetings with delegations from Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Niger, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire and Gabon, Ethiopia including AU Commission chairperson.

The seventh Steering Committee meeting of the Pan-African e-network project took place in Addis Ababa from 19-20 May, 2010. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador of India who is also Permanent Representative of India to AU and AU Commissioner for Infrastructure Affairs Dr. Elham M. A. Ibrahim. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Ausuf Sayeed, Joint Secretary (West Africa) who was accompanied by representatives from TCIL, IGNOU, Amity University. Representatives from more than 22-member countries participated in the deliberations.

Under the Plan of Action of India-Africa Forum Summit, African Union invited the applications for the first batch of 75 scholars who were sent to India on full scholarship for continuing their higher studies - M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Agriculture and related areas. AU also invited applications for C. V. Raman Fellowships and 85 have been selected.

India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

Keeping the historic links intact, our relationship with Africa has been revitalized by adding closer economic cooperation in 21st century which is based on African needs in the development process especially in Capacity Building, Infrastructure Development and Promotion of Trade. In April 2008, India hosted the First India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS). This summit, built upon the foundations of the historical relationship that existed between India and Africa, and designed a new architecture for a structured engagement, interaction and cooperation between India and our African partners. Two historic documents, the Delhi Declaration and the India-Africa Framework for Cooperation adopted at the end of the Summit in 2008 now serve as the contours for our systematic engagement with Africa in the coming years. IAFS has created a multi-layered paradigm of economic cooperation at continental, regional and bilateral levels.

As a follow-up to the decisions of IAFS, locations to establish 21 institutions in Africa by Government of India has been finalized by African Union which includes the establishment of four Pan-African Institutions viz. (i) India Africa Institute of Foreign Trade, (ii) India Africa Diamond Institute, (iii) India Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration and (iv) India Africa Institute of Information Technology. Other institutions to be established are ten Vocational Training

Centres, five human settlement institutes to support low-cost housing technologies and two coal institutions.

During the year 2010-2011, 85 scientific fellowship under C. V. Raman Fellowship, 71 special agricultural scholarships and 469 short-term training slots were offered to the participants from African countries following the decisions of the IAFS.

Under the implementation of the decisions of India Africa Forum Summit, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade conducted seven Executive Development Programmes on 'International Business' in seven African countries during the year viz. Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda for 239 participants were well appreciated by the participants.

Under the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme out of 33 African LDCs, 18 have already acceded to the scheme.

Pan African E-Network Project: One of the most significant projects that India took was establishment of the Pan-African e-network project for the 53 African countries. 47 African countries have already signed the agreement and in 34 countries, the project has been implemented so far. The remaining 13 would be progressively brought within its scope.

This project is an example of South-South cooperation and always referred by African Union as a shining example of our cooperation. Under the Pan African e-Network Project, India is helping in setting up a fibre-optic network to provide satellite connectivity, tele-medicine and tele-education to 53 nations of Africa. M/s. TCIL, a Government of India undertaking, is implementing the project on behalf of Government of India.

The second phase of the Pan African e-Network Project was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna on 16 August, 2010 covering 12 countries in New Delhi. The 12 countries includes: Botswana, Burundi, Cote d' Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Uganda and Zambia. During the inaugural EAM had a brief online interaction with Cabinet Ministers/dignitaries of each of the 12 countries through the network. The first phase of inaugural was held in February 2009 for 11 countries.

RECs Meeting

As a part of the continuing engagement between India and Africa and as a follow up of our commitment under IAFS, on an institutional basis at regional level, the first ever meeting between India and the African Regional

Economic Communities (RECs) was held in New Delhi from 14-16 November, 2010. Out of eight Regional Economic Communities recognized by African Union, six have participated at Secretary General or President level. The RECs meeting has provided us an opportunity to build new relationships with the RECs in Africa.

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

India signed an MoU for long-term economic and technical cooperation with the COMESA in February 2003. As part of the continuing engagement between India and Africa on an institutional basis, the first ever meeting between India and the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) including COMESA was held in New Delhi from 14-16 November, 2010. It was attended by the Secretary Generals of COMESA. COMESA is keen to intensify the dialogue on a regular basis and to review implementation of decisions taken.

Africa's Regional Economic Communities' movement towards harmonisation of standards and laws and to create common markets, have an important bearing on the development of India's trade and investment.

During the RECs meeting, a cross-section of Indian investors and entrepreneurs met with the delegates to discuss opportunities in their region. The deeper integration among the COMESA states will enable the Indian companies to participate in infrastructure related projects being promoted by COMESA and set up facilities to manufacture items in these countries and export to the COMESA and other Sub-Saharan African states. India-COMESA cooperation programme includes various areas including bio-technology, telecom project, banking, agriculture, fertilizer and irrigation sectors.

East African Community (EAC)

Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, Secretary General of EAC, visited India from 13-16 November, 2010 to participate in the meeting of the Secretaries General of Regional Economic Communities of Africa, organized by Ministry of External Affairs. Bilateral meeting with Secretary General, EAC was held in the Ministry wherein India-EAC cooperation programmes as well as possible areas for future cooperation were discussed.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The first India-SADC Forum meeting was held at Windhoek, Namibia on 28 April, 2006. External Affairs Minister approved in July 2008 the proposal for concessional line of credit amounting to US\$ 29.22 million through EXIM Bank of India for the following projects to be implemented through SADC Secretariat; Dry-Land Agriculture Project Emphasizing Regional Irrigation and Water Management for Small Scale Farmers.; SADC Regional Project on Value Addition to Primary Agricultural Products; Demonstration Centre for Small and Micro Enterprises; Study of Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks (STEP); and Pre-feasibility Study for the Transfer of Water from the Congo Basin to the Water Scarc Countries in the SADC region. These are under consideration of the SADC Secretariat.

Under the decision of IAFS, India has decided to set up two institutions, Apex Planning Organization and Apex Training Organization in SADC region.

As part of the continuing engagement between India and Africa on an institutional basis, the first ever meeting between India and the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) including COMESA was held in New Delhi from 14-16 November, 2010. It was attended by the Deputy Executive Secretary of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). SADC is keen to intensify the dialogue on a regular basis and to review implementation of decisions taken.

ECOWAS

Government of India approved US\$ 250 million Line of Credit (to be disbursed in two instalments i.e. of US\$ 100 million and US\$ 150 million) to the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development for carrying out infrastructure development projects in the member-countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

A six-member delegation led by President of ECOWAS Commission attended the meeting organized by the Government of India with the Regional Economic Communities of Africa in New Delhi from 15-17 November.

Central Europe

Albania

During the year Albania upgraded its representation in India to the level of Ambassador and the first Albanian Ambassador to India Mr. Fatos Kerciku presented his credentials to the President of India on 18 October, 2010.

At the invitation of Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Speaker of Lok Sabha, an Albanian Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker Mrs. Jozefina Coba Topalli visited India from 18-22 December, 2010, to commemorate the 100th Birth Anniversary of Mother Teresa. The Albanian delegation had meetings with Speaker of Lok Sabha, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and Minister of State for External Affairs. This was the first Parliamentary exchange with Albania.

Austria

Bilateral Relations between India and Austria, which have been warm and cordial, were further strengthened during the year through exchange of visits, business delegations and cultural troupes. India and Austria signed a bilateral MoU on Agriculture in Vienna on 13 September, 2010.

The first International Congress on Ayurveda was organized in Klagenfurt, Austria from 1-3 October, 2010 by the Austrian Ayurvedic Association and the Chamber of Commerce of Carinthia province with assistance from Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. A delegation led by the Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare Shri Gandhiselvan participated in the Congress. The Congress provided a good opening for developing Ayurveda as a means to increase trade in related products in Europe.

Shri M. R. K. Panneerselvam, Health Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu attended the XVIII International AIDS Conference held in Vienna from 18-23 July, 2010. Shri Vinod Rai, Comptroller and Auditor General of India visited Austria from 26-28 May, 2010 to attend the "Pilot Conference to Strengthen Public Auditing" organized by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).

Shri Tulsi Ram Sharma, Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Shri Tanka Bahadur Rai, Speaker, Assam Assembly accompanied by Mrs. Pranatee Phukan, Deputy Speaker visited Vienna from 23-25 September, 2010 to undertake a post-56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference Study Tour.

India- Austria Foreign Office Consultations are proposed to be held in February 2011 in Vienna.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

India-Bosnia relations are warm and friendly. Minister for Communications and Transport Mr. Rudo Vidovic, visited India in May 2010 and signed the Air Services Agreement. The delegation also visited facilities of Tata Consultancy Services and NIIT. An India-Bosnia and Herzegovina Friendship Society was set up in May 2010.

Bulgaria

Traditionally warm and cordial relations between India and Bulgaria continued to flourish during the year. The 16th Session of the India-Bulgaria Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in Sofia from 8-9 April, 2010. The Joint Commission discussed cooperation to enhance bilateral trade and investments, food, textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals, science and technology, SMEs, energy especially new and renewable energy, engineering goods and tourism, agriculture and Information Technology. A protocol identifying areas of cooperation was signed by Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry from the Indian side and Mr. Traycho Traykov, Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism from the Bulgarian side.

The fourth meeting of the Bulgaria-India Joint Forum on Information and Communication Technologies was held from 14-15 June in Sofia. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Rakesh Singh, Additional Secretary, Department of Information Technology and the Bulgarian delegation was led by Mr. Parvan Rusinov, the Deputy Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications. Both sides recognized the potential in ICT, agreed to

identify areas and hold discussions for strengthening cooperation in the ICT sector.

The 15th meeting of the Joint Committee on India - Bulgaria Defense Cooperation was held from 21-22 October, 2010 in New Delhi. The Bulgarian delegation was led by Mr. Evgeny Angelov, Deputy Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism and the Indian side was led by Shri R. K. Mathur, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defense.

An Indian Film Festival was held in Sofia in October 2010. Nine Indian films were screened to enthusiastic reception from the Bulgarian audience.

Croatia

During the year, the friendly bilateral relations with Croatia were further strengthened through active political and economic engagement. The Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari paid a visit to Croatia from 9-11 June, 2010 at the invitation of President Ivo Josipovic of Croatia, the first-ever visit from India at such a high level. The Vice President's delegation included Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and three Members of Parliament. The Vice President met with President Josipovic, Speaker Bebic and Prime Minister Kosor of Croatia and gifted 25 computers and Hindi software to the Indology Centre of the Zagreb University. During the visit an Agreement on Cooperation in Health & Medicine as well as Programme of Cooperation in the Field of Culture for the period 2010-2012 were signed.

A six-member Croatian Parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Luka Bebic visited India from 6-10 March, 2010. The delegation met Speaker of Lok Sabha and Minister of State for External Affairs. The discussions focussed on strengthening parliamentary cooperation and bilateral ties between the two countries.

The Indian Embassy in Zagreb organized a business seminar titled "How to Do Business with India?" in collaboration with the local Chambers of Commerce in March 2010. Another seminar on Investment Promotion was held in Zagreb on 2 November, 2010 in collaboration with the Croatian Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship and the Croatian Chamber of Economy. A Croatian NGO, in cooperation with the Mission, organized 'Days of Indian Culture' in Zagreb from 21-29 May, 2010.

Cyprus

Relations between India and Cyprus have been traditionally close and high level contacts were maintained

during the year. The Cypriot Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Mr. Antonis Paschalides, led a business delegation to India in October 2010. He addressed a Business Forum at Delhi on 26 October, 2010, jointly organized by FICCI, Cyprus India Business Association and Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency. He held discussions on bilateral cooperation with Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Anand Sharma, and Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Tourism Kumari Selja. Another business forum was organized in Mumbai on 28 October, 2010.

A five-member Carnatic Music Group led by Ms. Sukanya Ramgopal visited Cyprus from 6-11 June, 2010 under the India-Cyprus Cultural Exchange Programme. A four-member delegation from Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis visited Cyprus from 11-14 May, 2010 at the invitation of Peace Research Institute, Oslo which has a centre in Nicosia.

Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma is scheduled to pay a visit to Cyprus in February 2011.

Czech Republic

The year saw strengthening of bilateral relations between India and the Czech Republic with the Vice President's visit to the Czech Republic from 6-9 June, 2010. He called on the Czech President Mr. Vaclav Klaus and also met Prime Minister Mr. Jan Fischer and President of Senate, Mr. Premsyl Sobotka. Three important agreements were signed during the visit: (i) Social Security Agreement, (ii) Protocol on Amendments to BIPPA Agreement, and (iii) Agreement on Economic Cooperation. A bilateral Programme of Cooperation for years 2010-2012 between the Ministries of Culture of the two countries was initialled during the visit of Secretary (Culture) to Prague in September 2010.

Czech Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. Milan Hovorka, visited India in May 2010 to attend an International Telecommunications Union Meeting and again in December 2010, to co-chair the eight Joint Economic Commission. On both occasions Czech Deputy Minister had meetings with various Indian Ministers.

Denmark

The Danish Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Ms. Lene Espersen visited India from 14-15 December, 2010 to co-chair the first Meeting of the Indo-Danish Joint Commission. Besides meeting External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, she also had meetings with Commerce Minister, HRD Minister and the National Security Advisor. The Danish Foreign

Minister was accompanied by a business delegation to explore opportunities and network with the Indian business partners.

Danish Minister of Transport Mr. Hans Christian Schmidt led an eight-member delegation to India from 18-22 June, 2010 to discuss possibilities of mutually beneficial cooperation including establishing a transit hub for Air India at Copenhagen Airport. He met the Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Minister for Road Transport and Highways.

The first meeting of the India-Denmark Joint Working Group on Labour Mobility Partnership was held in Copenhagen from 8-9 June, 2010. Recognizing that the current job prospects in Denmark are limited due to the economic slowdown, the two sides agreed to continue preparatory work through various bilateral measures. The Chairman of the Central Water Commission led a delegation to Denmark from 11-12 November, 2010 to learn about Danish experiences in management of water resources in general and the use of decision support systems in particular.

A delegation of 14 Indian ICT member companies of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) visited Denmark from 3-4 May, 2010 to explore business prospects. A ten-member delegation of the Industrial Extension Bureau of the Gujarat Government visited Denmark on 3 September, 2010 for promotion of the fifth Vibrant Gujarat Summit which took place in January 2011 in Gujarat. A delegation from Nykredit Group, the largest mortgage lender and second largest financial institution in Denmark, visited India on a study tour from 10-12 October, 2010. The group represented various pension companies, insurance companies and banks and the objective of the visit was to understand the future potential of the Indian economy to consider Danish FII investments.

In April 2010 the Danish Government decided to extradite to India Mr. Niels Holck alias Kim Davy, a prime accused in the Purulia Arms drop case of 1995. However, the City Court ruled against the order in November 2010. The Danish Government has appealed this decision in the higher court.

Danish Minister for Economy and Business Affairs Mr. Brian Mikkelsen visited India on 6 January, 2011. His programme included a meeting with the Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma. A delegation consisting of 30-members from the Apparel Export Promotion Council is expected to visit Denmark from 10-13 February, 2011 to participate in the Copenhagen International Fashion Fair.

Estonia

Bilateral relations with Estonia continued to be cordial and friendly. The Speaker of the Estonian Parliament visited India in April 2010. Twenty five slots were offered to Estonia under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme and these were fully utilized.

Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur is scheduled to visit Estonia and the other Baltic Republics at the end February 2011.

Finland

Ministerial exchanges continued to take place between India and Finland throughout the year. Minister of Defense of Finland Mr. Jyri Hakamies accompanied by representatives of several Finnish companies visited India in April 2010. Minister Hakamies met with Shri A. K. Antony, Minister of Defense and discussed bilateral relations, regional security and cooperation of Defense industries. In addition, Minister Hakamies visited the Western Air Command, participated in India-Finland Defense Industry Roundtable and visited the Defense Research & Development Organization.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland Mr. Alexander Stubb visited India in May 2010. He held talks with Minister of External Affairs, Shri S. M. Krishna and also met National Security Advisor, Shri Shivshankar Menon.

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland Dr. Paavo Vayrynen accompanied by a 25-member business delegation visited India in October 2010 to take part in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference. Minister Vayrynen met Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, and Minister of Power.

Minister of Communications of Finland Ms. Suvi Linden visited India in December 2010. She was accompanied by a Finnish IT business delegation and participated in Telecom India 2010. While in New Delhi, Ms. Linden had discussions with Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister for HRD, currently holding the portfolio of the Minister of Communications and Information Technology. Ms. Linden also met Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Mr. Nandan Nilekani, Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority.

From the Indian side, Minister of Road Transport & Highways Shri Kamal Nath visited Helsinki in May 2010 and signed the bilateral agreement on Cooperation in Road Transportation sector.

Minister of Migration and European Affairs of Finland Ms. Astrid Thors visited India in the end of January 2010. Minister of Environment of Finland Ms. Paula Lehtomaki is scheduled to visit India in February 2011 to participate in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy is scheduled to visit Finland in March 2011.

Greece

The Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou visited India in February 2010 to attend Delhi Sustainable Development Summit and also held talks with Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson.

A 13-member Indian Goodwill Delegation of Parliamentarians led by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs & Water Resources visited Athens from 18-20 January, 2010.

The ninth Round of Foreign Office Consultations took place in New Delhi on 27 October, 2010 with the Greek delegation led by Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Yannis-Alexis Zepos and the Indian side by Secretary (West).

The speakers of Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Kerala visited Athens from 21-24 September, 2010 and paid a courtesy call on the President of the Hellenic Parliament, Philippos Petsalnikos.

A four-member delegation of Department of Science and Technology visited Athens for the first S&T Joint Committee Meeting from 3-5 November, 2010. During the visit the two sides signed an Executive Programme that would start cooperation in a number of areas of mutual interest.

A ten-member Indian Army Motorcycle Expedition visited Greece from 29 August-2 September 2010 to commemorate the Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in Europe during World War I and II. A ten-member folk dance troupe from Orissa sponsored by ICCR visited Greece to attend International Folk dance festival at Lefkada from 21-29 August, 2010. 50 Indian companies from handicrafts, gems and jewellery, garment sector participated in Thessaloniki International Fair from 11-19 September, 2010.

Hungary

The Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar, accompanied by a high-level Parliamentary Delegation, paid an official visit to Hungary in June 2010. During the visit, the Hungarian Parliament established an India-

Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group. The Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly Shri Pratap Singh Raoji Rane, also paid a two-day visit to Hungary in September 2010.

Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, visited Hungary in the first week of November 2010. Besides holding talks on bilateral and international issues with the newly-elected Hungarian leaders including Prime Minister Viktor Orban, she also inaugurated the Annexe of the Indian Embassy in Budapest. The Joint Working Group on Defense met in Budapest from 21-23 October, 2010.

More than 70 Indian companies participated in the Budapest International Trade Fair in September 2010. During this year, two business delegations from India, namely North Eastern Small Scale Industries Association (NESSIA) and Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry, visited Hungary while the Hungarian Chambers of Commerce and Industry led a business delegation to India.

Iceland

India's relations with Iceland continue to be close and friendly and trade and investment relations have broadened and diversified. Iceland companies in the field of geothermal energy, hydro power, IT and engineering have entered into joint ventures with Indian companies.

Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, paid an official visit to Iceland from 1-4 September, 2010 and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and ways to further strengthen ties with the Icelandic Foreign Minister as well as the President of Iceland. During the visit MoS formally inaugurated the Embassy of India in Reykjavik. She also visited Akureyri in the north of Iceland.

The Minister of New and Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah, paid an official visit to Iceland from 26-29 September, 2010 at the invitation of the Iceland Minister of Industry, Energy and Tourism. The focus of the visit was on cooperation in the exploration and harnessing of geothermal energy as well as in its downstream applications.

Ms. Katrín Júlíusdóttir, Minister of Industry, Energy and Tourism visited India from 27-31 October, 2010 at the invitation of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, to participate in DIREC-2010 as well as for bilateral interaction. During her visit the first meeting of the Indo-Iceland Joint Committee on cooperation in Renewable Energy took place in New Delhi on 30 October, 2010.

Latvia

Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur will be visiting Latvia in end February 2011.

Liechtenstein

The year saw the first-ever visit of Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein to India from 14-20 November, 2010 at the invitation of Vice President. He was accompanied by his wife Princess Sophie, Foreign Minister Ms. Aurelia Frick, an 11-member official delegation and a ten-member business delegation. Prince Alois had meetings with President of India, Vice-President, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Finance Minister, UPA Chairperson, Leader of Opposition and Governor of Maharashtra. The main objective of the visit was to deepen and broaden the existing bilateral relationship and strengthen cooperation particularly in the areas of economy and culture. Views on current challenges to the international commercial and trade policies were also exchanged. Prince Alois also visited the India International Trade Fair. He also visited Mumbai.

Lithuania

Relations between India and Lithuania were strengthened with the visit of a three-member Parliamentary Delegation from Lithuania, led by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament from 12-18 November, 2010. The delegation had meetings with Minister of State for External Affairs and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. Public Diplomacy Division hosted the delegation. Besides meeting with Parliamentarians and Ministers, the delegation visited National Small Industries Corporation, The Energy Resources Institute, Observer Research Foundation, India International Trade Fair and Agra. A business delegation accompanied the Lithuanian MPs to explore business opportunities and tie-ups with Indian companies.

Macedonia

The second Foreign Office Consultations between India and Macedonia took place in New Delhi on 15 September, 2010. Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation while the Macedonian delegation was led by Mr. Zoran Petrov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Both sides agreed that the level of bilateral trade was below its potential and agreed to explore measures to augment trade and economic relations. It was also agreed that the various agreements under negotiations would be finalized early.

Malta

A two-member Indian Shipping delegation led by Secretary (Shipping) visited Malta in July 2010 to explore the opportunities for bilateral cooperation. The delegation visited various shipping facilities including Malta Transport Centre.

An Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income was successfully negotiated in 2010 and is likely to be signed in the near future.

Moldova

The Government of India made a contribution of US\$ 1,00,000 (US dollars one lakh) to the Government of the Republic of Moldova for disaster mitigation work following serious floods in Moldova. The contribution was reported extensively in the Moldovan media.

Moldova expanded its utilization of ITEC slots covering fields of remote sensing, banking and audit and accounts. A Moldovan diplomat attended the 49th professional training course for foreign diplomats.

Montenegro

India's relations with Montenegro have traditionally been close and friendly since the days of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) of which it was a constituent Republic. The concurrent accreditation to Montenegro was shifted from Belgrade to Vienna and the Indian Ambassador to Austria presented his credentials in Podgorica on 6 October, 2010.

India has included Montenegro under its Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) and two Montenegrin officials availed these courses this year.

Norway

Extensive interactions between India and Norway continued during the year at both ministerial and official levels. A delegation led by Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Shri Prithviraj Chavan visited Norway from 5-9 June, 2010. Besides holding discussions with the Norwegian Minister of Research and Higher Education, he inspected the Indian Research Station Himadri in Svalbard and visited the Global Seed Vault and Svalbard University. He also participated in the International Polar Year Conference at Lillestrom on 8 June, 2010 and held delegation-level discussions with Dr. C. P. Joshi, Minister of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, led a delegation to Norway from

13-15 September, 2010. During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding on Local Governance was signed and the first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Local Governance was held.

The Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Trond Giske, accompanied by a large business delegation visited India from 27 October-1 November 2010. He held discussions with Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma as well as MoS (Defense). A bilateral agreement on Social Security was signed during the visit.

Mr. Erik Solheim, Norwegian Minister of Environment and Development Cooperation, visited Delhi from 19-21 November, 2010 to participate in the tenth 'Indira Gandhi Conference' on "An Indian Social Democracy: Integrating Markets, Democracy and Social Justice". During the visit, he met Shri Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, and National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon.

The second meeting of the Joint working Group on Culture was held in Oslo on 12 May, 2010 during which the Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2010-2015 was signed. A delegation led by Shri Vijai Sharma, Secretary (Environment & Forests) visited Norway to attend the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference on 27 May, 2010. A delegation led by Smt. Sujatha Rao, Secretary (Health) visited Norway from 2-6 June, 2010 to participate in the Joint Steering Committee Meeting of the Norway-India Partnership Initiative (NIPI).

Poland

Prime Minister Donald Tusk visited India from 6-8 September, 2010. He called on President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and held discussions with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The focus of his visit was to further strengthen Economic and Defense ties between India and Poland. A Cultural Exchange Programme for 2010-2013 was also signed during the visit.

Shri R. K. Singh, Secretary (Defense Production) visited Poland from 7 -9 April, 2010 to participate in the fifth Indo-Polish Joint Working Group on Military Cooperation. Land Forces Commander of Poland Maj. Gen. Zbigniew Glowienka visited India from 22-25 November, 2010 to discuss cooperation between the two Armed forces.

Minister of Culture and National Heritage of Poland Mr. Bogdan Zdrojewski visited India from

23-24 November, 2010 to participate in the "year of Chopin" in India.

Romania

Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, visited Romania from 9-10 April, 2010 and met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania Mr. Teodor Baconschi and the Speaker of the Romanian Parliament. Matters of mutual concern at the bilateral, multilateral and regional levels were discussed. MoS was accompanied by a delegation of Indian businessmen and she inaugurated a Romania-India Business Forum at the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

From 9-16 May, 2010, a National Defense College (NDC) delegation comprising of 15 officers visited Romania as part of the NDC's Foreign Countries Tour. The delegation visited the National Defense University of Romania.

An economic delegation led by Mr. Borbely Karoly, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economy visited India from 18-22 November, 2010 for talks with Commerce Secretary.

Serbia

The sixth Round of India-Serbia Foreign Office Consultations was held in New Delhi on 11 November, 2010 during which different aspects of bilateral relations were reviewed. Discussions also covered regional, multilateral and international issues of mutual interest.

A ten-member Odissi dance troupe led by well-known dancer Smt. Ranjana Gauhar, visited Serbia in September 2010 and performed in Belgrade and a number of other Serbian cities.

Slovakia

A 32-member business delegation from the Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Slovakia in April 2010. During their visit, they interacted with senior officials of the Slovak Chamber of Commerce as well as the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency.

Slovenia

For the second year in a row Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur participated in the Bled Strategic Forum from 30-31 August, 2010, where she made a presentation on Global Challenges of the Next Decade. She also called on the Slovenian President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister during her visit.

The sixth Round of Foreign Office consultations were held in New Delhi on 8 July, 2010. The Slovenian delegation was led by Ms. Dragoljuba Bencina, State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The talks focussed on strengthening of bilateral relations particularly the economic relations, besides regional issues. The third meeting of the India-Slovenia Joint Working Group on Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held on 2 November, 2010 and so far a total of 12 joint projects have been approved for implementation.

Embassy of India in Ljubljana organized a conference on India-Slovenia Business Partnership on 14 April, 2010 during which a brochure on India-Slovenia Business Relations was also released. 11 Indian companies participated in the Annual International Trade Fair in Celje from 6-13 September, 2010.

During the visit of State Secretary of the Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Dr. Jozsef Gyorkos, an MoU was signed between International Centre for Promotion of Enterprises (ICPE) and Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India in New Delhi on 7 July, 2010 for cooperation in the field of research, consultancy and, training to Indian civil servants at ICPE. 50th Session of the Governing Council of ICPE was held on 9 November, 2010. Shri Bhaskar Chatterjee, Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India and the current Chairman of the Governing Council of ICPE, visited Ljubljana from 7-9 November, 2010 to participate in the event.

A Statue of Mahatma Gandhi was installed in the municipality of Slovenj Gradec, a UN recognized Peace Messenger City, and Slovenian translation of Gandhi's autobiography was released on the occasion.

Sweden

The momentum created by the visit of Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt to India in November 2009 was maintained during 2010 with an active exchange of bilateral visits. Minister of State for Water Resources Vincent Pala visited Sweden along with a large delegation to participate in the "World Water Week" from 5-11 September, 2010. The Swedish Minister of Enterprise and Energy Ms. Maud Olofsson visited India from 27-31 October, 2010 to participate in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference. A group of four Indian Members of Parliament visited Stockholm in May 2010 at the invitation of the Swedish Parliament

There were many exchanges at the official level as well a delegation from Department of Science and Technology

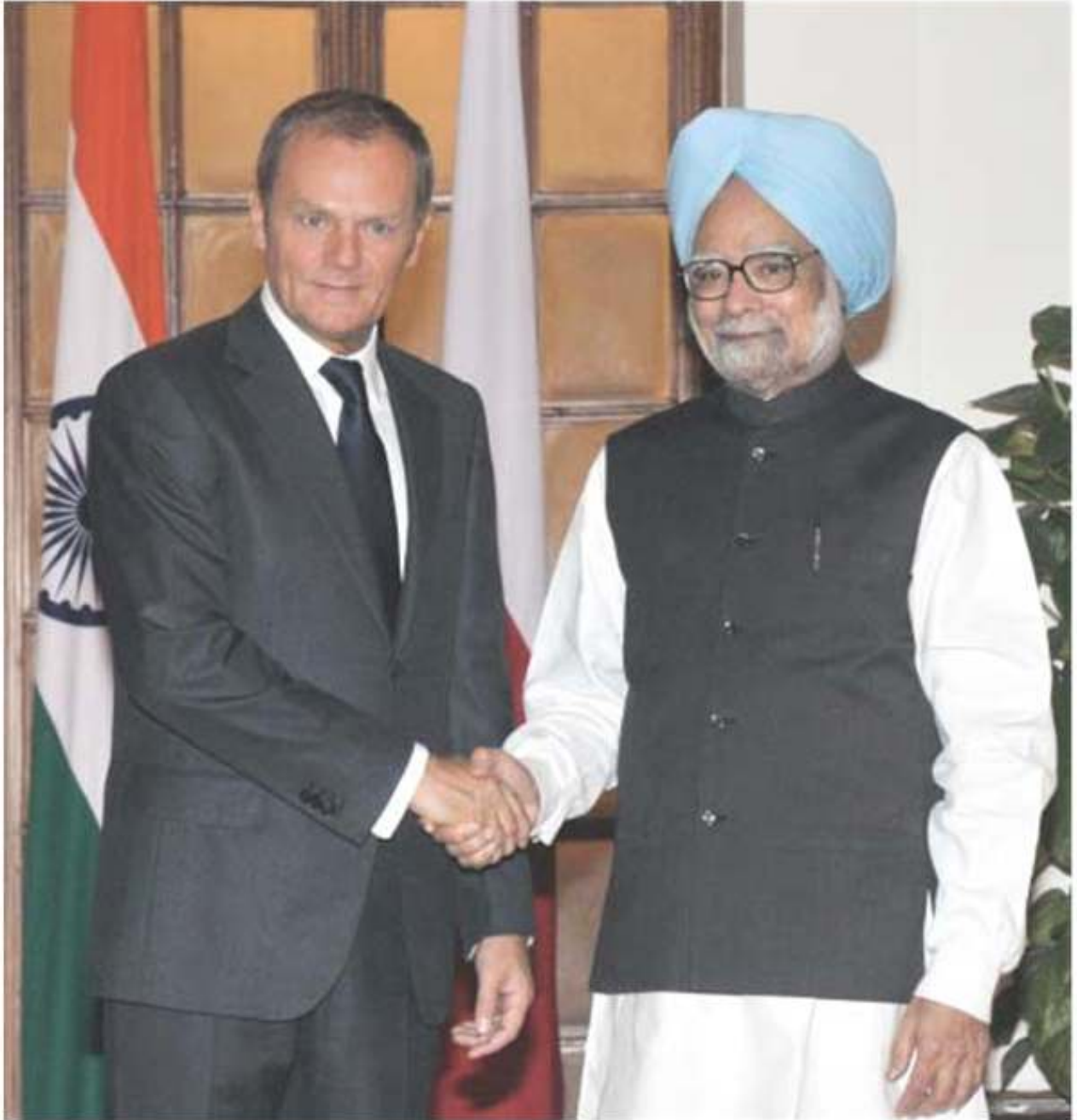
of India visited Stockholm in September 2010 and signed a Protocol of Cooperation for the year 2010-2012. Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was awarded the prestigious "Sustainability Research Award 2010" by the globe Forum on 29 April, 2010 in Stockholm. The State Secretary of the Swedish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health Ms. Karin Johansson visited New Delhi from 29-30 November, 2010 and called on both the Minister and the MoS for Health & Family Welfare.

The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Environment was held in New Delhi on 1 December, 2010. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Defense Cooperation was also held in New Delhi from 14-16 December, 2010. An MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy was signed in New Delhi on 19 April, 2010. Another MoU between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi and Lund University, Sweden to establish a Chair on Indian Studies was signed in New Delhi on 22 July, 2010. In Sweden, a three-month long cultural festival featuring films, seminars, conferences and exhibitions related to Indian art, music, dance and literature was inaugurated in Stockholm, on 1 October, 2010.

A delegation from National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) visited Stockholm and Gothenburg in May 2010 to explore business opportunities. A business delegation from Gujarat State Government visited Stockholm from 2-8 September, 2010 to seek participation of Swedish companies in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investor's Meet in January 2011.

Switzerland

The highlight of the year was the official visit to India by the Swiss Foreign Minister, Micheliene Calmy-Rey on 30 August, 2010. Her discussions with External Affairs Minister focussed on bilateral issues including in the areas of finance, environment, migration, economic policy and science, as well as on regional and international themes. She also met the Finance Minister and the Minister for Environment & Forests. The Protocol amending the Double Taxation Agreement (DTA) in the Area of Taxes on Income was signed during her visit. The revised DTA contains provisions on the exchange of information in accordance with the OECD standard. The Swiss Foreign Minister also announced the opening of the Swiss Consulate-General in Bangalore, which will focus on promotion of cooperation in the fields of higher education, research, technology, innovation and culture.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the Prime Minister of Poland, Mr. Donald Tusk, in New Delhi on 7 September, 2010.

An 18-member Indian Parliamentary goodwill delegation led by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal visited Switzerland from 1-4 April, 2010. The delegation included Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Planning Shri V. Narayanasamy, 12 Members of Parliament and four officials from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker, Lok Sabha, led an Indian delegation to Switzerland from 15-21 July, 2010 to attend the IPU Sixth Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament in Berne from 16-17 July, 2010 and the IPU Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva from 19-21 July, 2010. A Parliamentary delegation accompanied the Speaker during the Geneva Conference.

The 12th round of Indo-Swiss Joint Economic Commission (JEC) was held in Zurich on 1 October, 2010. Wide range of subjects of bilateral economic and commercial interests including Vocational Education and Training (VET), cooperation in intellectual property rights, matters concerning the field of migration and visas, negotiations on the Indo-EFTA Trade and Investment Agreement, cooperation in science and technology, WTO Doha Round and issues related to market access were discussed. The fifth and sixth rounds of negotiations for the India-EFTA Trade and Investment Agreement were held during the year - in New Delhi from 17-19 August and in Geneva from 11-12 November, 2010 respectively.

Turkey

Bilateral relations between India and Turkey progressed further and several high level political visits were exchanged during the year. Turkish Agriculture Minister Mehdi Eker visited Delhi from 17-19 June, 2010 and met Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar. During the visit, a meeting of the Steering Committee was held to finalize the Annual Plan of Agriculture between India and Turkey for the years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. The second meeting of the Turkey-India Joint Study Group for exploring the possibilities of establishing a Free Trade Agreement was held in Ankara on 13-14 May, 2010. A seven-member investment promotion delegation led by Shri Gulihatti D Shekhar, Minister of Textiles, Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of Karnataka visited Istanbul from 17-20 May, 2010 to host a Road-show on Textile Industry in Karnataka. An Indian delegation participated in the 4th Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan held in Istanbul from 2-4 November, 2010.

To take advantage of the participation of a large Indian delegation in the 79th Izmir International Trade Fair in

August-September 2010, an India-Turkey-Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Business Forum was organized from 24-25 August, 2010 to provide a platform for Indian and Turkish businessmen to pool their expertise and resources to have joint projects in CIS countries. With 15 major Indian companies, the Indian pavilion was the largest at the Izmir Fair.

An ICCR-sponsored cultural troupe led by Shri Hari Mohan Srivastava gave performances in Erciyes University, Kayseri in central Turkey from 18-20 May, 2010. Another ICCR sponsored 14-member Bhangra folk dance troupe performed in Turkey in September 2010. An exhibition of modern art by SAARC artists entitled 'Jaisalmer Yellow' was organized by the Indian Embassy in Ankara in September- October 2010. An Indian Army Motor Cycle expedition visited Turkey in August 2010 and paid tribute at the World War-I memorial at Gallipoli. A 22-member delegation of Indian armed forces cadets visited Ankara from 17-24 October, 2010 to participate in CISM World Military Games.

Turkish warship TCG Gelibolu visited Mumbai from 8-11 April, 2010 for a port call. During the transit halt of Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Nirmal Verma in Istanbul, the Commander of Turkish Navy's Training and Education Command met him and proposed port calls by four Turkish Naval ships to India in June 2011.

Secretary General of the National Security Council of Turkey visited India on 21 January, 2011 for talks with NSA. Foreign Office Consultations are likely to be held in Ankara in the first half of February 2010.

West Europe

Belgium

Prime Minister of India visited Belgium from 9-11 December, 2010 during which he had a bilateral meeting with the Belgium Prime Minister Yves Leteme. This was the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister since the visit of the then Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai in 1978. During the visit, the entire gamut of India-Belgium bilateral relations was reviewed, in particular the increasing economic engagement between the two countries. An India-Belgium business meeting, "Brilliant India", with participation of leading businesspersons from India and Belgium was also organized during the visit.

Earlier during the year, Vice President of India visited Brussels as the head of the Indian delegation to the eighth



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the President of the European Council, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy and the President of European Commission, Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, during the India-EU Summit, in Brussels, Belgium on 10 December, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the President of France, Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, in New Delhi on 6 December, 2010.

Summit of Asia-Europe Meeting from 3-5 October, 2010.

During the visit, he briefly interacted with King Albert- II, King of the Belgians at the banquet hosted by the King for visiting Heads of Delegations to ASEM-eight Summit. He also had a separate bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Yves Leteeme.

On the Belgium side, Crown Prince Philippe visited India from 20-27 March, 2010 leading a 350-plus member economic mission including representatives of 160 Belgian companies spanning various sectors of Belgian economy. The visit was focussed at further intensifying bilateral economic and commercial ties between the two countries. During the visit, he met with the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, Minister of Shipping, Minister of New & Renewable Energy and the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Further, about 30 business to business MoUs/Agreements were signed to enhance economic relations between India and Belgium.

Bilateral trade between the two countries continued to be dominated by the diamond sector even as efforts are being made to diversify the trade basket on both sides. Bilateral trade turnover in 2009 was €7.1 billion declining from the 2008 turnover €8.8 billion. However, data available for the period January-August 2010 indicate a strong recovery increasing by 60.1% and amounting to € 5.57 billion as against €3.479 billion during the same period in 2009.

In the sphere of cultural cooperation, India participated in the exhibition "A Passage to Asia: 25 Centuries of Exchange between Asia and Europe" at BOZAR in Brussels from 25 June -10 October 2010, organized on the occasion of the Asia-Europe Meeting Eighth Summit. A dance performance "Ananya" by a troupe of Madhavi Mudgal was also organized on 11 September 2010 at the Centre of Fine Arts at the BOZAR exhibition centre in Brussels on the same occasion.

France

Mr. Nicolas Sarközy, President of France paid a working visit to India from 4-7 December, 2010. The French President was accompanied by his spouse Ms. Carla Sarközy and a high-level delegation including key Ministers of his Cabinet, senior officials, representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, businessmen and media. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Sarközy discussed wide-ranging issues of bilateral, regional and global concern. During the visit both sides signed Agreements in important areas namely in areas of peaceful uses of

nuclear energy, cooperation in the field of Space and Film Co-Production. On this occasion India and France issued a Joint Statement ' India-France: Partnership for the Future' which lays down the roadmap for future cooperation in strategic areas of Defense , Civil Nuclear energy and Space, economic and trade exchanges, agriculture and food processing, sustainable development, university and scientific cooperation and cultural exchanges. President Sarközy reiterated France's support for India's permanent membership of UNSC. The visit of President Sarközy has ensured the continuity of our Strategic Partnership with this important P-5 country.

Prime Minister and President Sarközy had also met earlier during the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in April 2010 and during the G-20 Summit in Toronto in June 2010.

The Indo-French Strategic Dialogue between NSA and the French President's Diplomatic Advisor took place in New Delhi on 11 October, 2010. The Foreign Office Consultations between Foreign Secretary and her counterpart, Mr. Pierre Sellal, Secretary General in the French MFA was held in New Delhi, on 4 May, 2010. The High Committee on Defense Cooperation (HCDC) between Defense Secretary and his French counterpart took place in Paris from 18-19 November, 2010. General Elrick Irastorza, French Chief of Army Staff visited India from 30 January-2 February 2011.

A 13-member parliamentary delegation led by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs including the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs visited France from 28-31 March, 2010. Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Minister for Textiles visited Paris from 1-2 February, 2010 for a symposium and meetings to promote Indian textiles and garments. Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Minister for Food Processing visited Paris and Quimper from 2-5 February, 2010 for inviting French investments and promote joint-ventures in this sector in India. He also held meetings with the French Agriculture Minister Mr. Bruno Le Maire, and the French Minister of State for Foreign Trade Mme. Anne-Marie Idrac. Shri Murlu Deora, Minister for Petroleum visited Paris from 10-11 May, 2010 and had discussions on Energy related issues. Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce & Industry was in Paris from 27-28 May, 2010 for the OECD MCM and WTO talks. Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Minister for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, visited from 15-17 June, 2010 to hold discussions with Alstom. Dr. Iqbal Singh, L.G. of Puduchery, visited France from 16-21 June, 2010 to sign MoU on Cooperation with the city of La Rochelle. Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of

Commerce and Industry, visited Paris from 24-25 June, 2010 to attend Indo-French CEO's Forum and for the Joint Committee Meeting. Shri Shrikant Jena, Minister of State for Chemicals, visited France from 28-30 June, 2010 for enhancing bilateral cooperation. Shri Sam Pitroda, Advisor to Prime Minister on Innovations, visited France from 2-6 July, 2010, to participate in the economic forum 'rencontres economiques des Aix-en-Provence.' The 24th round of the Indo-French Forum on Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) was held on 31 January, 2011 in Paris.

From the French side, Mr. Jean-Louis Borloo, the Minister for Ecology, Energy and Sustainable Development visited India from 5-7 February, 2010 to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. Agriculture Minister Bruno Le Maire paid a bilateral visit to India from 5-7 October, 2010.

France is ranked fifth in the list of India's trading partners among EU countries (after the Germany, U.K., Belgium, and The Netherlands). Indo-French trade declined by 21% in 2009 (from €6.78 billion in 2008 to €5.36 billion in 2009). In the first ten months of 2010, trade had gone up by about 31% to €5.80 billion as against €4.42 billion in the corresponding period of 2009. During the same period, the exports from India had gone up by 46%, from €2.39 billion to €3.5 billion, and the imports from France had gone up by 13%, from €2.04 billion to €2.30 billion. France is the ninth largest foreign investor in India with cumulative investment of approximately €2.34 billion. (Investment was of the order of €1.4 billion or US\$ 1.78 billion during the period April 2000-August 2010 which represents 2% of total inflows).

The Indo-French Joint Committee on Economic & Technical Cooperation was held in Paris from 24-25 June, 2010. The Indo-French CEO's Forum also held its second meeting in Paris from 24-25 June, 2010.

In pursuit of the objective of enhancing bilateral economic cooperation the next round of the JWG on Roads was held in Paris from 5-6 January, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Kamal Nath, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways.

Under the French Presidency of the G-20, the Working Group meeting was held on 13 January, 2011 which was followed by the meeting of the G-20 Finance Deputies on 15-16 January, 2011, both in Paris. The meeting of the G-20 Agricultural Deputies was held in the French Embassy in Berlin on 21 January, 2011. The meeting of the G-20 Sherpas was held from 25-26 January, 2011 in Paris and the meeting of the G-20 Finance Ministers is

likely to be held from 17-19 February, 2011, also in Paris.

Indian cultural festival "Namaste France" was designed and launched on 14 April, 2010 with a performance by Mallika Sarabhai and a team of artists from the Darpana Academy, and an exhibition of indigenous Indian art at the Quai Branly Museum, in Paris. 'Namaste France' is a comprehensive presentation of Indian culture including art, music, dance, fashion, tourism, films, and literature as also business and education in both its traditional and contemporary forms.

Germany

Germany is the most populated country in Europe and the largest contributor to the EU budget. It is India's largest trading partner in Europe and fifth largest world-wide. India and Germany have built up strong relations based on overlap of ideas on various international issues, mutual trust and cooperation. In 2010, Germany celebrated 20 years of German unification. India and Germany will mark 60 years of diplomatic relations in 2011. Preparations are afoot to mark this occasion with a "Year of Germany" in India and a "Year of India" in Germany in 2012.

Our bilateral relations continued to grow at a steady pace with some high level visits from both sides. Some of the important visits in the year included state visit of the German Federal President Dr. Horst Koehler to India in February 2010. President Koehler met President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh, while External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna called on him. President Koehler also met Governor of Reserve Bank of India and members of the business community in Mumbai and visited a watershed development project in Darewadi, Maharashtra. The Presidential visit was followed by the visit of German Economics Minister Rainer Bruederle in September 2010 to co-chair the 17th Session of the Indo-German Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation, and the visit of Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Dr. Guido Westerwelle from 17-19 October, 2010. Dr. Westerwelle met Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh, External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma. The two sides also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on celebrating a Year of Germany in India in 2011-2012 and a Year of India in Germany in 2012-2013 in the presence of the Foreign Ministers. The celebrations during these two years will mark 60 years of Indo-German diplomatic partnership.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Berlin on 11 December, 2010 at the invitation of Chancellor Merkel. He called on Mr. Christian Wulff, President of the Federal Republic of Germany and had a bilateral meeting with Chancellor Merkel in her office. The two leaders discussed various bilateral and global issues including possibility of cooperation in the civil nuclear sector, defense cooperation and reiterated the decision to increase the bilateral trade to € 20 billion by 2012. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh extended an invitation to Chancellor Merkel to visit India in 2011. PM also emphasized the need for relaxation of German export control regulations in order to reach full potential of our bilateral economic and trade relations. The two leaders also decided to coordinate their strategies for UN reforms as non-permanent members on the UNSC for the coming two years, including efforts to secure permanent seats in the extended Security Council.

Other important visits from Germany to India included the visit of Ms. Christa Thoben, Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy of the German State of North Rhine Westphalia from 8-12 March, 2010 to launch the State's marketing campaign in India. During her visit, she met with Union Minister of Power Shri Sushilkumar Shinde and Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah. State Secretary of Federal Government of Germany Gurt Mueller visited India on 1 September, 2010 to attend a meeting of Joint Working Group of Agriculture at New Delhi and visit of German Agriculture Minister Ilse Aigner to India in November 2010. Ms. Aigner met Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, Minister for Food Processing Industries and Prof. K. V. Thomas, Minister of State for Agriculture Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution. Other important German dignitaries who visited India include Chief Minister of the German State of Lower Saxony David McAllister, who visited the Indian cities of Chennai, New Delhi and Pune from 27 September-3 October 2010, accompanied by a 50-member delegation representing Lower Saxony's business and industry, science and media. He met Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma.

The visit of Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) Shri Anand Sharma to Dusseldorf and Berlin took place from 6-8 October, 2010. CIM flagged off the Mission at Dusseldorf and met Mr. Harry Voigtsberger, State Minister for Economic Affairs, Energy, Building, Housing and Transport of North Rhine Westphalia. In Berlin, CIM addressed a FICCI-Fraunhofer Roundtable "Innovation as a driver of Indo-German Economic Relations" at the

Fraunhofer Forum. He also visited a Vocational Training Centre run by Asea Brown Boverly (ABB) Company. During this visit, three MoUs were signed between (i) Fraunhofer Society, Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI) Bengaluru and CII, (ii) FICCI and iMOVE and (iii) a cooperation agreement between FICCI and BIBB on Vocational Education Training. Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Textiles visited Frankfurt from 3-5 February, 2010 for mobilizing FDI in Indian textile and apparel industry. Shri Praful Patel, Minister of State for Civil Aviation visited Berlin to attend the Berlin Air Show and the IATA AGM Meeting. Shri Srikant Jena, Minister of State, Chemicals and Fertilizers led an official delegation to Germany from 30 June-2 July 2010. Shri Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Minister of Ports, Government of Maharashtra visited Hamburg, Germany on 2 July, 2010 leading a delegation to study port operations. Admiral Nimal Verma, Chief of Naval Staff visited Germany from 22-26 August, 2010. In Berlin, he met the Defense Secretary, Foreign & Security Policy Advisor to the German Chancellor and Vice-Admiral Axel Schimpf, Chief of German Naval Staff. Admiral Verma also visited Kiel, a naval base in Eckernforde and Hamburg.

Other important visits from India included the visit of Shri Ashok Chawla, Finance Secretary and Shri Alok Sheel, Joint Secretary (MR) who visited Berlin to attend the G-20 Deputies Meeting on 19 May, 2010 and the High Level International Conference on Financial Market Regulation on 20 May, 2010. Shri B. K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission, visited Germany to attend the International Transport Forum 2010 held at Leipzig from 26-28 May, 2010. He met Federal Minister for Building, Transport & Urban Development Mr. Peter Ramsauer and Mr. Jack Short, Secretary, ITF. Shri R. Bandyopadhyay, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs led a delegation to Germany from 28-31 May, 2010 to study developments in Germany's corporate laws and regulations. Shri Ajoy Acharya, Special Secretary (DP) visited Berlin, Germany from 8-12 June, 2010 for ILA 2010. Dr. Yoganand Shastri, Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly visited Berlin from 21-23 September, 2010 as a part of the study tour under the Commonwealth Parliamentary Summit in Nairobi.

A Delegation of Indian Railway officers led by Chairman Railway Board (Principal Secretary to Government of India) and Member Mechanical Railway Board (Secretary to Government of India) visited Berlin in September 2010 to attend European Asian Rail Summit organized by Deutsche Bahn. While at Berlin, the delegation also took



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the German Chancellor, Ms. Angela Merkel, on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit, in Washington on 13 April, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of United Kingdom, Mr. David Cameron at the Joint Press Conference, in New Delhi on 29 July, 2010.

the opportunity to visit INNOTRANS, one of the most important Railway Industrial Fairs. Shri B. S. Meena, Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry, Government of India visited Germany from 23-25 September, 2010 to participate in the "India Day 2010" celebrations at Hanover on 24 September during the 63rd IAA Commercial Vehicles Show.

The 19th meeting of the Indo-German Consultative Group was held in Berlin from 22-24 October, 2010.

The Heads of Missions Conference for Heads of Missions from Western and Central Europe (except France and U.K.) was held in Berlin from 22-23 January, 2011.

Ireland

The friendly and cordial relations between India-Ireland continued to develop in various spheres during the period. As India remained a focus country in Ireland's Asia Strategy, there was a targeted approach to upgrade the bilateral relations into a more meaningful and mutually beneficial engagement. The year witnessed a discernible growth in trade and investment. The growing number of Indian professionals in Ireland in IT, engineering and healthcare sectors, and increasing exchanges in academic, scientific and research fields have contributed to enhanced bilateral interaction between the two countries.

Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Minority Affairs Shri Salman Khursid visited Ireland from 22-26 June, 2010, representing the Government of India at a ceremony in Ahakista in Western Ireland, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Air India 'Kanishka' disaster. During the visit, he met Irish Foreign Minister Mr. Michael Martin and discussed initiatives to intensify bilateral relations. He also met Irish Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Mr. Batt O'Keeffe and Irish businessmen in Cork and Dublin and exchanged views on promoting bilateral trade and investment.

In March 2010, Irish Minister of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources Mr. Eamon Ryan visited Mumbai and Delhi for St. Patrick's Day celebrations. During the visit, Minister Ryan interacted with a wide cross-section of leaders of Indian business and industry in both cities. In Delhi, he met Minister of Science & Technology (MST) and had a substantive discussion on the possibility of developing a strong India-Ireland S & T bridge. In the Minister's discussion in India, finance, internet, clean energy, farming sectors were identified as promising areas for bilateral cooperation.

In spite of the economic downturn in Ireland, the year witnessed a steady growth in bilateral trade, the total

turnover in goods and services crossing € 1 billion mark. The trade in services grew faster than trade in goods by 20%. In May 2010, Hindustan Zinc of the Vedanta Group bought Ireland's biggest zinc mine from the Anglo-American group for a reported US\$ 308 million.

Italy

The sixth round of India-Italy Foreign Office Consultations was held on 26 March, 2010 in New Delhi. During the consultations, the two sides undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral relations and exchanged views on multilateral issues.

Notable visits during the year included those of Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Road Transport & Highways (14-15 December, 2010) to participate in a Round Table Conference on 'Infrastructure Opportunities in India' at Rome; Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister for Tourism (14-18 October, 2010) to attend the fifth edition of Italian National Conference on Tourism at Lake Como; Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment & Forests (29 June-1 July 2010) to participate in the meeting of the Major Economies Forum at Rome; and Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission (30 June-1 July 2010) to attend the 2010 IIF Ditchley Conference at Stresa. Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce & Industry visited Rome and Milan from 30 January-2 February 2011 along with a high-level FICCI delegation.

Business delegations, at the State level, were led by Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (17-23 June, 2010); Shri Bhaskar Jadhav, Minister of Ports, Government of Maharashtra (4-6 June, 2010); Shri Narendra Bragta, Minister of Horticulture, Government of Himachal Pradesh (12-16 July, 2010).

On 21 July, 2010 Shri H. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of State for Defense met with Mr. Guido Crosetto, Under Secretary of Defense in Farnborough, on the sidelines of an Air Show in U.K.

Ambassador (Retd.) Satinder K. Lambah, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister on Afghanistan (SEPM) visited Rome (18 October, 2010) to participate in the review meeting of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan.

Italian vice Minister for Environment, Mr. Roberto Menia, visited India from 27-29 October, 2010 to participate in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) 2010 held in New Delhi.

Luxembourg

During the year, a high level Parliamentary Delegation led by Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar visited Luxembourg from 10-13 June, 2010. During the visit, the Speaker met with Henry, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister, several Ministers and officials, apart from holding discussions with her Luxembourg counterpart, Mr. Laurent Mosar, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg. The Speaker also invited her counterpart to visit India at a mutually convenient time to continue interactive relations between the Parliaments of the two countries. In addition, the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade of Luxembourg Mr. Jeannot Krecke, visited India from 9-14 January, 2010 leading an economic delegation.

Bilateral trade turnover increased to €44 million in 2009 as against €37 million in 2008. During the year, the Agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital, that was signed in New Delhi on 2 June, 2008 entered into force on 1 January, 2010 for Luxembourg and on 1 April 2010 for India.

Portugal

The third India-Portugal Joint Committee Meeting on Science and Technology (JSTC) was held in Lisbon from 1-3 July, 2010. A Programme of Cooperation (POC) for 2010-2012 was finalized and signed during the meeting.

Portugal supported India's candidature for a non-permanent UNSC seat for 2011-2012 and also at the other international fora such as the ACABQ and the FATF.

Visitors from India to Portugal during the year 2010 included Shri Digambar Kamat, Chief Minister of Goa from 4-6 October, 2010, Shri Aleixo Sequeira, Minister of Power and Environment, Government of Goa from 17-18 June, 2010 and Lok Sabha Member, Shri M. B. Rajesh from 20-24 May, 2010.

From Portugal, Prof. Carlos Zorinho, Secretary of State (MoS) for Energy and Innovation participated in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) from 27-29 October, 2010.

Ministry of Road Transport/Highways and NHAI participated in the 16th International Road Federation (IRF) - World Meeting in Lisbon from 25-28 May, 2010 along with Indian companies from the infrastructure sector. A 14-member business delegation of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Assam went on a business-cum- study visit to Portugal.

Interaction in the cultural field included the visit of Dr. Sonal Mansingh and her troupe who performed in Lisbon and Madeira and the Indian Football team, who played in Portugal for two months in July and August 2010.

San Marino

Ms. Antonella Mularoni, Secretary of State for Foreign and Political Affairs, Telecommunications and Transport, San Marino visited India from 11-12 November, 2010. During the visit, the San Marino Secretary of State had bilateral discussions with Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs and Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce & Industries.

Spain

Political relations between India and Spain have been cordial and both countries are looking towards each other to enhance and reinforce bilateral relations through bilateral visits and other forms of interaction. Last two years have witnessed a number of high-level contacts. The first-ever State Visit by the President of India to Spain took place in April 2009, which was followed by the official visit of the Crown Prince of Spain to India in November 2009 and this set the pace for bilateral interactions this year.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister for New and Renewable Energy (NRE) visited Spain from 18-22 May, 2010. A 16-member business delegation in the renewable energy sector, coordinated by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) accompanied the Minister. Minister NRE had a bilateral meeting with his counterpart, the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Trade of Spain Mr. Miguel Sebastian. Minister NRE visited Genera, the Renewable Energy Trade Fair and paid visits to solar power plants. Minister NRE also had interactions with the Spanish industry in the renewable energy sector. FICCI signed an MoU with a Spanish Solar Energy Association Solartys.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry (CIM), visited Spain from 20-21 June, 2010. CIM had bilateral meetings with his counterpart Minister for Industry, Tourism and Trade of Spain Mr. Sebastian and with the Second Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Economy and Finance, Spain, Ms. Elena Salgado. CIM addressed a group of CEOs of major Spanish companies.

The ninth Session of the India-Spain Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JEC) took place in Madrid during the visit of CIM on 21 June, 2010. The Indian delegation was headed by Shri Anand Sharma, Minister

for Commerce and Industry and the Spanish delegation was headed by Mr. Miguel Sebastian, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Trade. For the first time the JEC took place at the Ministerial level. The sides had detailed discussions on sectors of interest to both the sides and ways to enhance bilateral investment and trade.

CIM also addressed a special session of the Global India Business Meeting 2010 organized by Horasis and co-hosted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), with a number of Spanish institutions. CIM along with Spain's Minister for Industry, Tourism and Trade opened the meeting. The Prince of Asturias, the Spanish Crown Prince, delivered a special address to the Meeting. More than 30 high-level representatives from major Indian industries participated in the Meeting. The Meeting discussed strategies to enhance economic and commercial relations between the two countries and to overcome the global economic crisis.

A four-member delegation comprising of the Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Shri Tanka Bahadur Rai, Shri. K. Radhakrishnan and Shri. R. Avudaiappan, respectively and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Assam, Ms. Pranatee Phukan visited Spain from 19-21 September, 2010. The Speakers of the Kerala and Tamil Nadu Legislative Assemblies visited Toledo on 21 September, 2010 and met the President of the Cortes (Parliament) of Castilla-La Mancha.

The Secretary of State for Energy of Spain Mr. Pedro Marin visited India on 25 October, 2010. He called on the Minister for New and Renewable Energy and met with Secretary NRE. Mr. Marin also participated in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) 2010 along with more than 20 Spanish companies.

Bilateral trade between India and Spain in the period from April to September 2010 was US\$ 1.78 billion. The balance of trade was in favour of India. The impact of the global financial crisis seems to have started diminishing as bilateral trade showed growth of 36 per cent over the same period for last year.

In pursuance of the bilateral MoU on Science and Technology signed in January 2009, there is an agreed Programme of Cooperation for the period 2009-2010. In this Programme between Department of Science & Technology, India and the Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain, the sides identified six areas for cooperation. The work on 25 Joint Research Projects under these six areas is underway. Similarly, joint research

projects are being carried out under the framework of cooperation between Centre for Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI), Spain and Technology Development Board (TDB), India.

Cultural exchange is an important component of India-Spain bilateral relations. Cultural performances, film shows, exhibitions etc. are organized to strengthen mutual understanding of the societies. Academic exercises like seminars and colloquiums facilitating study of each other's history and culture and the provision of scholarships play an important role in this matrix. Among other events, a Mini Festival of Indian Classical Music and Dance was held in Madrid's National Auditorium of Music from 16-21 June, 2010, with additional performances in the city of Valladolid. The Queen of Spain attended the opening performance. There were performances by vocalist Shri P Unnikrishnan, Pt. Dhananjay Kaul, Shri T. A. S. Mani and Dr. Sonal Mansingh.

The fifth Session of the India-Spain Tribune was held in Madrid from 14-15 October, 2010. The Indian delegation was led by Ambassador Sudhir Devare, Director General, and Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and the Spanish Delegation was led by Ms. Elena Pisonero, former Ambassador to OECD and now partner with KPMG Spain. Dr. Cristina Garmendia, Minister for Science and Innovation of Spain inaugurated the session. The Tribune deliberations took place on the following four themes: (i) Energy Strategies for the 21st centuries; (ii) Knowledge Society; (iii) Major Global Economic and Geo-political Challenges; and (iv) Cooperation in the Security Matters and Terrorism.

The Netherlands

There has been a fresh impetus to the bilateral relationship following the establishment of a new Government in the Netherlands in October 2010.

Building on the success of the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Divas' - Europe held in The Hague on 19 September, 2009, interaction with the Indian diasporas remained a priority.

In a significant development that demonstrates Netherlands' desire to engage with India and develop greater understanding and knowledge about contemporary India, an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 8 December, 2010 between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Leiden University, Netherlands for the establishment of the first ever Long-Term Chair for the study of Contemporary India at Leiden University. The Chair will be fully functional by September 2011.

Separately, a year-long calendar of activities has been drawn upto commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

Several visits of trade and investment delegations and organization of business events demonstrate the importance and strength of the business & commercial relationship.

The Minister of State for Communication & Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot led a delegation to Netherlands from 26-27 May, 2010 to participate in the World Congress on Information Technology-2010 (WCIT-2010) held in Amsterdam. The Minister met prominent Dutch dignitaries, representatives of local Chambers of Commerce & Industry, CEOs of Dutch companies as well as local Heads of Indian IT companies based in the Netherlands. Later, a nine-member delegation sponsored by the National Association of Software & Service Companies (NASSCOM) visited Netherlands from 9-10 December, 2010 to explore opportunities for setting up operations in Netherlands. The delegation had interactive networking sessions with executives of Indian & Dutch ICT companies based in the Amsterdam area, besides negotiating future ventures and tie-ups with Dutch IT companies.

The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, accompanied by Commerce and Industries Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya and an official and business delegation, visited Netherlands from 15-17 June, 2010. Besides meeting dignitaries, he addressed an Investors Meet and Seminar at Amsterdam.

The Chief Minister of Meghalaya Shri Mukul Sangma, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Shri Rowell Lyngdoh and three Members of the Legislative Assembly visited the Netherlands from 27-30 June, 2010 to promote cooperation in the area of agriculture and horticulture.

Several Indian companies participated in "Sail Amsterdam 2010", the largest maritime event in the Netherlands, held from 19-23 August, 2010 and attended by approximately 1.5 million people.

Netherlands India Chambers of Commerce and Trade (NICCT), KPMG and ING jointly organized Netherlands India Business Meet-2010 (NIBM-2010) on the theme "Critical Factors for Success of Indo-Dutch Business Relations" on 16 September, 2010. The event was attended by several Dutch and Indian companies from various sectors.

India Table in De Industriele Groote Club (IGC) organized an important seminar on "Laboratory to the World: India's growing strength in research and development" on 12 October, 2010 which was widely attended by the corporate community in the Netherlands.

Shri B. S. Meena, Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry led a delegation from 24-29 October, 2010 to explore possibilities of further cooperation in the areas of heavy industry and infrastructure.

Smt. Bhupinder Prasad, Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India, along with a delegation, visited Netherlands to attend the Symposium on the "Rivers of the World Forum" held at Rotterdam on 8 December, 2010.

Foreign Office Consultations was held on 21 January, 2011 in The Hague.

Senior officials from the Indian Ministry of Labour & Employment participated in The Hague Global Child Labour Conference 2010 from 10-11 May, 2010 as well as the third ASEM-Labour & Employment Ministers Conference organized by the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and the European Commission in Leiden from 12-14 December, 2010.

Marking an important phase in bilateral Defense cooperation, a 17-member delegation from the National Defense College (NDC), New Delhi visited the Netherlands from 16-21 May, 2010. The team interacted with the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense and the Ministry of Economic affairs as well as with the prominent think-tank - Netherlands Institute of International Relations (Clingendael).

India continued to actively participate in the meetings of various international organisations based in The Hague including the International Court of Justice (ICJ), The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). India also continued to monitor important developments in the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Representing a major success in the multi-lateral fora, India acquired the full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at the FATF's Plenary meeting held in Amsterdam under the Presidency of the Netherlands on 25 June, 2010.

India played an active role in the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) head-quartered at Amsterdam. India

continued to fulfil its obligations to CFC in line with its commitments. India participated in the 50th Executive Board Meeting of the CFC held in Amsterdam from 14-15 October, 2010 which was preceded by a meeting of the Adhoc Working Group of CFC from 12-13 October, 2010. Its primary objective was to consider the future role and mandate of the Fund and its long term sustainability. India was subsequently elected as Chairman of the Governing Council of CFC for the year 2011. India, as the new Chairman, will be holding consultations assisted by other Governors on the future role and mandate of CFC.

United Kingdom

The highlight of the year was the State visit of U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron to India from 27-29 July, 2010. The visit of Prime Minister Cameron to India with a high powered delegation resulted in the joint declaration, "India-U.K. Enhanced Partnership for Future".

Prime Minister David Cameron was accompanied by the largest British delegation ever brought to visit India that included six ministers, (namely William Hague, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; George Osborne, Chancellor the Exchequer; Dr Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills; Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport; David Willets, Minister of State for Universities and Science; Gregory Barker, Minister of State for Department for Energy and Climate Change and Sir Peter Ricketts, National Security Advisor). Prime Minister Cameron called on the President, the Vice President, and met the leader of Opposition. The External Affairs Minister called on the U.K. Prime Minister. PM Cameron joined Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Human Resources Development, Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and some of his accompanying ministers, in a Davos style had live TV discussion telecast by CNBC. The U.K. Prime Minister held restricted talks with the Prime Minister on 29 July, 2010. He also visited Bangalore. A £700- million agreement between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, British Aerospace Engineering (BAE) systems and Rolls-Royce to manufacture 57 additional HAWK Advanced Jet Trainers at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited facility in Bangalore was signed. An MoU on Cultural Cooperation was also signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers. PM Cameron reiterated U.K.'s support for reforming the United Nations Security Council with the aim of a permanent seat for India. During the visit, it was decided to establish a new India-U.K. CEOs forum co-chaired by Ratan Tata and

Peter Sands of Standard Chartered. There was an agreement to establish a British India Infrastructure Group (BIIG), which would be led by the two Governments and draw innovative participation from the private sector. It was also decided to extend the successful U.K.-India Education and Research Initiative for five more years beyond 2011.

Parliamentary linkages have been strengthened through regular visits. All three Friends of India Groups from U.K. Parliament have undertaken visits to India at the invitation of the Indian Government. The Indo-British Forum of Parliamentarians visited the U.K. from 11-15 October, 2010.

There have been other important Ministerial and senior official-level visits from India to the U.K. These are as follows:

The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia visited U.K. from 6-8 April, 2010.

Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises visited Sheffield, U.K. on 18 June 2010 for signing an MoU between Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and the Sheffield Forgemasters International Limited (SFIL).

A delegation led by Shri M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of State for Defense attended the Farnborough International Air Show-2010 in the U.K. from 19-22 July, 2010. The delegation included Secretary (DP) and AOC-in-CSAC, IAF.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry visited London; leading a CII CEOs delegation visited the U.K. from 27-29 June, 2010. He called on the U.K. Prime Minister, U.K. Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills Dr Vince Cable. The Minister again visited London from 8-9 October, 2010 and had a bilateral meeting with Dr. Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on 9 October, 2010.

Dr. M. Veerappa Moily, Union Minister for Law and Justice visited the U.K. at the invitation of Secretary of State for Justice Mr. Kenneth Clarke from 5-9 July, 2010.

Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Road Transport and Highways visited London from 27-29 September, 2010. During the visit an MoU was signed on Cooperation in the Road Transport and Road Sector between the two countries. During the visit, the Minister had a bilateral meeting with

Mr. Philip Hammond, U.K. Secretary of State for Transport.

Shri Murli Deora, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited London to promote the ninth round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP IX) from 7-8 October, 2010.

Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker of Lok Sabha led a parliamentary delegation from 12-15 January, 2011 to the Isle of Man to attend the meeting of the standing committee of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC), and to London from 16-19 January, 2011 for bilateral meetings to enhance Parliament to Parliament interaction and exchange of information.

The annual 13th India-U.K. Defense Consultative Group meeting was held in London on 11 January, 2011. The Indian side was led by Shri Pradeep Kumar, Defense Secretary and the U.K. side was led by Ms. Ursula Brennan, Permanent Under Secretary, U.K. Ministry of Defense. A wide range of issues relating to Defense cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

The seventh India-U.K. Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting at the level of Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry and U.K. Business Secretary was held on 19 January, 2011 in New Delhi.

The 13th India-U.K. Roundtable meeting is likely to be held in Surajkund from 18-20 February, 2011.

The year also saw other important Ministerial visits from the U.K..

Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall visited India from 2-5 October, 2010 to represent the Queen at the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. The Earl of Wessex, who is also the vice-patron of the Commonwealth Games, also visited India for the Opening Ceremony.

The U.K. Immigration Minister Mr. Damian Green visited India from 23-25 August, 2010. He met with Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Shivraj Patil, Governor of Punjab and Shri Parkash Singh Badal, Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri M. Ramachandran, Minister of State in MHA as part of the broader consultation process on the U.K.'s immigration policy.

The Lord Mayor of the City of London Nick Anstee led a business delegation to India from 29 October-

1 November 2010. He visited Mumbai and Delhi to further strengthen links between the U.K. and India. The visit's focus was on three key areas of capital markets, infrastructure finance, and banking.

U.K. Minister for Universities and Science, David Willetts, visited India on 11 November, 2010 for a week-long visit to Delhi, Bangalore and Pune. While in Delhi, the Minister met the Union Ministers and key officials at the Ministries of Human Resource and Development, Agriculture and Science and Technology. Mr. Willetts co-chaired the U.K.-India Education Forum. UKIERI-II was launched during the visit.

U.K. Secretary of State for Defense Dr Liam Fox, visited Delhi from 22-23 November, 2010. This was the first visit to India by a serving U.K. Secretary of State for Defense since 2005. Dr Fox met Shri A. K. Antony, Minister of Defense and NSA.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development visited India from 24-27 November, 2010. He had meetings with the Finance Minister, Minister for HRD, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Minister for Environment & Forests, and Minister for Commerce and Industry.

The U.K. is among India's major trading partners. India's exports to U.K. in 2009-2010 were US\$ 6.228 billion and imports from U.K. stood at US\$ 4.423 billion.

The revised MoU on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters, which was signed on 9 November, 2009, has been made operational. The nodal contact points under the said MoU have been established to facilitate exchange of information and assistance under the MoU.

European Union

India and the European Union (EU) are the largest democracies, whose strategic partnership is founded on shared values and principles of rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. India and the EU have maintained regular interactions at various levels which included 11 Summits meetings since 2000. The India-EU Joint Action Plan which was adopted in 2005 and reviewed in 2008 continues to be the template of cooperation between India and the EU.

India continued to maintain its close relationship with the EU, which is the world's largest economy in nominal GDP terms, largest trading bloc and a repository of advance technology, in particular, those related to energy and environment sectors. EU is also India's largest trade

partner and a significant source of foreign investments. The implementation of the Lisbon Treaty in 2010 has imparted a new dimension to the EU, strengthened the integration process within the EU and enhanced the competencies of the EU institutions including the European Council, European Commission and the European Parliament. As EU's sphere of authority expands, it will naturally enable cooperation between India and EU on a wider gamut of issues of bilateral, regional and global importance for the two sides.

EU economy as a whole has witnessed signs of recovery particularly in countries like Germany, the Netherlands and Poland. As a response to the Greek crisis, Eurozone member states have set up the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) and the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM) in May 2010 as temporary measures. A new permanent mechanism called the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) which is to replace the EFSF when it expires in mid-2013 was agreed to by the Eurozone Finance Ministers in November 2010 and was approved by the European Council meeting from 16-17 December, 2010. As provided for in the Lisbon Treaty, EU has also formally launched the European External Action Service (EEAS) on 1 December, 2010. EEAS is expected to assist in better coordination of foreign policy among EU Member States and enable the EU to play a larger role on the world stage. Lady Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy attend the Summit as also EU Trade Commissioner Mr. Karel De Gucht.

India-EU Summit

The 11th India-EU Summit was held in Brussels on 10 December, 2010. This was the first Summit after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. India was represented by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the EU was represented by Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council and Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission. From the EU side, this was the first time that the President of European Council conducted the meeting along with President Barosso reflecting the changes brought about by the Lisbon Treaty.

The Summit reviewed India-EU Relations; stressed the importance of the conclusion of an ambitious and balanced India-EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) in the spring of 2011; welcomed the increasing cooperation in the field of security and Defense; and issued a Joint Declaration on International Terrorism. An India-EU Joint Declaration on Culture was also signed

during the Summit. In the Joint Statement issued by the two leaders, it was agreed to present the results of the 2008 Joint Work Programme on Energy, Clean Development and Climate Change at the next India-EU summit in 2011. The Joint Statement also called for an early conclusion of the India-EU Agreement for Research and Development Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; a swift finalization of the Agreement on Satellite Navigation initialed in 2005; and an early implementation of the Civil Aviation Agreement.

The Summit meeting also witnessed exchange of views on regional and global issues covering Afghanistan, Pakistan, G-20, Climate Change and Disarmament. An India-EU Business Summit was held on the sidelines of the Summit and was attended by Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma and Mr. Karel De Gucht, EU's Trade Commissioner.

European Parliament

The India Delegation in the European Parliament, formally constituted in September 2009, visited India from 25-30 April, 2010. It was led by its current Chairperson, Graham Watson, a British Member of European Parliament, and met with cross-section of leaders in India.

India-EU ministerial & Senior Officials Meeting

The 21st India-EU Ministerial Meeting took place in New Delhi on 22 June, 2010. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU was led for the first time by its High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms. Catherine Ashton. The leaders reviewed India-EU strategic partnership and also discussed regional and global issues including climate change, terrorism, global financial crisis, non-proliferation and energy security.

There is also a regular mechanism of Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) between India and the EU. In 2010, India-EU SOM was held in Brussels on 21 October, 2010.

Dialogues

The fourth India-EU Security Dialogue took place in Brussels on 8 June, 2010. Both sides exchanged views and discussed ways for strengthening cooperation on security and its related matters.

Interaction between Civil Societies

The second India-EU Forum on Effective Multilateralism, jointly organized by ICWA and the European Union

Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), was held in Brussels from 11-12 October, 2010. Participants from both sides discussed issues related to India-EU relations covering counter terrorism, climate change, cooperation in anti-piracy operations etc.

Trade and Investments

The EU, as a bloc of 27 countries, is India's largest trading partner while India was EU's ninth largest trading partner in 2009. Total trade in 2009 declined by 13.5% to € 52.9 billion (Indian exports of € 25.4 billion: Indian imports of € 27.5 billion) as compared to 2008 figures. However, during the period January-July 2010, Indian exports to the EU has increased by 25% to € 18.8 billion and imports increased by 26% to € 15.7 billion. In 2009, total Indian exports to the EU in the different services sector was € 7.5 billion whereas total Indian imports from the EU was worth € 8.8 billion.

FDI inflows from the EU to India declined from € 3.27 billion in 2008 to € 2.88 billion in 2009. The most important countries in the EU for FDI are Germany, U.K., the Netherlands followed by France. India's investment has also seen a decline from € 3.69 billion in 2008 to € 940 million in 2009.

Important Visits

Important visits between India and the EU include visits by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who led a delegation including Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma, to attend the India-EU Summit from 9-11 December, 2010. Vice President of India, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari visited Brussels from 3-5 October, 2010 to attend the Asia Europe Meeting eight Summit. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Minister of Labour & Employment visited Brussels from 5-9 July, 2010 to attend the fourth EU-India "Joint Declaration on Skills and Employment Policy in the Context of Recovery from the Global Job Crisis" and Tripartite Exchange Programme. Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma visited Brussels from 28-30 November, 2010 to meet with his EU counterparts.

From the EU, Commissioner for Trade Karel De Gucht visited India from 3-5 March, 2010 and had a meeting with Minister of Commerce and Industry. Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard visited India from 7-9 April, 2010 and had meetings with Minister of State for Environment and Forests etc. EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Ms. Catherine Ashton visited India from 22-25 June, 2010 to attend the India-EU Ministerial Meeting.

United States of America (U.S.A.)

In 2010, India and the United States continued to deepen and expand their global strategic partnership outlined by Prime Minister and U.S. President Barack Obama during Prime Minister's State visit to Washington DC in November 2009.

The year saw significant acceleration in dialogue, progress in bilateral cooperation as also new agreements and new initiatives that have the potential to take the growing India-U.S. Strategic Partnership to a new level. The expanded engagement was anchored in the visit of President Obama to India in November 2010 as also the first ever ministerial-level India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in June 2010 in Washington DC. In addition to further strengthening engagement on political, strategic and security issues, the two sides also accorded new priority to expanding ties in the fields of economy, energy, environment, education and empowerment. Prime Minister and President Obama also met on the margins of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington DC in April 2010 and the G-20 Summit in Toronto in June 2010.

High level bilateral exchanges during the year included External Affairs Minister meeting with Secretary Clinton on the margins of the UNGA in September 2010 in New York; Finance Minister's meeting with Secretary Clinton in Washington DC in October; Defense Minister bilateral visit to Washington DC in September; Commerce and Industry Minister's visit to Washington DC in September; HRD Minister's visit in June and September; Deputy Chairman Planning Commission's visit in June; Minister for Health and Family Welfare in June; Minister of State for Science and Technology in June; National Security Advisor's meetings in Washington DC in September 2010 and January 2011; Prime Minister's Special Envoy Shri S. K. Lambah in July and December 2010; and, Foreign Secretary's visit in September and February 2011. High level visitors from the United States included Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner (April 2010), Commerce Secretary Gary Locke (November 2010 and February 2011); Agriculture

Secretary Vilsack (November 2010) and, National Security Advisor (July 2010).

Important milestones during the year were the completion of steps by the two governments to implement their civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement; President Obama's announcement of the U.S. support for India's permanent membership in a reformed UN Security Council; U.S. decision to ease its export controls for India; the announcement of the U.S. support for India's full membership of the four multilateral export control regimes (Australia Group, Waassenaar Arrangement, Nuclear Supplier Group and Missile Technology Control Regime); expanded strategy consultation, including the East Asia Dialogue; the Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative, signed in July 2010; a new Homeland Security Dialogue; the MoU for Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security in March 2010; the launch of Financial and Economic Partnership in April 2010; the MoU on cooperation in the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership being established by India; a number of new initiatives in clean energy sector; and, the launch of a new international partnership for democracy and development during President Obama's visit.

Prime Minister and President Obama reaffirmed in November 2010 in New Delhi that India-U.S. strategic partnership is indispensable not only for their two countries but also for global stability and prosperity in the 21st century.

Visit of President Barack Obama

President Barack Obama paid a State Visit to India from 6-9 November, 2010 at the invitation of the Prime Minister. The visit was his first and reciprocated that of Prime Minister to U.S.A. in November 2009. His delegation included Treasury Secretary; Commerce Secretary; Agriculture Secretary; and other senior officials. First Lady Michelle Obama, and a large delegation of around 200 business leaders from the United States accompanied him.

President Obama commenced his visit on 6 November, 2010 by paying homage to victims of the November 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai. He addressed the CII-FICCI-USIBC



US President, Mr. Barack Obama with the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on his arrival, at Palam Air Force Station, in New Delhi on 7 November, 2010.

Business Summit; met CEOs and entrepreneurs; and, held town-hall style meetings, focusing on themes of youth, education, agriculture, e-governance, and science & technology.

The official component of the visit on 8 November in Delhi included a meeting with Prime Minister and delegation-level discussions on global, regional and bilateral issues of mutual interest. The two leaders presided over a meeting of the India-U.S. CEO Forum and addressed a Joint Press Conference. President Obama addressed the Members of Parliament, called on the President and met Vice President, Leader of the Opposition and the Chairperson of the UPA.

The visit was successful in strengthening mutual understanding on regional and global issues; accelerating momentum of our bilateral cooperation; and creating a long-term framework to elevate the strategic partnership to a qualitatively new level.

President Obama's affirmation of U.S. support for India's permanent membership of a reformed United Nations Security Council was a significant development, reflecting the shared belief of the two governments that an efficient, effective, credible and legitimate United Nations is required to ensure a just and sustainable international order.

U.S.A. announced steps to ease controls on exports of dual-use and high-end technologies to India, its intention to remove organizations under ISRO and DRDO from the U.S. Entity List, realignment of India in their export control regulations, and intention to support India's membership in multilateral export control regimes such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement.

The two countries agreed to engage in regular consultations on developments in Afghanistan, East Asia, Central and West Asia, and issued related to UN Peace-keeping. President Obama appreciated India's contribution to Afghanistan and assistance from India to help Afghanistan achieve self-sufficiency. The two countries agreed to work on joint development projects, in consultation with the Afghan government, in capacity-building, agriculture and women's empowerment.

The two countries decided to lead global efforts for non-proliferation and universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament, and strengthen cooperation to tackle nuclear terrorism. The two sides signed an MoU on cooperation in the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership that India is establishing.

India and U.S.A. launched a new initiative for a shared international partnership for democracy and development, which includes a commitment to support development of agriculture and food security in interested countries, including Africa. There was strong focus on economic cooperation with both countries agreeing to take necessary steps, including reducing trade barriers and protectionist measures and stimulating research and innovation.

The two sides announced a number of new bilateral initiatives, which includes Agreements/MoUs on establishing a Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center; exploration and assessment of shale gas resources in India; setting up an Energy Cooperation Programme; establishment of a Global Disease Detection Centre in India; and enhanced monsoon forecasting that will begin to transmit detailed forecasts to farmers beginning with the 2011 monsoon.

Strategic Dialogue

In July 2009, the two governments agreed to launch a Ministerial-level Strategic Dialogue which would focus the bilateral relationship and dialogue mechanisms along five pillars of mutual interest, namely: Strategic Cooperation, Energy and Climate Change, Education and Development; Economy, Trade and Agriculture; Science and Technology; and Health and Innovation. The comprehensive dialogue architecture covers 18 sectors of bilateral engagement.

Minister of External Affairs and U.S. Secretary of State co-chaired the inaugural India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue in Washington DC on 3 June, 2010. Government of India delegation included Minister for Human Resource Development, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission; Minister of State for Science and Technology, Foreign Secretary, Secretary Environment, Secretary Bio-technology, and Special Secretary (Home). The U.S. delegation included Commerce Secretary, Deputy NSA, U.S. AID Administrator, Science Advisor to the President, Deputy Secretary (Energy), NASA Administrator and Under Secretary for Global Affairs. To convey his personal commitment to the relationship with India, President Obama attended a reception hosted by Secretary Clinton on the occasion and stated that U.S.A. valued its partnership with India and that India was 'indispensable to the future we seek'.

Secretary Clinton underscored that an expanded U.S.-India partnership was a priority for the Obama Administration and described India as a trusted and indispensable friend. The Dialogue provided an opportunity to review bilateral co-operation and global



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at a bilateral meeting with the US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton, during the ASEAN Summit, in Hanoi, Vietnam on 30 October, 2010.

and regional issues of interest; chart the short to medium term road-map for cooperation in priority areas identified by the two governments; and, plan for President Obama's visit to India in November 2010. The next Strategic Dialogue would be held in New Delhi in April 2011.

Political and Strategic Consultations

The two sides further intensified and expanded their political and strategic consultations during the year. The India-U.S. political engagement covered all regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the continuing challenges to stability and security in India's immediate neighbourhood, persisting threat of terrorism, new and existing non-proliferation challenges, developments in East and Southeast Asia and the global economic and financial situation. The dialogue increased mutual understanding and convergence on a wide range of international issues, which helped further strengthen India-U.S. global strategic partnership.

Prime Minister and President Obama committed to work together, and with others in the region, for the evolution of an open, balanced and inclusive architecture in Asia. The two sides committed to intensify consultation, cooperation and coordination to promote a stable, democratic, prosperous, and independent Afghanistan. The two leaders agreed to deepen existing regular strategic consultations on developments in East Asia, and decided to expand and intensify their strategic consultations to cover regional and global issues of mutual interest, including Central and West Asia. Recognizing the importance of the stability of, and access to, the air, sea, space, and cyberspace domains for the security and economic prosperity of nations, India and the United States have launched a dialogue to explore ways to work together, as well as with other countries, to develop a shared vision for these critical domains to promote peace, security and development. The first round of dialogue was held in Washington DC in October 2010. The Indian delegation was led by the Deputy National Security Advisor.

India and the United States have also strengthened their mutual understanding and are developing a growing partnership to lead global efforts for non-proliferation and universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament in the 21st century. A new element of their engagement is to strengthen international cooperative activities that will reduce the risk of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons or materials. In November 2010, the two sides signed an MoU for cooperation in the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership being established by India.

Counter Terrorism

The two governments continued to strengthen their ongoing cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism through a regular dialogue, capacity-building, and exchange of best practices. New initiatives launched during the year were the Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative (CCI), signed in July 2010, and a Homeland Security Dialogue. The bilateral Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism is expected to meet in March 2011 in Delhi to exchange threat assessments and review ongoing cooperation in combating terrorism.

During President Obama's visit, the two countries reiterated that all terrorist networks, including Lashkar-e-Taiba, must be defeated, and that Pakistan must bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack to justice. They further agreed that regional and global security required elimination of safe havens and infrastructure of terrorism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The two sides agreed to deepen operational cooperation, counter-terrorism technology transfers, capacity building, terror-financing, and protecting international financial system. President Obama stated that terrorist safe havens within borders of Pakistan are unacceptable.

Additional Secretary (Political) in Ministry of External Affairs represented India at the first meeting of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum in Washington DC hosted by the U.S. Government as part of efforts to combat terrorism globally.

On 5 November, 2010 the U.S. Government designated Azam Cheema of L-e-T (Mumbai attacks in 2006 and 2008), Hafiz Abdul Rahman Makki (L-e-T), Mohammed Masood, and Azhar Alvi (J-E-M's founder) under the Department of Treasury's list of terrorists, banning their transactions with U.S. citizens and enabling the U.S. government to freeze their assets under U.S. jurisdiction.

The U.S. Administration provided Indian agencies access to David Headley, who is in custody in the United States, in May-June 2010 in connection with the ongoing investigations into the Mumbai terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

Ms. Jane Holl Lute, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security visited India from 11-12 January, 2011 to hold preparatory discussions for the inaugural Homeland Security Dialogue to be launched by our Home Minister and the U.S. Secretary for Homeland Security in April 2011 in Delhi.

Defense

During the visit of President Obama to India in November 2010, the two Governments resolved to further strengthen defense cooperation, including through security dialogue, exercises, and promoting trade and collaboration in defense equipment and technology.

To reciprocate the visit of U.S. Secretary of Defence Robert Gates to India in early 2010, Defense Minister visited U.S.A. from 27-28 September, 2010 and exchanged views with Secretary of Defence, and Secretary of State. Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Ms. Michelle Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defence, visited India for a dialogue with their counterparts in India. Chief of Air Staff and Chief of Naval Staff visited U.S.A. in May 2010 and September 2010 respectively. The meeting of the India-U.S. Defence Procurement and Production Group in May 2010 in Washington provided a useful opportunity to review issues related to defence acquisitions from U.S.A. The next meetings of the bilateral Defence Procurement and Production Group and Defence Policy Group will be held in Washington DC from 1-4 March, 2011 chaired by Additional Secretary and Defence Secretary in Ministry of Defence respectively.

India and U.S.A. held bilateral exercises between the respective armies, 'Yudh Abhyas' in Alaska in October-November 2010, which saw the largest ever contingent of the Indian army for an exercise abroad. The respective navies held the annual exercise 'Malabar 2010' off the coast of Goa.

Recent defence acquisitions from U.S.A. have aggregated to more than US\$ 4 billion. During the year, the U.S. has begun delivery of the C130J transport aircraft.

Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation

The two governments completed the remaining steps for the implementation of the Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy signed in October 2008. The Agreement on Arrangements & Procedures for Reprocessing Spent U.S. Nuclear Fuel was signed in August 2010. India also completed other steps such as enactment of the Nuclear Civil Liability Legislation in September 2010 and signed the Convention on Supplementary Compensation on 4 November, 2010. The U.S. Administration completed the necessary steps to issue licenses to U.S. companies to commence negotiations with the Indian operator. Negotiations between U.S. companies and the operator in India have commenced.

Cooperation in Energy

Bilateral cooperation in clean energy and energy efficiency has emerged as one of the priority areas in the relationship. During President Obama's visit to India, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to building a green economy of the future through the bilateral Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE), which will enable research and deployment of clean, and energy efficient technologies, solar energy, bio-fuels, shale-gas, and smart grids. Among the notable bilateral initiatives in the area of energy is an Agreement signed in November 2010 to establish a Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center with joint funding from both governments, to focus on solar energy, second-generation bio-fuels and energy-efficiency in buildings.

An agreement to establish an Energy Cooperation Programme, signed in November 2010 will enable a public-private-partnership in the area of energy. On 30 September, 2010, the two sides Partnerships Agreements for Renewable Energy Technology Commercialization, and Energy Efficiency Technology Commercialization and Innovation, both of which will be implemented over a five-year period. Under the MoU signed in November 2010, the United States will provide assistance for assessment and exploration of shale gas in India. National Renewable Energy Laboratory of U.S.A. provided technical assistance in solar mapping and GIS data for all of India, which is now available in public domain.

Trade and Investment

India-U.S. economic ties are characterized by growing and balanced trade in goods and services as well as a rising flow of investments in both directions. During the visit of President Obama, the two countries agreed to reduce trade barriers and protectionist measures and stimulate research and innovation to realize fully the enormous potential for trade and investment. On the margins of the President's visit, there were transactions exceeding US\$ 15 billion in total value for U.S. companies.

The two governments have well developed mechanisms for addressing bilateral market access and other trade and investment related issues. The Trade Policy Forum, co-chaired by our Commerce and Industry Minister and U.S. Trade Representative, met in Washington from 20-21 September, 2010, and the Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in New Delhi in April 2010 by Finance Minister and U.S. Treasury Secretary. The Joint Working Group on India-U.S. Information & Communications Technology met in December 2010.

Government of India consistently conveyed to the U.S. Government its concerns over the protectionist sentiments in the United States, especially in the services sector, and hike in the fee for visas for skilled workers, which could have an adverse impact on the Indian industry.

The High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG), chaired by Foreign Secretary and the U.S. Under Secretary for Commerce, last met in Washington DC in March 2010, and will meet again in early part of the 2011 in New Delhi.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke led a high profile business mission to India from 5-11 February, 2011 and visited New Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai. Secretary Locke attended the Aero India Show in Bangalore and held meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister in New Delhi.

Space

The two governments agreed to continue discussions on ways of collaborating on future lunar missions, international space stations, human space flights, and data sharing. The two governments will reconvene the Civil Space Joint Working Group in early 2011.

Innovation

During the visit of President Obama, the two governments launched a bilateral Open Government Dialogue to use new technologies and innovations, through public-private partnerships to promote access to information and energizing civic engagement, support global initiatives and share expertise with other interested countries. India's expertise and experience in election management and e-governance will be used to build capacity in these areas in other interested countries.

Cooperative initiatives to deepen science and technology cooperation were considered during the first meeting of the India-U.S. Science and Technology Commission held from 24-25 June, 2010 in Washington. It was co-chaired by Minister of State Shri Prithviraj Chavan and Assistant to President on Science and Technology and Director of Office of Science and Technology Policy Dr. John P. Holdren. Three Implementation Arrangements were signed in October 2010 to facilitate tropical cyclone research; tsunami science, detection, analysis, modeling, and forecasting; and INSAT 3D.

An "Innovation Roundtable" organized by the Department of Science & Technology, Confederation of Indian Industry and the U.S. Embassy in India from 14-16 September, 2010 identified areas of cooperation as e-governance, public health, education and inclusive

innovation. Shri Sam Pitroda, Advisor to Prime Minister for Public Information Infrastructure & Innovations, and Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary (S&T), Shri Aneesh Chopra, Chief Technology Officer(White House) and Mr. Alec Ross, Adviser to Secretary of State for Innovation, led the two delegations.

Shri Sam Pitroda, Adviser to Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation, represented India at the preparatory meeting Open Government Initiative at Washington from 21-22 January, 2011. The multi-lateral grouping comprises of a number of countries committed to Open Government and is the initiative of President Obama and follows from his speech at the UNGA in 2010.

Civil Aviation

The civil aviation sector is the fastest growing area of India-U.S. economic and high technology engagement. Aircraft and aerospace products have emerged as the fastest growing component of U.S. exports to India. Dialogue on this promising sector continued with the second meeting of the civil aviation sub-committee in July 2010, and the first meeting of the India-U.S. Airport Infrastructure Working Group in September 2010.

Agriculture

Building on the historic legacy of bilateral cooperation during the Green Revolution, the two governments agreed to work together to develop, test, and replicate transformative technologies to extend food security as part of a new Evergreen Revolution.

The two governments signed an MoU in March 2010 to revamp our ongoing cooperation in agriculture and food security. Under the MoU, the inaugural 'Agriculture Dialogue' was launched in September 2010 in New Delhi, co-chaired by Foreign Secretary and the U.S. Under Secretary for Energy, Agriculture and Economic Affairs. The Dialogue provided a platform for discussing proposals of cooperation in three areas: strategic cooperation in agriculture and food security; agriculture extension, farm-to-market linkages; and weather and crop forecasting respectively.

The two governments signed in November 2010 an Implementing Agreement for enhanced monsoon forecasting that will begin to transmit detailed forecasts to farmers beginning with the 2011 monsoon rainy season. A 'Monsoon Desk' will be established to coordinate model simulations etc for the monsoon in India in 2011.

Global Issues

The bilateral Global Issues Forum enables dialogue on issues of global interest and development of joint projects

in democracy, human rights, health, environment, food security, disaster management and sustainable development. The eighth meeting of this forum was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary and U.S. Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Mario Otero in Washington on 16 September, 2010.

The Second bilateral Women's Empowerment Dialogue, held on 27 May, 2010 in Washington DC, focused on women's social and economic empowerment, capacity building for self help groups, support for micro finance, political participation of women, addressing violence against women, early childhood education and gender budgeting. The two governments agreed on the need to work out modalities for supporting Afghan women leaders in economic opportunity.

Health

The second meeting of India U.S. Health Initiative was held on 24 June, 2010 in Washington. The Indian delegation was led by Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and U.S. delegation by Secretary for Human and Health Services Kathleen Sebelius. The two sides discussed topics of mutual interest and agreed to form Working Groups under the Health Initiative that will serve to engage all relevant parts of each Government to advance cooperation and to establish common goals.

During the visit of President Obama, an MoU was signed between National Disease Control Centre, India and Centres for Disease Control, U.S.A. under which a Global Disease Detection Regional Center will be established in New Delhi, to facilitate preparedness against threats to health such as pandemic influenza and other emerging diseases.

Education Cooperation

Nearly 1,03,000 Indian students were enrolled in U.S. Universities for higher education in academic year 2008-2009. Minister of Human Resource Development visited U.S.A. in June and September 2010 to focus on ways in which higher education linkages between the two countries can be strengthened. Cooperation with U.S.A. in the field of higher education will receive a new momentum with the India-U.S. Higher Education Summit chaired by senior officials from both countries to be held in 2011. The two governments have taken steps, including administrative and financial, to implement the Singh-Obama 21st Century Knowledge Initiative.

As a result of a decision of both governments to enhance respective contributions to US\$ 3.35 million each from the year 2010, nearly 260 Fulbright-Nehru scholarships

and awards were given to Indian and American nationals in the academic year 2010-2011.

The two governments signed a Partnership Agreement "India-Support for Teacher Education Program (IN-STEP)" in the area of Education which will be implemented over a five-year period.

Culture

In view of the vibrant people-to-people linkages between the two countries, Government of India will organize a 'Festival of India' in Washington DC in 2011 to showcase India's diverse art, culture, history, cuisine, and tourist and economic potential.

Canada

India-Canada bilateral relations acquired a new momentum in the year 2010 with broad-based progress in bilateral cooperation, including in the areas of trade and investment, agriculture, energy, mining, science and technology, environment, health, and education, and enhanced understanding on global, regional and bilateral issues of mutual interest.

Prime Minister met Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on 27 June, 2010 on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Toronto. The two leaders also met on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in April 2010 and the G-20 Summit in Seoul on 12 November, 2010.

During the year, the two governments signed a landmark bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement in June 2010; launched the first Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment in September 2010; commenced negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in November 2010; completed negotiations on a Social Security Agreement; and, advanced negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.

Prime Minister's Bilateral Program in Toronto

Following the G-20 Summit from 25-26 June, 2010 in Toronto, Prime Minister had bilateral programme in Toronto from 27-28 June, 2010. In addition to Prime Minister's meeting with Prime Minister Harper of Canada, the visit saw the signing of the Agreement on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation on 27 June and three MoUs for facilitating cooperation in (i) mining and geological resources, (ii) culture and (iii) higher education. In a Joint Statement issued on 28 June, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to sustained political engagement and a structured exchange of high-level visits and

regular bilateral dialogues. Prime Minister met Indian-origin Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliaments in Canada on 28 June, 2010. He also paid homage to the victims of the Air India Kanishka crash at the memorial in Toronto to observe the 25th anniversary of this terrorist incident.

Bilateral Trade

During Prime Minister Harper's visit to India in November 2009, the two countries set a target of US\$15 billion of annual trade to be achieved within the next five years from the level of US\$ 4.3 billion (2008). During January-August 2010 bilateral trade stood at US\$ 2.5 billion, up 15% from the same period last year. Bilateral trade during this period was broadly balanced and showed positive growth in both directions. Our exports to Canada registered a 10.6% increase and imports from Canada recorded a 19% increase.

Description	January- August 2009	January- August 2009	% change
India's Total Exports	1,158	1,280	10.6%
India's Total Imports	1,048	1,249	19.2%
Total Trade	2,206	2,529	14.64

Source: Statistics Canada; Figures in thousand US dollars at the current rate

To institutionalise the dialogue on trade and investment, the Annual Ministerial Dialogue in Trade and Investment was launched by Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister, and Mr. Peter Van Loan the Minister of Trade, Canada on 23 September, 2010 in Ottawa. The two Ministers reviewed cooperation in energy, environment, mining, information and communication technology, science and technology, education and training, tourism, financial and other services, agriculture and infrastructure. Under the annual Ministerial Dialogue, the two governments agreed in principle to set up Working Groups on Private-Public Partnerships model focusing on infrastructure, energy and mining, agro-processing, information and communication technologies, and education. The two Ministers chaired the India-Canada CEO Round Table organised by the business chambers on 24 September 2010, in Ottawa.

The Joint Study Group set up by the two governments in November 2009 to examine the feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) submitted its report to the two governments in May 2010. The report recommended commencement of

official negotiations for a India-Canada CEPA in view of benefits that would accrue to both countries. Following a formal announcement by the two Prime Ministers on 12 November, 2010 in Seoul on the margins of the G-20, the official negotiations on the CEPA were launched in Delhi on 18 November, 2010 by Commerce and Industry Minister and the Minister of Trade, Canada. The first round of official negotiations is expected to be held in March 2011.

The seventh annual Trade Policy Consultations chaired by Additional Secretary (Commerce), India and Assistant Deputy Minister of International Trade, Canada in New Delhi on 18 November, 2010 provided a useful opportunity to review bilateral trade and ways of augmenting it to mutual benefit. Both countries are also negotiating a Bilateral Agreement for Promotion and Protection of Investments. A Social Security Agreement has been finalized and expected to be signed.

Agriculture

Agricultural commodities continue to be a significant segment of bilateral trade. Export of agricultural commodities from India to Canada during April-September 2010 was US\$ 69.68 million. India's agricultural imports from Canada during the same period were US\$ 254.80 million, which included peas and pulses.

Government of India extended an interim arrangement for fumigation of peas and pulses imported from Canada, at the port of arrival in India, until March 2011. India is Canada's largest market for peas and pulses, with our imports touching US\$ 533 million in 2009. Through the mechanism of the Joint Working Group on Pulses which met in July 2010 in Canada the two governments are engaged in a dialogue to find a long-term solution to the fumigation issue. Bilateral cooperation in agriculture and animal husbandry was also reviewed during the visit of Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, our Minister for Food Processing Industries to Canada from 1-8 September, 2010 and of Mr. Gerry Ritz, Canada's Agriculture Minister to India from 16-17 September, 2010.

Energy

An Agreement for Cooperation with Canada in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed on 27 June, 2010 in Toronto. The Agreement enables cooperation in design, construction, maintenance, sharing of operating experience and decommissioning of nuclear reactors, supply of uranium, projects in third countries, nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear waste management. It also facilitates cooperation in development and use of nuclear energy applications in the fields of agriculture, health care,



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh in a pull-aside meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Stephen Harper, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit, at Seoul in South Korea on 12 November, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh in a group photo with the Members of Parliament/ Members of Legislative Assembly of Canada, in Toronto on 28 June, 2010.

industry and environment; and nuclear safety, radiation safety and environmental protection. Taking into account the respective strengths of the two countries with regard to Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors and CANDU (CANada Deuterium Uranium) reactors, there is considerable scope for joint work between the two countries.

Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of Power, visited Canada from 15-21 September, 2010 to discuss possibilities of cooperation with Canada in the area of energy. Under the MoU for Cooperation in Energy signed in November 2009, the First Canada-India Energy Forum which met from 26-28 May, 2010 in Ottawa set up two working groups to facilitate cooperation in clean coal, oil & gas, research and development in energy; and electricity, renewable energy and energy efficiency respectively. Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas, visited the province of Alberta in Canada from 8-10 June 2010 to participate in the Global Petroleum Show in Alberta.

Mining

India and Canada signed an MoU in June 2010 for cooperation in mining and earth sciences. The MoU will provide a framework for cooperation in exploration, geochemistry and geophysics; geo-hazards; geo-science information and related informatics; environmental geology and; bilateral investment in mining in both countries. Shri B. K. Handique, Minister for Mines, visited Canada from 8-13 July, 2010 for discussions with Canadian mining industry associations and his Canadian counterpart. Ministry of Mines also signed an MoU with the Province of Ontario for cooperation in mining and geological resources. Canada-India Foundation organized a Canada-India Metals & Mining Forum from 27-29 September, 2010 in Toronto, with participation of the Secretary (Mines) and representatives of State Governments from India.

Education

In June 2010, India and Canada signed an MoU for cooperation in higher education, which will facilitate curriculum development, academic development, student and faculty exchanges, and joint research. Both governments will set up a Joint Working Group to implement the MoU. The visit of Mr. Gary Goodyear, Canada's Minister of State (Science and Technology), from 6-10 November, 2010 and followed by a delegation of 20 Presidents of leading Canadian universities from 8-13 November, 2010 focused on strengthening bilateral higher education linkages.

Canadian institutions recently announced scholarships and awards worth C\$ 4 million for Indian nationals pursuing Masters and Ph.D. programs at Canadian universities. In September 2010 the Carleton University in Ottawa set up a Canada-India Centre of Excellence in Science, Technology, Trade and Policy to carry out research in nano-science, computer science, aero engineering, robotics and networks. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations signed a Protocol of Intention with the University of Toronto to set up an India Chair at the South Asian Studies Program in the University to foster international cooperation and research between the two countries.

An MoU between Union Public Service Commission & Public Service Commission of Canada for cooperation in capacity building for senior public servants in human resource management & public administration is expected to be signed soon.

Science and Technology

In July 2010, Antrix Corporation Ltd., ISRO's commercial wing, launched from India a Canadian satellite NLS-6.1 AISSAT-1 using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

A delegation of 22 persons representing 17 Canadian companies and research organizations visited Hyderabad to participate in the Geospatial World Forum from 16-18 January to explore possibilities of cooperation in the areas of Geometrics, Disaster management and remote sensing.

Terrorism

The 25th anniversary of the bombing of the Air India Kanishka aircraft, which originated in Toronto, was observed in Canada on 23 June, 2010. Prime Minister Harper attended the commemoration ceremony and tendered an apology for the institutional failings of the Canadian security and police agencies and the treatment meted out to families of the victims thereafter.

Commonwealth Games

Canada sent a contingent of 251 athletes to participate in the Commonwealth Games in October 2010 in New Delhi. Canada's Minister of State for Sports Mr. Gary Lunn represented the Government of Canada at the Commonwealth Games.

Culture

An exhibition of Inuit Art from Canada was inaugurated in September 2010 at the National Museum in New Delhi.

Other Visits

India and Canada exchanged several other ministerial visits during the year. Mr. Jim Flaherty, Finance Minister of Canada visited from 17-19 May, 2010 to review ongoing economic cooperation. Mr. Jason Kenney, Minister of Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism visited from 7-10 September, 2010 to discuss issues related to visas, immigration and related matters. Mr. Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta visited from 2-8 November, 2010 to strengthen cooperation between India and the Province of Alberta. Regional security situation and ongoing bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism were discussed with Mr. Richard Fadden, Director, and Canadian Security Intelligence Service who visited from 17-19 November, 2010.

In an initiative to strengthen parliamentary linkages and to study India as an emerging global power, a 13-member delegation of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade in the Senate of Canada, led by its Chair Senator Anita Raynell Andreychuck, visited India from 4-10 September, 2010. A delegation of Canadian Judges visited India on a study-tour from 30 October-1 November 2010.

A 69-member Canadian delegation including five Members of Parliament participated in the Vibrant Gujarat Programme in Ahmedabad from 10-13 January, 2011.

Mr. Clement Gignac, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade of the Province of Québec visited Mumbai and Delhi from 29 January-4 February to discuss and review ongoing cooperation between India and the Province of Quebec. He also met a few Central Ministers as well as Ministers from Maharashtra.

Chief Justice of Canada Right Beverley McLachlin is scheduled to visit Hyderabad from 5-8 February to attend the 17th Commonwealth Law Conference.

Vic Toews, Canada's Cabinet Minister of Public Safety is expected to visit New Delhi from 23-26 February to discuss cooperation in the fields of security such as counter terrorism, illegal migration, human trafficking, airport security and border security.

Latin America & Caribbean

Argentina

Our relations with Argentina continued to be active during the year with regular exchanges of visits in tune with the momentum generated by the visit of Argentine President last year. India and Argentina have moved a

step further towards building a strategic partnership by signing the Agreement for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in Vienna in September 2010. During Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur's visit to Argentina from 23-27 May, 2010 for the bicentenary celebrations of the May Revolution of Argentina, she held bilateral talks with the then Foreign Minister of Argentina Mr. Taiana, Minister of Industry and Tourism Ms. Debora Georgi and the CM of Buenos Aires. Argentine Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Mr. Julian Andres Dominguez paid an official visit to India from 2-3 August, 2010 and met Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, Minister of Food Processing Industries. Both sides agreed to deepen existing bilateral cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors. Indian Agriculture Minister paid a return visit to Argentina from 10-12 September ahead of a large delegation consisting of the Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, Agriculture Minister of Haryana, and Ministers for Rural Development and Water Resources for Maharashtra and businessmen. During the visit an MoU for Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors was signed with his Argentine counterpart. Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation for the Foreign Office Consultations with Argentina on 4 October, 2010 in Buenos Aires where he reviewed with his counterpart Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Alberto Dalotto the entire gamut of bilateral relations, and exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues. During the visit, an agreement on Gainful Employment of Family Members of Diplomatic Mission and Consular Posts was also signed.

Governor of Buenos Aires Mr. Mauricio Macri was the Chief Guest at the fourth India-LAC Business Conclave organized by CII in New Delhi on the 29 April. During his visit, he met Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur and also Chief Minister of Delhi. The bilateral trade showed a positive trend as India became the largest importer of Argentine Soya during the period. Essar has acquired Argentine BPO firm Actionline with estimated revenue of over US\$ 50 million with a staff of 5,000 people. With this acquisition Essar is the largest Indian BPO in Latin America.

On the occasion of the Bicentenary Celebrations of the Argentine Coastguard, a three member delegation led by Admiral Anil Chopra from India coastguard visited Buenos Aires from 27 June-2 July 2010

The Third Festival of India was organized in Argentina from 4-16 November, 2010. The festival had elements of dance, films, craft demonstration, photo exhibition, seminars, food festival, and literary events.

Bolivia

Our relations with Bolivia continued to be warm and friendly. Although there have been no major exchanges of visits during the period, our economic engagement continued to be active. Jindal Steel (JSB), and Empresa Siderurgica Del Mutun (ESM), a Government of Bolivia entity has resumed development of El Mutun iron ore deposit and steel plant project in Bolivia following a Presidential decree issued in August 2010. JSB's investments in El Mutun are estimated to be US\$ 2.1 billion. The company also proposes to set up a power generation unit close to the steel plant after more land is made available. India participated at the first World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth held in Bolivia from 19-22 April, 2010.

Brazil

The visit of our Prime Minister to Brasilia from 14-15 April, 2010 for IBSA and BRIC summits was a major development in our strategic relations with Brazil. PM and President Lula also held bilateral talks covering all aspects of our relations and exchanged views on regional and multilateral developments. The two leaders renewed their commitment to strengthen the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership which was reflected in the Joint Statement issued during the visit. PM also met the leaders of the IBSA and BRIC member countries. During the summit NSA led the Indian delegation for the India-Brazil strategic dialogue as well as for the strategic dialogue with BRIC member countries.

Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur led the Indian delegation for the Third Global Forum of Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 27-29 May, 2010. In her address, Smt. Preneet Kaur spoke about India's rich and diverse civilizational and cultural heritage and emphasized on the need to focus on commonalities amongst civilizations and not get bogged down on divisive issues. Secretary (West) held talks covering bilateral, issues of mutual concern and regional developments with the visiting Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota Secretary General of Brazil (Vice Minister) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil on 1 September, 2010. India and Brazil established a bilateral Economic and Financial Dialogue at the level of Finance Secretaries.

Minister of State for Environment and Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh participated in the fourth Ministerial Coordination Meeting of the BASIC countries - Brazil, South Africa, India and China - on the ongoing negotiations within the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Rio de Janeiro from 25-26 July, 2010. MoS (C&I) Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia visited Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro from 1-5 September, 2010 to participate in the CII-Latin America conclave where he interacted with prominent businesses. Mr. Ivan Ramalho, Brazilian Deputy Minister of Development, Industry and International Trade also attended the event. An agriculture delegation led by Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, accompanied by a larger business delegation including Dy. Chief Minister of Punjab and Agriculture Ministers of few states visited Brazil from 8-10 September, 2010. He met Mr. Wagner Rossi, Brazilian Minister for Agriculture with whom he discussed bilateral cooperation in agro-industry and agriculture research and also interacted with the local industry representatives.

Air Chief Marshal Pradeep Vasant Naik visited Brazil from 29 June-2 July 2010 and interacted with his counterpart and other defence establishments of Brazil. Brazilian Navy Chief Admiral Julio Soares de Moura Neto visited India from 9-11 August, 2010. The inaugural meeting of Joint Defence Committee also took place in New Delhi on 25 August, 2010.

Chile

The new President of Chile Mr. Sebastian Pinera soon after assuming the office in March 2010 expressed desire to strengthen relations with India in line with traditionally warm and friendly relations. Minister of State (C&I) Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia led a business delegation to Chile in September 2010 where he interacted with his counterpart and the Chilean businesses. During the visit three protocols for Cooperation in Agricultural Sector were concluded. Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation for the fifth round of Foreign Office Consultations in Santiago, Chile on 8 October, 2010. Both sides agreed to strengthen their relations through exchange of political and official level visits and taking steps to implement existing agreements. The Chilean side expressed gratitude for India's generous offer of US\$ 5 million towards the earthquake relief. A three member Chilean Parliamentary delegation from the Senate led by President of the Senate Mr. Jorge Pizarro Soto (JPS) visited India from 23-28 January, 2011. During the visit they called on Vice President and met separately External Affairs Minister, Minister of Agriculture, MoS (C&I) and Standing Committee on External Affairs.

During that period several business delegations that visited Chile and the prominent are an eight-member

NASSCOM delegation in October 2010, a 24-member delegation for the Mining Exposition (EXPOMIN) 2010 at Santiago in April 2010 and a RITES delegation in April 2010.

Colombia

President of Colombia Mr. Juan Manuel Santos assumed office in August 2010 and indicated his desire to strengthen relations with India. During the period bilateral relations were characterized by exchange of high level visits beginning with the visit of Colombian Vice President Francisco Santos, who led a delegation to India from 23-28 April, 2010. He met Vice President and interacted with various Indian entrepreneurs at Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. Prof. Saugata Roy, MoS for Urban Development led a 28-member delegation on a study tour to Bogota from 28 September-3 October 2010 on Sustainable Urban Transport Systems. India also participated at the meeting of the OECD's Taskforce on High Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development held in March 2010. Representatives from corporate India attended the Latin America Chapter of the World Economic Forum from 7-8 April, 2010 in Cartagena. EEPC INDIA (Formerly Engineering Export Promotion Council) took a business delegation of 151 Indian companies to Colombia. EEPC and Colombian Association of Entrepreneurs (ANDI) signed an MoU on Business Cooperation. The delegation called on the Colombian President who urged the Indian entrepreneurs to invest in Colombia. In July 2010, India and Colombia concluded negotiations on Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA). India agreed to increase ITEC training slots to Colombia from 35-45.

Ecuador

Our warm relations with Ecuador received a further boost with India handing over medicines worth US\$ 8,00,000 as part of our long standing commitment. A pharmexcil delegation consisting of 28 Indian pharmaceutical companies visited Ecuador on 23 August, 2010 to explore business opportunities. Five Dhruv multi-mission helicopters, supplied by India, completed 1,500 hours of service in Ecuador in the span of 13 months covering rescue operations on various difficult terrains as well as facilitating VVIP movement.

Mexico

Our Privileged Partnership with Mexico continued to strengthen with exchanges of visits at all levels. On 11 November, 2010, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Felipe Calderon met on the sidelines of the

G-20 and discussed issues of mutual interest. Foreign Minister of Mexico Ms. Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, accompanied by Vice Minister of Mexico visited India from 16-17 August, 2010. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna held delegation level talks with the visiting dignitary covering all aspects of our bilateral relations, regional and multilateral developments. She called on Prime Minister and also met Environment Minister Shri Jairam Ramesh with whom she discussed Climate Change in the run up to COP-16 Summit in Cancun in November 2010. Mexican Tourism Minister Ms. Gloria Guevera visited India and met Minister of Tourism Kumari Seljja on 16 August, 2010 when both sides explored the possibility of better air connectivity between India and Mexico and promotion of tourism in each other's countries. Earlier, an eight member Parliamentary delegation from Mexico led by Senator Carlos Jimenez Macias visited India from 8-14 August, 2010. They called on Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and Members of the Standing Committees on External Affairs and Home Affairs. On the occasion of the establishment of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Mexico a commemorative postal stamp was released both in New Delhi and Mexico on 15 December, 2010.

Commerce Secretary Shri Rahul Khullar led the Indian delegation to the second Meeting of the bilateral High Level Group (HLG) on Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation held in Mexico City from 21-24 April, 2010. Both sides discussed a wide range of issues to further bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation for the Foreign Office consultations with Mexico from 11-14 July, 2010 in Mexico City and reviewed with his counterpart Vice Minister Ms. Maria de Lourdes Aranda all aspects of bilateral relations. Both sides agreed to enhance their privileged partnership by intensifying political, official, and economic dialogue and cooperation. Prof. Saugata Ray, Minister of State for Urban Development led a large Indian delegation to Mexico City from 4-6 October, 2010 on a study tour of urban transportation systems.

Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar led a delegation to Mexico from 5-7 September, 2010 and held discussions with Mexican Agriculture Minister on Cooperation in Agriculture and Agricultural Research. During the visit an MoU for Cooperation in Agricultural Research & Development was concluded between the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Mexico's National Institute of Forest, Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (INIFAP). Shri Pawar also visited CIMMYT (Centro

Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo, i.e. International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre) and held discussions for the setting up of CIMMYT's major regional R&D field centre in India to be called the Borlaug Institute of South Asia. In this connection, a memorandum of intent was also signed between India's Department of Agricultural Research and Education and CIMMYT.

Minister of State (IC) for Environment and Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh attended the Pre COP-16 meeting in Mexico from 3-5 November, 2010 and later led the Indian delegation at the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun from 29 November-11 December 2010. Minister of State for Communication & IT, Shri Sachin Pilot led the Indian delegation to the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) Plenipotentiary Conference held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from 4-22 October, 2010. India also participated in the first International Tourism Fair of the Americas (FITA) in Mexico City from 23-26 September, 2010.

With the operationalization of ICCR's Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre in Mexico City, a new chapter was opened in Indo-Mexican Cultural ties. ICCR sponsored a six-member Kathak dance troupe led by Ms. Mangala Bhatt from 22 October-2 November 2010 at the Cervantino Dance Festival. An India Cultural Week was celebrated in the Municipality of Tula, in Hidalgo State. An MoU was signed on 21 July, 2010 for setting up the Octavio Paz Chair of Indian Studies at the Centre for Asian and African Studies in Colegio de Mexico.

Paraguay

Our friendly relations with Paraguay received a boost during the year with the visit of the first ever parliamentary delegation from Paraguay led by the President of Senate Mr. Miguel Carrizosa from 10-14 April, 2010 at the joint invitation of Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Speaker, Lok Sabha. The visiting five member multi-party delegation called on Chairman Rajya Sabha, Speaker Lok Sabha and members of the Standing Committee. Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation or the first bilateral Foreign Office Consultations held in Asuncion on 7 October, 2010. Both sides discussed ways and means to strengthen bilateral cooperation including enhancing political and official level contacts. The Festival of India consisting of classical dances and Indian cuisine was organized in Asuncion from 11-19 November, 2010.

Peru

Our relations with Peru are characterized by exchange of regular visits. Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of

State, Commerce and Industry visited Peru from 2-6 September, 2010 and held bilateral discussions with Peruvian Minister of Commerce and Tourism for increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation. He also addressed the CII organized India Latin America Business Conclave in Lima. CII and Lima Chamber of Commerce signed an MoU to promote India-Peru trade and investment.

Trade and Tourism Minister of Peru Mr. Eduardo Ferreyros visited India on 17 January, 2011 and met Commerce Minister, MoS Tourism and Interacted with the CII industry representatives. During the visit both sides discussed the need for concluding BIPPA and DTAA in view of the growing bilateral trade and investment.

Uruguay

Our traditionally cordial relations with Uruguay are further strengthened with the first Foreign Office Consultations held in Montevideo on 5 October, 2010. Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation and discussed all aspects of our bilateral relations especially ways and means to strengthen trade and investment relations.

Venezuela

A significant development in our bilateral relations with Venezuela was the awarding of the Carabobo Oil (in the Orinoco belt of Venezuela) contract by President Chavez to the ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)-led international consortium. The consortium consists of Indian Oil Corporation limited (IOC), Oil India Limited (OIL), Respol of Spain and Petronas of Malaysia. On 12 May, 2010, a signing ceremony was held in Caracas for the creation of the Joint Venture, PetroCarabobo S.A. and President Chavez awarded this contract to Shri Murli Deora, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Secretary (West) held talks with the visiting Vice Minister of Venezuela for External Relations for Asia Middle East and Oceania, Mr. Temir Porras Ponceleon on 5 May, 2010. Mr. Porras visited India again on 11 September, 2010.

Central America

Our relations with all Central American countries Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua are close and cordial. Our engagement was strengthened not only at the bilateral level but also through SICA (Central American System of Integration). On the request of the Governments of El Salvador and Nicaragua, the Information Technology Centre of Excellence (CETI) in El Salvador was extended by one more year each till 2011.

Belize

The Minister for Sports and Governance of Belize, Mr. John Birchman Saldivar visited India in October 2010 to witness the Commonwealth Games.

Costa Rica

India-Costa Rica relations gained new momentum with the visit of Foreign Minister of Costa Rica Mr. Rene Castro Salazar to India from 19-20 October, 2010. External Affairs Minister held delegation level talks with the visiting dignitary and extended support and cooperation for Costa Rica's developmental initiatives. The visiting dignitary also inaugurated the Costa Rican Embassy in New Delhi. He met Minister of State for Environment and Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh and interacted with Indian businesses at CII. In September 2010, Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Sukhvir Singh Badal, accompanied by an agricultural delegation visited Costa Rica to study protected cultivation farms. India made a cash contribution of US\$ 1,00,000 to the Government of Costa Rica as Disaster Relief in the wake of Hurricane Tomás.

Guatemala

In September 2010, Shri Praveen Verma, the First Indian Ambassador to Guatemala took charge of the Mission which was opened in December 2009.

Panama

Friendly relations between India and Panama deepened with the visit of Mr. Alberto Vallarino, Minister of Economic and Finances of Panama to India on 12 November, 2010. He met Finance Minister, Commerce and Industry Minister and interacted with several business representatives and think-tanks during the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in New Delhi. During his meeting with the Finance Minister, Mr. Vallarino invited India to take advantage of Government of Panama's project to expand the Panama Canal which is expected to be completed by August 2014. Finance Minister underscored the importance of India-SICA Dialogue of which Panama is a member.

Central American System of Integration (Spanish: Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana; SICA)

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian Delegation at the India - SICA Dialogue held on the sidelines of the 65th UNGA session on 27 September, 2010 at New York. He met the Foreign Minister of Belize in his

capacity as current Chair of SICA. EAM thanked the SICA member countries for their support for India's candidature for the non-permanent seat of the UNSC for 2010-2011. EAM offered to increase the number of ITEC slots to SICA countries. He urged to set up an India-SICA Business Forum.

The Caribbean

With Caribbean region India enjoys close historical and cultural ties. It is a home to a vast majority of Indian Diaspora with which we nurture our relations. Our relations with the Caribbean region were further strengthened during the year through exchange of visits and interaction at all levels. An eight-member Hindustan Kalari Sangam troupe from Kerala visited Cuba and Dominican Republic during this period. India made a cash contribution of US\$ 5,00,000 to St. Lucia towards disaster relief in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Tomas. India approved the proposal to open an IT Center of Excellence in St. Vincent and the Grenadines with Indian assistance. A two member solar expert team from India visited the Bahamas from 18-25 July, 2010 for a feasibility study for setting up a Solar Energy Centre in the Bahamas.

Cuba

India and Cuba celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations (1960-2010). The year-long celebrations were marked by several activities including workshops, cricket tournament, and cultural events, painting exhibition, symphony orchestra and classical dance performances. A commemorative postage stamp was released in Havana to mark the occasion. Cuba's Vice Minister of Light Industries Mr. Eloy de la Caridad Alvarez Martinez led a delegation to India in September 2010 to explore possibilities for furthering commercial ties between the two countries. India-Cuba sporting connection was enhanced through hiring of Cuban sports coaches in India particularly in the area of boxing.

In March 2010, BIOCON Limited acquired CIMAB of Cuba with 49% stake via its subsidiary BIOCON SA. Another Indian technology company BCMC Power Systems was awarded a ` 6 crore contract for power back-up by Alcatel Lucent, for laying a submarine cable between Cuba and Venezuela to be completed by mid 2011.

Guyana

The traditionally cordial and friendly ties with Guyana were further strengthened during this period. External

Affairs Minister called on President of Guyana, Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo in New York in September 2010 on the margins of UNGA. An agreement for utilization of US\$ 4 million LOC to Guyana for purchase of heavy duty agricultural pumps for drainage and irrigation was concluded. A high level technical delegation from Ministry of Shipping undertook the feasibility study of a deep water port in Guyana under ITEC programme.

Haiti

India has expressed its solidarity for the reconstruction of Haiti. At the World Summit on the Future of Haiti held at Punta Cana in July 2010, India pledged to re-construct one of the main government buildings in the capital Port-au-Prince to be indicated by the Haitian government. India also pledged a contribution of US\$ 5,00,000 annually, spread over three years at the International Donor Conference for Haiti held in New York. Ministry of Finance has made a cash contribution of US\$ 1 million to write off Haiti's debt to the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

Two Indian Formed Police Units (FPU) with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) were joined by a third contingent in October 2010. With this, the total strength of Indian FPU in Haiti is now 460. The FPUs performed admirably and were highly appreciated by the UN and the Government of Haiti.

Jamaica

On 11 August, 2010 India donated US\$ 3,00,000 as humanitarian assistance to the Government of Jamaica for the procurement of medicines and medical equipment for the Bustamante Hospital for Children in Kingston, Jamaica. In November 2010 India extended a cash contribution of US\$ 50,000 to Jamaica towards disaster relief in the wake of tropical storm Nicole.

Suriname

Bilateral relations continued to be cordial under the new President, Mr. Desi Bouteres who assumed office in

May 2010. He is from the Mega Combination Party. Surinamese Parliamentarian Mr. Rashid Doekhie visited India in October 2010 as a special envoy of President Bouteres and held several level meetings with Indian authorities to strengthen and deepen bilateral relations.

Trinidad and Tobago

Bilateral relations with T&T received a fresh impetus with the assumption of office by Smt. Kamla Persad Bissessar as the first woman Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). The Minister of Tourism of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Rupert Griffith visited India from 11-22 January, 2011. He was accompanied by a 20 member delegation that included officials and private tour operators. Cricketer Mr. Brian Lara, the brand Ambassador of T&T tourism, also formed part of the delegation.

A 35-member Federation of Indian Exports Organizations (FIEO) delegation in partnership with the India-T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce organized an India Trade Exposition from 21-31 May, 2010 at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya to coincide with the celebration of Indian Arrival Day. New India Assurance Company (T&T) has decided to construct its headquarters in Port of Spain. The TT\$ 35 Million structure, to be completed in two years, will also serve as the Company's regional Headquarters.

Multilateral

Inter American Development Bank (IADB)

Mr. Luis Alberto Moreno, President of Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) visited New Delhi from 15-16 November, 2010 primarily to participate in the World Economic Forum (WEF). Mr. Moreno also called on Finance Minister, Minister of State (PK) and Secretary (Commerce). He urged India to join IADB as a non-borrowing member so as to take advantage of the growing potential of the region in which India's stakes are also increasing. During the visit a special report "India: Latin America's Next Big Thing" was released.

United Nations and International Organizations

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UNP

65th Session of the UN General Assembly

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, visited New York from 21-30 September, 2010 leading the official Indian delegation to the high-level segment of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). In his address to the General Assembly on 29 September, 2010, EAM reaffirmed the central role of the UN in global governance, while stressing the need to reinforce it by making it more reflective of contemporary realities. He asserted that there was an urgent need to strengthen the voice of developing countries in the UN to make it more democratic and representative. EAM reiterated the commitment of the Government of India to the Millennium Development Goals and also indicated India's efforts to achieve progress in the climate change negotiations. He reiterated India's strong commitment for UN WOMEN, the newly created UN entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and its strengthening. EAM reaffirmed India's abiding commitment for achieving universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament within a specified timeframe as articulated in the 1988 UN General Assembly by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Pledging India's continued commitment to the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) that meets India's national security standards, he reiterated India's commitment to a voluntary, unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing.

On the margins of the 65th UNGA Session, External Affairs Minister participated in several high-level multilateral meetings held in New York, viz., the Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) in New York on 22 September, 2010; High-level Plenary Meeting of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 20-22 September, 2010; High Level Meeting on Disarmament ; G-15 Foreign Ministers meeting; High Level Meeting on Sudan; G-4 Ministerial meeting; Review Meeting for Mauritius Strategy for Sustainable

Development of Small Island Developing States; Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting on Palestine; IBSA Ministerial Meeting; Meeting with SICA (Central American Integration System); NAM Coordinating Bureau (NAM COB) Foreign Ministers meeting; Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' meeting and the SAARC Council of Ministers meeting. Other high level meetings, including the Annual G-77 Ministerial Meeting were as attended at the official level.

External Affairs Minister also had a number of bilateral meetings during his visit to New York. These included a dinner-meeting with the President of Guyana and meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, the US Secretary of State, the UK Foreign Secretary and Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh, South Africa, Sudan and Sierra Leone.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur, visited New York from 18-22 October, 2010. During the visit, Smt. Preneet Kaur addressed a plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly on 20 October, 2010 on implementation of outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh, attended the Ministerial Consultation on Climate change held on 25 September, 2010 under the chairmanship of Mexico on the margins of the UNGA. He also attended the High Level Meeting on Bio-diversity on 22 September, 2010 and delivered a speech.

A non-official Indian delegation consisting of 18 Members of Parliament (MPs) and one former MP visited New York in three batches during October-November 2010 to participate the 65th session of the UN General Assembly. The Indian delegates delivered statements in the UNGA Plenary and its committees on issues such as report of the special committee on the Charter of the UN and on the strengthening of the role of the organization, equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, improving the financial situation of the

UN, administration of justice at the UN, report of the UN High Commissioner for refugees, advancement of women, promotion and protection of the rights of children, eradication of poverty and other development issues, sustainable development, promotion and protection of human rights, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, disarmament, measures to eliminate international terrorism, Afghanistan, Palestine, etc.

India's Election to the UN Security Council for 2011-2012

India was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for a period of two years beginning 1 January, 2011. In the elections held in the UN General Assembly on 12 October, 2010, India received 187 votes of the 190 valid votes, the highest among the five countries elected as non-permanent members. India will re-enter the Security Council after an interregnum of almost two decades. India has so far served six terms on the Security Council, viz. 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-85 and 1991-1992.

During its forthcoming term on the Security Council, India's immediate priorities will include peace and stability in its near and extended neighbourhood including Afghanistan, the Middle East and Africa, counter-terrorism including the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors, and the strengthening of UN peacekeeping and peace-building efforts. India is also committed to continue working for bringing about much needed structural reform to the UN Security Council.

Fourth International Day of Non-Violence

The United Nations observed the fourth International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October, 2010 at a function at the UN Headquarters, New York presided over by the President of the General Assembly. The statement of the Secretary-General of the UN on the occasion referred to the principle of non-violence as the "greatest force at the disposal of mankind". He noted that the United Nations strived to harness the power of non-violence to overcome prejudice, and conflict, and cultivate mutual respect and understanding among peoples and countries. A book, 'MKG - Imaging Peace, Truth and Ahimsa', published by Mr. Birad Rajaram Yajnik, was released at the function.

Reform of the UN

India continued its cooperation with like-minded Member States for bringing about much needed structural reforms

of the UN Security Council. In the early part of 2010, India, in collaboration with G-4 and South Africa, succeeded in its efforts to launch text-based negotiations in the UN General Assembly in July 2010. In the negotiations held in 2010, a large majority of UN Member States conveyed their preference for early reform of the Security Council by expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership and improvements in the Council's working methods.

India actively participated in the discussions on General Assembly revitalization held in the Ad Hoc Working Group especially from April 2010. India played a leading role by making a number of suggestions for revitalization many of which were included in the resolution which was adopted, namely Resolution 64/301 (2010) in September 2010.

The United Nations General Assembly on 2 July, 2010 approved the creation of UN Women, a new UN entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. India's Minister of State of External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, addressed the General Assembly at the time of adoption of this landmark resolution.

Terrorism

Strengthening international cooperation for suppression of terrorism and prevention of terrorist acts remained a key priority for India's engagement at the United Nations. In this context, India continued to work for progress in the negotiations on the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT) and its finalization. The issue of the CCIT was considered by the Ad Hoc Committee of the sixth Committee in its meeting held in New York from 12-16 April, 2010 and the meeting of 6th Committee of the UNGA in October 2010. The Friends of Chair tabled a revised draft proposal for the Convention which has wide support.

Peacekeeping

India continues to be one of the largest and consistent contributors to the UN peacekeeping operations. In 2010, India was the third largest troop contributor with 8,919 troops, located in nine UN Peacekeeping missions in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), Golan Heights on the Syria-Israel border (UNDOF), Liberia (UNMIL), Sudan (UNMIS), Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Cyprus (UNFICYP), East Timor (UNMIT) and Haiti (MINUSTAH). The largest Indian presence was in the UN Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (4,248), followed by the UN Mission in Sudan (2,636).

Peace Building

India announced an additional contribution of US\$ 2 million to the Peace Building Fund (PBF) on 4 November, 2010 thus doubling its total contribution to PBF to US\$ 4 million.

UN Democracy Fund

India announced an additional contribution of US\$ 5 million to the UN Democracy Fund in November 2010. India has thus far pledged a total of US\$ 25 million for the Fund established in July 2005, making it the second largest contributor after the U.S.A. The UNDEF provides assistance for projects involving civil society to consolidate and strengthen democratic institutions and facilitate democratic governance.

Middle East

India continued to remain engaged in the consideration of the Middle East issue in the Fourth Committee as well as the Plenary of the 65th UNGA. India's statements underscored its commitment to support Palestinian people in pursuit of their legitimate goals and their efforts aimed at economic and social development with dignity and self-reliance while reiterating its resolute opposition to all acts of terror and violence. Stressing on the primacy on humanitarian concerns in Gaza strip, India called for complete easing of restrictions on free movement of goods and persons within Palestine. India also contributed US\$ 1 million to UNRWA and US\$ 10 million as untied budget support to the Palestinian National Authority. This year's budget support followed from discussions between His Excellency, President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister in New Delhi in February this year.

The Prime Minister in his message on the occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People reiterated India's unwavering support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Arab Peace initiative, Quartet Road map and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Other International Organizations

Non Aligned Movement (NAM)

The NAM convened a Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of NAM on 27 September, 2010 on the margins of the 65th General Assembly on the theme "The Non-Aligned Movement, half a century of achievements - our common vision of the future". The meeting prepared

their ground work for the main commemorative event of the 50th anniversary of the NAM. Addressing the meeting, External Affairs Minister said that the NAM must be guided by a new, forward-looking and focused agenda, while addressing global challenges related to the management of global economy and finance, securing stable food and energy supplies, poverty alleviation, eradicating hunger and deprivation, coping up with climate change, combating terrorism, drug-trafficking and organized crime. He stressed that the Movement needs to play a more active role in efforts towards achieving universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament and a world free of all nuclear weapons. EAM also called for NAM's continued work for ensuring Africa's pre-eminence in the global development agenda.

The Commonwealth

India is the largest Member State of the Commonwealth, accounting for nearly 60% of its total population. It is the fourth largest contributor to the Commonwealth's budget. India also provides the largest number of technical experts funded by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) extending assistance to developing Commonwealth countries after U.K.

The XIX Commonwealth Games were held in New Delhi, from 3-14 October, 2010. About 7,000 athletes from 71 Commonwealth nations and territories participated in the Games. India, by winning 101 medals, including 38 gold medals, gave its strongest performance ever in the history of Commonwealth Games to emerge as the second highest medal winner behind Australia.

External Affairs Minister attended the Meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers held on 27 September 2010 on the sidelines of the 65th UN General Assembly. In his address at the meeting, EAM, while appreciating the noteworthy activities of the Commonwealth through its unique style of functioning based on consensus building, informality and goodwill, drew attention to the initiatives of the Government of India in support of the Commonwealth in various areas

The Commonwealth Secretary General Shri Kamallesh Sharma visited India in March, August and October 2010 for discussions on Commonwealth related issues.

Sir John Daniel, President and CEO, Commonwealth of Learning (COL) visited India on 18 November, 2010 to discuss India's support for the Virtual University of Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) project. The VUSSC is a project run by the COL for 32 small states/island states of the Commonwealth for training of human resources in the use of ICT and programmes in e-Learning formats.

Chief Election Commissioner Shri Navin Chawla, represented India at the first meeting of the Heads of Commonwealth National Election Management Bodies (CNEMB) held in Accra, Ghana on 19-21 May, 2010. He also attended a CNEMB meeting in London on 16 July, 2010.

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare attended the annual meeting of the Commonwealth Health Ministers held in Geneva on 16 May, 2010. The main issue of discussion of the meeting was "The Commonwealth and the Health MDG's by 2015." The meeting was attended by 293 delegates from 43 countries.

Community of Democracies

A High-Level Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies (CoD) on 'Global Democracy Agenda' was held in Krakow, Poland from 2-4 July, 2010 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the setting up of the organization in 2000 in Warsaw. Official delegations from around 70 countries participated in the event, including ministerial-level participation from 20 countries. In addition, a large number of social activists and NGO representatives took part in the meeting. India was represented at the official level at the meeting.

Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

India continued to participate actively in international counter-piracy efforts at the UN and elsewhere. As a founding member of the Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), established in January 2009, India participated in the Plenary meetings of the Contact Group in New York in November 2010 and its four Working Groups. CGPCS is an international forum consisting of 45 countries and seven international organizations.

UNES Division

India in United Nations

The year 2010 was a high watermark for India at the United Nations. India was elected to the UN Security Council for the term 2011-2012 obtaining the highest number of votes. With 187 votes out of 190 votes cast, not only was India's tally the highest among the countries standing for the elections, representing over 98% of the UN membership, but was also by far the most emphatic result in many years. This resounding endorsement of India's candidature at the United Nations serves as a reaffirmation of the overwhelming support that India

enjoys in the international community. India took over the Asian seat in the Security Council from Japan on 1 January, 2011. India is entering the Security Council after a gap of nineteen years.

India also recorded a most impressive success in the elections for the UN's Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). The Indian candidate obtained the highest number of votes in a highly contested election in the Fifth Committee for the three seats from Asia, where the contest included China, Japan and Pakistan.

In 2010, India was also closely involved with and played a leading role in the creation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). India chaired the crucial final negotiating sessions for the setting up of UN Women and India's able stewardship of the process in its last stages was a reflection of its rapidly rising global stature and acceptability. In November 2010, India was elected by ECOSOC to the Executive Board of UN Women.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Shri S. M. Krishna visited New York from 21-30 September, 2010 leading the official Indian delegation to the high-level segment of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). In his address to the UNGA, he called for urgent reform of the UN in order to reflect contemporary realities and to effectively meet emerging global challenges. He also emphasized that the General Assembly, as the chief deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the UN, must set the global political, economic and social agenda. It must reclaim its position on vital matters like the appointment of the Secretary General and in the relationship between the UN and the Bretton Woods Institutions.

External Affairs Minister reiterated India's strong commitment for UN WOMEN and its strengthening and also expressed the hope that the forthcoming review of the Human Rights Council would contribute to the Council's role as an effective and credible mechanism. EAM said that the Government of India accords the highest priority to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

External Affairs Minister called on the international community to adhere to the painstakingly built UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, along with the roadmap laid out in Bali three years ago. He stressed that the international community must be sensitive to the aspirations of hundreds of millions of the world's poor for a better future - including those

inhabiting the Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and the countries of Africa - and take account of their differential capacities. He called on the developed countries fulfill their international obligations not only in terms of more ambitious commitments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but also in helping the developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Just prior to the start of the General Debate, a number of other High Level events were held at the United Nations. These included the High Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 20-22 September, 2010, A High Level Review Meeting of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) and a High Level Event on the Convention on Biological Diversity. External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation at the MDG and MSI events while Minister of State (IC) for Environment & Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh led the Indian delegation at the CBD event.

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited New York October 2010 and addressed the UNGA on the follow-up to the major UN Summits and conferences.

Elections

India's candidate, Ambassador Chandrasekhar Dasgupta received the highest number of votes to get elected to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 27 April, 2010.

India was also elected to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, Programme Coordination Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS and Commission on Science and Technology by acclamation.

The fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee of the United Nations recommended by acclamation on 5 November, 2010 the appointment of Shri Vinod Rai, Comptroller and Auditor General of India to fill the vacancy from the Group of Asian States to the Independent Audit Advisory Committee of the United Nations.

The fifth Committee, elected Smt. Namgya C. Khampa, First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India, New York with the highest number of votes for one of the three Asian Group seats for the 16-member Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). The remaining two vacancies were filled by candidates from Japan and China.

Economic and Development Issues

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

A High-Level Plenary meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) took place in New York during 20-22 September, 2010. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation to the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, he conveyed India's highest political commitment to the fulfilment of MDGs by 2015. A political declaration titled "Keeping the promise: United to achieve the Millennium Development Goals" was adopted during the High-Level Plenary meeting.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held in New York from 28 June-22 July 2010. Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, led the Indian delegation to the Ministerial segment from 28 June-2 July 2010 and addressed the Annual Ministerial Review on the theme "Implementing the internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women". A Ministerial Declaration on the theme was adopted at the end of the high-level segment.

World Intellectual Rights Organization (WIPO)

India continued its constructive engagement with WIPO and actively participated in its meetings of the Standing Committees on Intellectual Property and Development, Copyright and Related Rights, Trade Marks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, the Inter-Governmental Committee on Traditional Knowledge, Folklore and Genetic Resources and the Advisory Committee on Enforcement. A delegation from the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), led by Secretary (DIPP) attended the 48th Series of Meetings of Assemblies of Member States of WIPO in Geneva from 22-29 September, 2010.

United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

India participated in all UNCTAD meetings, including sessions of the Trade and Development Board and expert meetings on Enterprise Development Policies, Capacity-Building in science, technology and innovation, Investment for Development, Green and Renewable Technologies as energy solutions for rural development and the Regulatory and Institutional dimensions of Development and Trade. In 2010, India voluntarily contributed US\$ 15,000 to the UNCTAD Trust Fund for financing participation of experts, from developing

countries, to UNCTAD expert meetings. The Chairman of the Competition Commission of India led a delegation from 8-12 November, 2010 to the Sixth United Nations Conference to Review all Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The major activity with regard to International Telecommunication Union (ITU) during the year was the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-10) held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from 4-22 October, 2010. India was re-elected to the Council of the ITU and Indian nominee Shri P. K. Garg was re-elected as member of Radio Regulation Board (RRB). As the current Chair of the ITU Council Shri R. N. Jha, Deputy Director General (IR) from Department of Telecommunication, attended Council related meetings in April and July 2010.

Minister of Communication and Information Technology visited Geneva from 10-11 June, 2010 for meetings with the ITU Secretary-General and other elected officials, for promoting and consolidating India's position in the various activities of the ITU.

World Health Organization (WHO)

India participated in the 63rd World Health Assembly from 17-21 May, 2010. India continued to champion the need for safeguarding public health, focusing on primary healthcare, improving health services, promoting access to essential medicines, and encouraging full use of TRIPS flexibilities to address public health concerns in the WHO forum. India encouraged the focus on health-related Millennium Development Goals, including maternal & child health, as a means to ensuring equity in social development.

India remained engaged with the finalization of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework (PIPF) through the establishment of a new Open-Ended Working Group. In the context of the A/H1N1 and Influenza Pandemics, the framework has acquired relevance. India continued to emphasize that both benefit-sharing and access to pandemic influenza material, should be equitably addressed in the framework, to ensure availability of vaccines and medicines to all affected populations. India was involved in the ongoing formulation of a global code of practice for health personnel, to address shortages of skilled health personnel in developing countries. India retained focus on the Global Strategy on Non-Communicable Diseases and projected the need to redress the dual burden of diseases confronting developing countries, both in the traditional area of communicable

diseases and the evolving burden of non communicable diseases.

Minister of Health & Family Welfare Shri Gulam Nabi Azad led the Indian delegation comprising Secretary (Health) and other senior officials from Ministry of Health for the 63rd Meeting of WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia in Bangkok from 6-10 September, 2010.

World Meteorological Organization

Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS): Following the establishment of the High Level Taskforce, as directed by the WCC 3 Declaration in Geneva in May-June 2009, the WMO held an Intergovernmental meeting from 11-12 January, 2010 to finalize the Terms of Reference of the Taskforce. The Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting included the General Principles of the Like Minded Group (of which India is a member), that emphasized the central and pivotal role of national Governments in (a) the establishment of Global Framework on Climate Services (GFCS), and in (b) furnishing and acquisition of meteorological data to the climate services stakeholders. India continued to spearhead the discussions, within the Like Minded Group, and monitor the developments of the High Level Taskforce. India transmitted CHF 5,00,000 as the remaining part of its pledged contribution of CHF 1,000,000 to the High Level Taskforce in August 2010. India also furnished its national comments on the Draft Report, that were in line with the Like Minded Group position with additional technical details. The Draft Report is under revision by the High Level Taskforce, based on the comments received from all Member-States. The revised Report will be submitted to the WMO Secretary-General on 12 January, 2011.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

India participated in the 66th annual session of UNESCAP which was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 13-19 May, 2010. The theme of the session was 'Addressing challenges in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: Promoting a stable and supportive financial system; Green Growth or environmentally sustainable economic growth, including through technology and financing'. The Indian delegation was led by the Indian Ambassador to Thailand and Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Shri Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty.

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

India attended the 12th Crime Congress held in Salvador, Brazil from 12-19 April, 2010. The main theme of the

12th Crime Congress was "Comprehensive strategies for global challenges: crime prevention and criminal justice systems and their development in a changing world". India took the lead in raising a number of issues including the issue of new and emerging forms of crime like cyber-crime, maritime piracy etc.

Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs Smt. Anita Chowdhury led the Indian delegation to the 19th meeting of Commission on Crime prevention and criminal justice (CCPCJ) held in Vienna, Austria from 17-22 May, 2010. Ambassador of India Shri Dinkar Khullar was elected as second Vice President to the CCPCJ. India emphasized its position on crime related matters with special emphasis on measures put in place to check different forms of crime, especially those against women. India took the lead in and co-sponsored the resolution on tackling maritime piracy adopted during the meeting.

India attended various meetings of the Paris Pact Initiative aimed at combating opium and opiates trafficking from Afghanistan and their consumption and related problems in the affected priority countries along the Afghan opiate trafficking routes. India provided a contribution of US\$ 2,00,000 to the Paris Pact Initiative, given the importance India attaches to it.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

India continued to maintain its close interaction with UNIDO. Delegation from India participated in the meetings of the 37th session of the Industrial Development Board held in Vienna from 10-12 May, 2010. India urged UNIDO to increase its delivery of services particularly in the field of transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) attended the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIRC 2010) held in New Delhi from 27-29 October, 2010. He was also awarded a degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the TERI University in New Delhi on 28 October, 2010.

Environmental Issues

Convention on Biodiversity

A high-level event on the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in New York on 22 September, 2010. Minister of State for Environment and Forests (IC) Shri Jairam Ramesh represented India at the meeting.

Speaking at the event, he pressed for placing biodiversity and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the centre of global discourse and called for early establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) for conservation of global biological resources.

In October 2010, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests led the Indian delegation to the tenth Conference of Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biodiversity. COP 10 at Nagoya successfully adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) which establishes a framework for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources.

Commission on Sustainable Development

India participated actively in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the high-level commission within the UN system for sustainable development with the role of reviewing and promoting the implementation of Agenda 21 and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPol). Secretary (Environment) Shri Vijai Sharma led the Indian delegation to the 18th session of the Commission, held in New York from 3-14 May, 2010. This was the Review session of the two-year implementation cycle, and held thematic debates on Waste Management, Chemicals, Transport, Mining and Sustainable pattern of Consumption and Production.

India also participated in the the first Preparatory Committee meeting of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (also called Rio+20 from 17-19 May, 2010). The Prepcom meeting deliberated upon: progress made since Rio Conference and the remaining gaps in implementation of the outcomes; addressing new and emerging challenges; and the themes for UNCSD 2012 - Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

In his address to the 65th session of the UN General Assembly, External Affairs Minister called on the international community to adhere to the painstakingly built UN Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, along with the roadmap laid out in Bali three years ago. He stressed that the international community must be sensitive to the aspirations of hundreds of millions of the world's poor for a better future - including those inhabiting the Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and the countries of Africa - and take account of their differential capacities. He called on the developed

countries fulfil their international obligations not only in terms of more ambitious commitments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but also in helping the developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference took place in Cancun, Mexico from 29 November-11 December 2010. The conference included the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the sixth session of Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 6). A large Indian delegation led by MOS, MoEF Shri Jairam Ramesh participated in the conference.

The Cancun conference was preceded by four negotiating sessions of the Ad-hoc Working Groups (AWGs) held in year 2010. These sessions were organized in April, May-June, and August 2010 in Bonn, Germany and in October in Tianjin, China. Official Indian delegations participated in all these meetings.

The conference in Cancun adopted a set of decisions covering the two tracks of the Bali Action Plan: Long Term Cooperative Action under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. The highlights of the Cancun Agreements include the setting up of a 'Green Climate Fund' under the COP with equal representation from developed and developing countries; establishment of an 'Cancun Adaptation Framework' for better planning and implementation of Adaptation projects in developing countries through enhanced financial and technical support; establishment of a 'Technology Mechanism' with a Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) for technology development and transfer; and a decision on curbing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+) with technological and financial support.

In 2010, India also actively participated in other meetings related to Climate Change. These included the eight and ninth Leaders' representatives Meetings in September and November 2010 respectively and a Pre-COP Ministerial meeting organized by the Mexican hosts in Mexico City in November 2010.

India also hosted a Climate Change Technology Ministerial meeting in November 2010 in New Delhi which provided key inputs to the outcome in Cancun on Technology Development and Transfer.

The close coordination between India, China, Brazil and South Africa as part of the BASIC Group also continued apace in the run-up to the Cancun conference with meetings at New Delhi (Jan 2010), Cape Town (April 2010), Rio (July 2010) and Tianjin (October 2010).

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP's First Meeting of the Consultative Group of Ministers/High-level Representatives on International Environmental Governance was held in Nairobi from 7-9 July, while UNEP's Second Meeting of the Consultative Group of Ministers/High-level Representatives on International Environmental Governance was held in Espoo, Helsinki, from 21-23 November. The main themes of discussion in these meetings were 'Green Economy' and reform of the International Environment Governance (IEG). India also held the Chair of G-77 plus China (Nairobi Chapter) during the calendar year 2010.

Social and Human Rights Issues

India participated in the activities of the UN organizations dealing with Human Rights and Social issues in a constructive manner that reflected India's commitment to a development-oriented objective, coupled with a holistic approach in keeping with its historic legacy of tolerance and respect for human rights and humanitarian values.

India actively participated in the debate in the United Nations General Assembly plenary on various agenda items including report of the Human Rights Council and on Global Health and Foreign Policy issues.

India also participated in the debate on "the follow-up to the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade". In this connection, India also contributed US\$ 2,60,000 in April 2010 to the UN Trust Fund for the construction of a Permanent Memorial in New York to honour the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

Third meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The third meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held from 1-3 September, 2010. Shrimati Sangita Gairola, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment led the Indian delegation. During the meeting, in addition to the election of 12 members to the Committee on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities, three panel

discussions were held on the following topics, a) Inclusion and living in the community (article 19 of the CRPD); b) Inclusion and the Right to Education (article 24 of the CRPD); and c) Situation of risk and humanitarian emergencies (article 11 of the CRPD).

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held its 54th session from 1-12 March, 2010. India is a member of the Commission since 2009 for a four year period. Year 2010 being the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (BDPA), the main theme of the Commission's meeting was to review the implementation of the BDPA, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges. A brief declaration was also adopted. In addition, the Commission also adopted seven resolutions on issues related to women, including a) the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; b) the girl child and HIV/AIDS, c) release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned in armed conflict, d) women's economic empowerment, e) eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women, f) strengthening the institutional arrangements of the UN for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity and g) ending female genital mutilation.

Human Rights Council

In 2010, besides the three regular sessions, the Human Rights Council held a Special Session, on promoting a human rights approach to the post-disaster recovery process in Haiti. The Council also held three Universal Periodic Review (UPR) working group sessions, for 48 countries. Sessions of the Advisory Committee, Social Forum, Forum on Minority Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Working Groups on the Right to Development and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action were held. The first session of the Working Group on the Review of the Council, with several related informal meetings were convened. The Council created two new mandates, on the Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, and on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice.

India completed its second consecutive term as a member of the Council until June 2010 and is now an Observer of the Council. Some of the highlights of India's participation in Human Rights Council include:

Permanent Representative of India was nominated by the President of the Council as a Facilitator on the Agenda and Programme of Work on the Council's Review

The Permanent Representative of India was nominated by the Asian Group as a member of the Consultative Group that shortlists the Special Procedures' for their selection, and chaired the first session

India's Exceptional Report was examined by CEDAW in November 2010

Mr. Okechukwu Obinna Ibeanu, Special Rapporteur on the Adverse Effects of Movement and Dumping of Toxic and Dangerous Products and Waste visited India in January 2010

Ms. Margaret Sekaggya, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders to visit India in January 2011

Eminent Indians continued to serve with distinction as members of important Treaty Monitoring Bodies and human rights mechanisms including Shri P. N. Bhagwati (Member, Human Rights Committee), Shri Dilip Lahiri (Member, Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination) and Sushri Indira Jaising (Member, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women)

Shri Chandrashekhar Dasgupta was elected as a Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a second term. Shri Anand Grover continued to discharge his mandate as Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health. Shri Kishore Singh was appointed as the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education in August 2010.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

As part of its continued commitment to engage with UNHCR (despite not being a signatory to the discriminatory 1951 Convention on Refugees and its 1967 Protocol) and given India's historic legacy of tolerance and hosting millions of refugees on its soil, India participated in all the key meetings. Statements were delivered at the 61st Session of the Executive Committee and at the Fourth Meeting of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection challenges. India also actively collaborated with Sweden on the finalization of the draft Omnibus Resolution 2010 on UNHCR's activities for 2010

that was adopted by the General Assembly after presentation at the Third Committee, Fifth Session under Agenda Item 61 on Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Questions relating to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons and Humanitarian Questions. At all the interventions, India reiterated the importance of UNHCR to focus its operations, budget and personnel on its core mandate, international protection of refugees instead of attempting to widen its mandate into disaster relief activities, statelessness and internally displaced persons. The third Annual Bilateral Consultations between UNHCR and Government of India is expected to take place in March/April 2011 in Geneva.

Migration

International Organization on Migration (IOM)

India participated in all the meetings, informal consultations and intersessional workshops on migration conducted by IOM. At the meetings, India reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate and collaborate on supporting IOM's core mandate of promoting safe and orderly migration. India also urged Member-States and IOM Secretariat to recognise the organic linkage between migration and development and to treat the phenomenon of migration more holistically than through the current law-and-order paradigm. The year 2010 was important, as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (having been elected as IOM's External Auditor, at the 98th Council Session in November 2009, for a period of three years from 2010 to 2012) formally took over, in September 2010, from Norway as the External Auditor of IOM. Director General, IOM is expected to visit India in 2011.

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

The Fourth Meeting of the GFMD was organized in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico from 10-12 November, 2010. The Permanent Representative of India to the UN represented India at the meeting. The theme of the Fourth GFMD meeting was 'Partnership for Migration and Human Development, Shared Prosperity: Shared Responsibility'. The recent global financial crisis and its impact and aftermath especially on migration and development were the main topic of discussions and debate. A meeting of the Colombo Process countries chaired by Bangladesh was held on the sidelines of the GFMD, to discuss substantive and logistical issues for the forthcoming fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Colombo Process, that will be held in the first week of April 2011 in Dhaka.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

The Inter-Parliamentary Union had three major events in 2010. The Sixth Women Speakers' Conference was held from 16-18 July, 2010 in Berne. Speaker, Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar participated in the event. Issues relating to empowerment of women, sharing experiences and promotion of the Millennium Development Goals were discussed at the Conference. The third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held in Geneva, from 19-21 July, 2010 reviewed the progress made by countries in attaining the Millennium Development Goals and the related contributions made by the Parliaments. Speaker, Lok Sabha and Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha participated in the event. The Indian delegation proposed the inclusion of a paragraph on terrorism in the final Declaration (Securing Global Democratic Accountability for the Common Good), highlighting the need to show solidarity and collective action to counter the scourge of terrorism.

The Annual 123rd IPU Assembly was held in Geneva from 30 September-6 October 2010. Speaker, Lok Sabha led the Indian delegation that included Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Members of Parliament of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Issues relating to Cooperation between the UN and Parliaments, Preventing Electoral Violence and ensuring the Smooth Transition of Power, Transparency and Accountability in Political Party Funding, Migration and Development, Ensuring Sustainable Development through the Management of Natural Resources, Agricultural Production and Demographical change were discussed. In addition, a Goodwill Indian Parliamentary delegation led by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources visited Geneva from 3-4 April, 2010.

International Labor Organisation

India participated in the 99th Session of the International Labour Conference of ILO from 2-18 June, 2010. India received recognition for its various national labour-oriented initiatives for addressing social and economic inequities namely; The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), the Rashtriya Swashta Bima Yojana (RSBY), the National Skills Development Policy (NSDP); the New Pension Scheme (NPS). India remained engaged in the ongoing reform process in the ILO, regarding its governance mechanism, including the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference.

UNESCO

The 184th Session of the Executive Board was held from 30 March-15 April 2010 and 185th Session was held from 5-22 October, 2010. At the Session of the Executive Board in March/April 2010, a proposal to celebrate in an integrated manner the contribution of Rabindranath Tagore, Pablo Neruda and Aime Cesaire was adopted. The 184th Session of the Executive Board also took up, at India's request the issue of South-South Cooperation, especially in the field of Education.

The 185th Session of the Executive Board was held in Paris from 5-22 October, 2010. At the Plenary Session, the Speech of Dr. Karan Singh, India's Representative on the Board was generally appreciated wherein he stressed the need to further strengthen the 'new humanism' espoused by the Director General and appealed for enhanced focus on issues that relate to Science and Society, in order to percolate the fruits of technological advancement for the benefit of the common man. He also underlined the role that UNESCO could play in linking Culture with Development. The theme of 'Culture for Development' is now poised to be the leitmotif of all programming activities in UNESCO.

Consequent upon the decision taken in 2009 to establish a Category-1 Institute of UNESCO - the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), progress was made during the year in the form of consultative formulation of objectives, confirmation of operational and administrative structures and definition of academic focus. Other measures related to the finalization of infrastructure, staff and management of the proposed institute are in process.

On the 34th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Brasilia in June 2010, the Jantar Mantar in Jaipur was approved for inscription on the list. With this, the total number of properties in the list is 28 including five national and 23 cultural properties.

A special event to jointly launch, by India and UNESCO, the commemorative activities leading up to the 150th Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in 2011 was held in Maison de L'Inde City University, Paris on 12 May, 2010.

On 14 September 2010 a function to commemorate the Centenary of the birth of Mother Teresa was jointly organized by UNESCO and the Permanent Delegation of India at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

At the 27th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of

Communication (IPDC) held at UNESCO Headquarters from 24-26 March, 2010, Shri Raghu Menon, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was elected as the new Chairman of IPDC. India has contributed US\$ 1.4 million to IPDC since its inception through an annual contribution of US\$ 30,000. India made a special contribution of US\$ 5,00,000 to IPDC this year (2010-2011) for its programmes.

The 22nd session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme was held at UNESCO HQs from 31 May-4 June 2010. The Council decided to defer the proposal to include Great Nicobar area as a reserve to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Council noted that the proposed biosphere reserve included the largest contiguous forest areas in the Andaman and Nicobar islands outside the North Andamans and felt that it held great potential for biosphere reserve designation. The Council encouraged Indian authorities to resubmit the nomination after including marine and coastal areas. Norkrek Biosphere Reserve (Meghalaya) Simlipal Biosphere Reserve (Odisha) and Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve (Madhya Pradesh) were approved for inclusion in the world Network of Biosphere Reserves. Out of the 15 sites designated as Biosphere reserves in India, seven Biosphere Reserves have now been included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Legal & Treaties Division

The important activities of the Legal & Treaties Division for the year 2010 are as follows:

UN and International Law

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism: As a part of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy the UN General Assembly urged the States to intensify, where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism in order to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information. The UN General Assembly further urged the States to ensure full prosecution of nationals or persons in their territories who funded or financially supported any and all terrorist acts. As regards the meeting of the Ad hoc Committee on Terrorism, it was decided that the Ad hoc Committee would meet in April 2011 to continue the elaboration of various provisions of the Comprehensive on International Terrorism (CCIT), as well as to consider the question of convening a high level segment to address global terrorism in a comprehensive and concerted manner.

During this year, the issue of terrorism, especially the progress relating to Comprehensive on International

Terrorism (CCIT), was also considered during the Informal Meeting of the Legal Advisers of the United Nations Member States held during the 65th UN General Assembly.

This year, India chaired the annual Informal Meeting of the Legal Advisers, which considered, in addition to matters relating to International Terrorism, the outcome of the Review Conference of the International Criminal Court, the practice and procedures of the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, and the work of the Security Council Committees relating to "the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions" established pursuant to Resolution 1267 (1999) on 15 October, 1999, especially the listing and de-listing procedures of individuals and organizations. A special Seminar on 'enhancing the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which was attended by the President and Vice President of the ICJ along with Legal Advisers of the Member States and other experts, was also held as part of the meeting.

Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations: "The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization" is considering several proposals relating to: the maintenance of international peace and security; coordination with other committees/bodies that are also involved in work related to the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular with regard to assistance to third states adversely affected by sanctions. The Legal & Treaties Division prepared briefs on issues before the Special Committee for use by the Indian delegation at the 65th session of the UN General Assembly. The General Assembly after considering the report (A/65/33) of the Special Committee of its work at its March 2010 session has adopted resolution 65/31. The Assembly has requested the Special Committee to continue to consider the subject as a priority, in regard to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under the UN Charter, as well as improving its working methods towards identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation. States have been called upon to make voluntary contributions to the trust funds for the updating of the Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council and for the elimination of the backlog in the Repertory of Practice of United Nations organs. India's stand over the years has been that the Security Council should hold the primary responsibility towards the affected third States, as a part of the sanctions imposing decisions. India has supported all efforts concerning the updating/publication of the Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council and Repertory of Practice of United Nations organs.

Oceans and the Law of the Sea: At its 65th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted two resolutions 65/37 and 65/38 on the agenda items "Oceans and Law of the Sea" and "Sustainable fisheries, including the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December, 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments." This Division was actively involved in advising on various legal issues which came up during the finalization of resolutions.

India submitted her first partial claim for an extended continental shelf under the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, in May 2009 to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). In August 2009, India made a presentation before the CLCS, introducing and explaining the main features of its submission, including on the methods and equipment used in collection and analysis of scientific data relating to the submission.

The 20th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was held in New York from 14-18 June, 2010. India is a State Party to the Convention and participated in the Meeting. The Meeting discussed the Report on the work of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), including administrative and budgetary matters; report of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and; matters relating to CLCS including the workload of the Commission.

The Legal & Treaties Division also participated in the meeting of the ad-hoc Working Group on Modalities for the Implementation of the "Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Social Economic aspects", held in New York from 30 August-3 September 2010, which focused inter-alia on the objective and scope of the first cycle of the Regular Process in order to ensure their relevance and usefulness for target audiences.

AALCO

This Division participated in the Annual Session of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) held at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, in July 2010. AALCO is a body formed to promote cooperation and consultations among the States of Asia and Africa in the field of international law. This Division also participated in various meetings/conferences organized by AALCO, including on: "Challenges for International Law in the 21st Century"; "Workshop on Prevention of Trafficking in

Persons", "Smuggling of Migrants and International Cooperation", and the "Review Conference of the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)". This Division provided resource persons for various training courses organized by AALCO for participants from the Member States.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

The L&T Division participated in the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), held at Kampala, Uganda, from 31 May-11 June 2010.

The Review Conference mainly focused on issues concerning the definition of the "Crime of Aggression", conditions for the exercise of jurisdiction by the Court over the crime of aggression and, procedure for the entry into force of the amendments to the Rome Statute adopting the definition. The Conference also deliberated on issues relating to cooperation with the court, peace and justice, and impact of the Rome Statute on victims and affected communities.

The Review Conference considered inclusion of a new provision to the Rome Statute, which makes use of poison or poisonous weapons, poisonous or other gases or employing bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body as war crimes when used in non-international armed conflicts. The use of such weapons during international armed conflicts was already a war crime under the Rome Statute. Further, the Review Conference also agreed to retain for the time being, the choice of States Parties to opt for excluding the court's jurisdiction for seven years with respect to war crimes committed by its own nationals, and this provision will be reviewed in 2015 by the Assembly of States Parties.

Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

This Division continued to participate in the Working Group II on legal issues of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. This Working Group has accomplished the assigned tasks such as continuous exchange of information on legal challenges arising from piracy off the coast of Somalia, examination on the possibility of establishing additional mechanism for prosecution of suspected pirates, establishment of an international legal network consisting of legal experts, developing 'legal tool box' containing check-lists of steps states may take to ensure that they are able to prosecute suspected pirates, list of impediments and terms of reference for an International Trust Fund. The Working

Group was also involved in the compilation of the international legal basis for prosecution and developing generic templates on evidentiary standards, "ship rider" agreements, and for drafting an MoU on the conditions of transfer of suspected pirates and armed robbers. The Working Group is also examining proposals for establishing international tribunals for dealing with the crimes of piracy.

UNCITRAL

This Division has participated in the meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and its Working Groups dealing with Insolvency Law, Security Interests and Online Dispute Resolution respectively. The first meeting of the Working Group on Online Dispute Resolution was held in Vienna, Austria, from 13-17 December 2010. The Working Group is mandated to prepare legal standards on online dispute resolution mechanism for the e-commerce disputes as the traditional means of dispute settlement are time-consuming and expensive, and e-commerce cross-border disputes required tailored, early and cost effective settlement that did not impose costs, delays and burdens that were disproportionate to the economic value at stake.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF): India's application for membership was approved and India became a full member of the FATF in June 2010.

The Legal & Treaties Division participated in meetings with the FATF assessment team, which examined and held discussions on our legal and institutional mechanisms, and administrative procedures for compliance with FATF standards and guidelines, especially in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance, and for prevention of terrorist financing and money laundering.

Environmental Law

During the year, this Division examined a number of agreements relating to cooperation in the field of environment and natural resources, MoUs between Wildlife Research Institutes, Marine Pollution, Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism.

The Division participated in the second Meeting of the "Group of Friends of the Chairs" concerning Liability and Redress in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety (Article 27) from 8-12 February, 2010, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Also attended the third Meeting of the "Group Friends of the Chairs" concerning Liability and Redress in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety (Article 27) from 15-19 June, 2010, in Kuala

Lumpur, Malaysia. Along with COP-10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), COP/MOP-5 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was held in Nagoya from 10-15 October 2010. At this Meeting the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Protocol on Liability and Redress for Damage resulting from Living Modified Organisms was adopted.

As regards access and benefit sharing relating to genetic resources, the L&T Division has attended the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), from 20-28 March, 2010, Cali, Colombia; the resumed ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS 9), from 10-16 July, 2010, Montreal, Canada including the Meeting of the Interregional Negotiating Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (ING), from 17-21 September, 2010, Montreal, Canada and a one-day Meeting of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Working Group (16 October), i.e. 6-16 October, 2010, Nagoya, Japan. At COP-10 to the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources was adopted.

The Division represented at the Asia Regional Preparatory Workshop on the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety, from 7-8 September, 2010, Hanoi, Vietnam and also attended the Expert-cum-Ministerial Meeting of Like Minded Mega-diverse Countries (LMMCs) on ABS, from 9-12 March, 2010, Brasilia, Brazil.

The Division also represented in the fourth meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs concerning Liability and Redress (6-8 October); the fifth meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties (COP-MOP-5) to the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety (11-15 October).

Antarctica

Attended the Legal and Institutional Group Meeting of the XXXIII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Committee Meeting (ATCM), from 3-7 May, 2010, Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Tobacco Protocol

Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB-4) on a Protocol on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, Geneva, from 14-21 March, 2010.

Water Resources

The L&T Division participated in the Meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission established under the Indus Waters Treaty. The Division is also actively engaged in

coordinating and presenting India's position before the Court of Arbitration set up under the Indus Water Treaty, pursuant to proceedings initiated by Pakistan regarding its objections to the design of the Kishenganga Hydro Electric Project being built by India.

The Division finalized the Report with Joint Secretary (L&T) as the Convener on international law aspects governing the use of Brahmaputra and attempts by China to unilaterally divert the waters of Brahmaputra. The Division also provided inputs on internal law issues pertaining to first user's rights with respect to Hydro Electrical Power Projects built in State of Arunachal Pradesh.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The L&T Division has actively participated in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Diplomatic Conference on aviation security held at Beijing from 30 August-10 September 2010. The Conference deliberated and adopted the amendments proposed to Convention for Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Civil Aviation (Montreal Convention, 1971) and the Convention for prevention of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (The Hague Convention, 1970). The proposed amendments, in essence, reflect the idea of advancing both counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation goals. It is proposed to add various acts which States would have to make punishable under their domestic laws. This includes: Use of civil aircraft as a weapon; Use of civil aircraft to unlawfully spread biological, chemical and nuclear substances; Attacks against civil aviation using biological, chemical and nuclear substances; Threats to commit any of these acts; and acts contributing to such acts including abetment, participation, organizing, delivering etc would be punishable as offences prohibited under the Convention.

This Division has actively participated in various multilateral bilateral negotiations leading to the adoption of various conventions and agreements which include: The ICAO Diplomatic Conference leading to the adoption of Beijing Convention and Montreal Protocol preventing the unlawful interference with the international civil aviation, adopted in September 2010.

Free Trade Agreements

Negotiations leading to Free Trade Agreements with Malaysia and Japan have been completed and whereas the negotiations leading to ASEAN, Trade Negotiating Committee meeting, is under way.

Bilateral Investment Agreements

During the current year, Bilateral Investments Promotion and Protection agreements (BIPPA) with Lithuania, Latvia, Seychelles and Zimbabwe have been signed and ratified. Instruments of ratifications in respect of BIPAs with Latvia, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Czech Republic have been exchanged in Delhi for bringing the Agreement into force. Exploratory talks with United States of America are completed. BIPPA negotiations with Slovenia and Czech Republic are completed and final drafts have been initiated by both sides. Negotiations with Hong Kong, Venezuela, Azerbaijan, Tanzania, Cuba and Croatia are underway.

Cabinet Notes

The L&T Division has examined and conveyed its concurrence on various draft Cabinet Notes, which inter alia include: Accession to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage 2001 (Bunker Convention); Accession to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, (BWM Convention) 2004; Accession to the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and co-operation to Pollution incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000 (HNS Protocol); Accession to the Protocol of 1996 to the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims (LLMC), 1976; Accession to the 1997 Protocol adding Annex VI (Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution) to the Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973/78 (MARPOL 73/78); signing and ratification of the International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (Hong Kong Convention) 2009; Clean Development Mechanism agreements, Amendment to the Indian Forests Act 1927, Amendments to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; and the draft Seeds Bill 2004. Further, the draft Cabinet Notes relating to Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreements (BIPPA) with Czech Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Nepal have been examined and cleared.

Social Security Agreements

The Division has actively participated in the negotiations of Social Security Agreements with various countries like Austria, Finland, Sweden and Portugal. It has Also participated in the negotiations on Labour Mobility Agreement with Netherlands.

Nalanda University

The L&T Division has participated in finalizing the draft Bill for the establishment of Nalanda University and to introduce the same in the Parliament. This Division also cleared the draft Headquarters Agreement to be signed

between India and Nalanda University. After obtaining the Cabinet approval, the Bill was introduced in the Parliament. During the current year, the Bill was passed by the Parliament and with the assent of the President of India, Nalanda University Act, 2010 came into being. This Division also participated in the issuing of Gazette Notifications: first to bring the Nalanda University Act 2010 into force and second, to appoint the date of establishment of the Nalanda University.

Extradition and other International Judicial Assistance

The L&T Division participated in various bilateral negotiations for concluding extradition treaties, agreements on mutual legal assistance in criminal and in civil matters with foreign countries. As a result of successful negotiations, the texts of Extradition Treaties with Azerbaijan and Indonesia were finalized. The treaties on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters were negotiated with Azerbaijan, Malaysia and Indonesia. As a result, treaties with Indonesia and Azerbaijan were finalized. Negotiations were also held with Sri Lanka and Italy on treaties on the Transfer of Sentenced Parsons. Texts of both the treaties were finalized. This Division also examined extradition requests and other requests for international cooperation received from the domestic as well as foreign jurisdictions and rendered legal advice therein. This Division participated in the Meetings of the Working Group on Enhancing the International Status of Red Notices, held from 10-11 May, 2010 and 22-24 September, 2010 at Lyon, France and Casablanca, Morocco respectively.

Vetting

This Division has examined a number of defence cooperation agreements, agreements on international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science and technology agreements, during the year. These include: MoUs concerning agreements on international terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking/narcotics; sharing of hydrological data; gas and energy agreements; bilateral agreements on climate change, protection on natural resources, St. Petersburg Declaration on Protection of the Tiger, Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare Initiative 2005, protection of the Sunderban; gainful employment agreements; agreements on hydrography; customs cooperation agreements; carbon trading etc.

India has signed/ratified many multilateral/bilateral treaties/agreements with foreign countries during the year. A comprehensive list is placed at Appendix-I. A list of Instruments of Full Powers issued during the year 2010 is at Appendix-II and a list of Instruments of Ratification processed during the year is at Appendix-III.

Disarmament and International Security Affairs

UN General Assembly

India continued to support the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. In a statement to the 65th session of the UN General Assembly on 29 September, 2010, the Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna, reiterated India's abiding commitment for achieving universal, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament within a specified time-frame, a vision that was most eloquently articulated in the General Assembly by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, in 1998. He also called for an intensification of discussion and dialogue amongst member states and larger non-governmental communities so as to strengthen the international consensus that can be translated into concrete action on achieving nuclear disarmament. He also referred to the emergence of newer threats, including the threat of terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

During the First Committee session of the General Assembly, India reiterated the priority it attaches to global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. India said that there is a need for a step by step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. India supported the intensification of dialogue to strengthen the international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation.

India highlighted that its Working Paper, tabled in 2006, contained specific proposals reflecting the spirit and substance of the 1988 Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan. These proposals, which continue to be relevant, included reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment by all nuclear weapon states to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons, reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, measures to reduce nuclear danger, including de-alerting of nuclear weapons and negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear weapon States on "no first use" of nuclear weapons, negotiations of a Convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, and negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time-frame.

As in recent years, India tabled three resolutions in the First Committee. India's resolution on "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction" was adopted by consensus, showing the importance the international community accorded to the resolution. The resolution was first introduced by India in 2002. The resolution called upon UN Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. It urged Member States to strengthen national efforts and encouraged international cooperation in this regard. This year the resolution was co-sponsored by 74 countries.

India's resolution "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" reiterated the request to the CD to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

The resolution "Reducing Nuclear Danger" called for a review of nuclear doctrines and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting nuclear weapons. It also called upon Member States to take necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament, with the objective of eliminating nuclear weapons.

The First Committee and the General Assembly adopted without a vote a draft decision proposed by India on "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

UN Disarmament Commission

The 2010 session of the UN Disarmament Commission met from 29 March-16 April 2010, in New York. The Commission deliberated on the issues of recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and elements of the draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade. India participated in the discussions of the Commission and shared its perspectives.

Conference on Disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the single multilateral disarmament treaty negotiating body. In 2010, the Conference held 35 formal and 34 informal plenary meetings on its agenda items, Programme of Work, organization and procedures, as well as on other matters. However, the CD could not adopt a Programme of Work for its 2010 session. India supported negotiation in the CD and as part of its Programme of Work a multilateral, non-discriminatory, and internationally verifiable FMCT that meets India's national security interests. India's position in this regard was without prejudice to the highest priority it attaches to the goal of nuclear disarmament.

High Level Meeting on Disarmament

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna participated in the High Level Meeting "Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations" convened by UN Secretary General in New York on 24 September, 2010. In his statement, he expressed disappointment that the CD had been prevented from undertaking its primary task of negotiating multilateral treaties. He expressed India's support for the immediate commencement of FMCT negotiations in the CD as part of its Programme of Work in early 2011.

Nuclear Security Summit

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh attended the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington D.C. on 13 April, 2010. 47 countries and three international organizations attended the Summit. The Summit adopted a Communiqué and a Work Plan aimed at strengthening nuclear security and addressing the threat of nuclear terrorism. In his statement at the Summit, Prime Minister said that nuclear security is one of the foremost challenges of today. He said that "there should be zero tolerance for individuals and groups which engage in illegal trafficking in nuclear items". Prime Minister announced that India would set up a "Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership" based on international participation of the IAEA and interested foreign partners. The Centre will consist of four schools dealing with advanced nuclear energy system studies, nuclear security, radiation safety, and application of radioisotopes and radiation technology in the areas of healthcare, agriculture, and food.

Conventional Weapons/Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

India remains committed to the CCW as a key Convention in the law of armed conflict and international

humanitarian law. India has ratified all five protocols of the CCW and has actively engaged in the negotiations on a draft protocol on cluster munitions which strikes a balance between humanitarian and security considerations.

India participated in the annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the CCW held in Geneva from 25-26 November, 2010. Two formal meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) were also held during the year in Geneva to negotiate a protocol on cluster munitions. The meeting of the High Contracting Parties in November extended the mandate of the GGE for 2011. India welcomed the progress made by the GGE on negotiating a draft protocol on cluster munitions.

India attended the 12th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II (AP-II on Mines, Booby-traps and other devices) of the CCW held on 24 November, 2010, in Geneva. The issues in focus in this year's meeting included those related to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), universalization of AP-II, the possibility of the termination of Protocol II of CCW, and victim assistance. India expressed its support for the approach enshrined in AP-II and expressed its commitment for the eventual elimination of anti-personnel mines. India also attended the tenth Meeting of State Parties of the Anti Personnel Landmine Convention (Ottawa Convention) held in Geneva from 29 November-3 December 2010, as an Observer.

The fourth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties of the Protocol V (Explosive Remnants of War) of the CCW was held in Geneva from 22-23 November, 2010. The Conference discussed various issues such as the universalization of the Protocol, national reporting, generic preventive measures, victim assistance, and international cooperation and assistance. Earlier, as the President of the Third Conference of Protocol V of the CCW, Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao, Permanent Representative of India to the CD, reported to the annual UN General Session that the number of High Contracting Parties to the Protocol had increased from 61 in 2009 to 69 in 2010.

Arms Trade Treaty

India participated in the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2012 UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) held in July 2010 in New York. India has stated that a gradual, pragmatic, transparent and consensus-driven approach to the ATT would enhance the prospects of an instrument of universal acceptance.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

India participated in the 4th Biennial Meeting of States (BMS-4) on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action (UNPOA) on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) held in New York, from 14-18 June, 2010. India continued to stress the need for full and effective implementation of existing obligations of Member States, in particular those flowing from the UNPOA on SALW on strict national control over production, adequate marking, international cooperation in tracing of illicit arms, effective management of stockpiles, export controls, and their strict enforcement.

Biological Weapons Convention

India attaches high importance to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) as the first multilateral, non-discriminatory treaty banning an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. The Indian delegations participated actively in the BWC Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties, held in August 2010, and December 2010, respectively. The focus of this year's meeting was to "discuss and promote common understanding and effective action on the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations upon request by any State Party in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons, including improving national capabilities for disease surveillance, detection and diagnosis and public health systems". India looks forward to strengthening the implementation of the BWC at the seventh Review Conference to be held in Geneva in 2011.

Chemical Weapons Convention

India continued to participate actively in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at the Hague, and fulfil its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). India was re-elected for another two years as a member of the Executive Council of the OPCW where it has been represented continuously since the entry into force of the Convention in April 1997.

India participated in the 15th Conference of States Parties of the CWC held at the Hague from 29 November-3 December 2010. India also participated in the 60th, 61st, and 62nd sessions, of the Executive Council of the OPCW held during the year. During the deliberations of the Council and the Conference, India highlighted its perspective on various issues relating to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, including progress in the destruction of chemical weapons, industry verification, assistance and protection measures and international cooperation

programmes. India also contributed as a member of various subsidiary bodies of the Organization, including the Scientific Advisory Board, Confidentiality Commission, and Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters. India participated in specific events or programmes organized under the OPCW, particularly visits to chemical weapon destruction facilities, Assistex Exercise on assistance and protection held in Tunis in October 2010, and Workshop on Article XI of the CWC on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry, and also hosted the Associate Programme of the OPCW.

Director General-OPCW Mr. Ahmet **Üzümcü** visited India from 13-14 January, 2011. During the visit, issues relating to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention were discussed.

IAEA

India participated in the annual IAEA General Conference held in Vienna from 20-24 September, 2010. The General Conference adopted several resolutions on the subject of nuclear safety, security, safeguards, nuclear applications, and nuclear power. A bilateral Agreement was signed with Argentina on 'Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy' on 23 September, 2010, on the sidelines of the General Conference. The Government of India would be donating two radiotherapy machines (Bhabatrons), one to Sri Lanka, and the other to Namibia, under IAEA's Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy. India signed the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage on 27 October, 2010, in Vienna. Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mr. Yukiya Amano visited India from 16-19 January, 2011. During the visit, issues relating to cooperation between India and the International Atomic Energy Agency were discussed.

UNCOPUOS

A three-member delegation, led by Director, ISTRAC (ISRO) Shri Shiv Kumar, participated in the 53rd Session of the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held in Vienna from 9-18 June, 2010. The meeting discussed various issues related to the peaceful uses of outer space such as space debris mitigation.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

The ASEAN Regional Forum is a premier forum for dialogue, cooperation and confidence building on politico-security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. During the inter-sessional period 2009-2010, India and Vietnam



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the US President, Mr. Barack Obama, at Blair House, Washington on 11 April, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Heads of the Delegations at the Nuclear Security Summit, in Washington on 13 April, 2010.

co-chaired the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ARF-ISG on CBMs and PD).

The Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, led the Indian delegation to the 17th ARF Ministerial meeting held in Hanoi from 23 July, 2010. The meeting reaffirmed the importance of ARF in the emerging regional architecture and supported ASEAN's role as the driving force in the ARF process. A highlight of the meeting was the adoption of the "Hanoi Plan of Action" for the implementation of the ARF Vision Statement for 2020. The Vision Statement was adopted by the 2009 ARF Ministerial Meeting. The Third Protocol to amend the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in South-East Asia was signed during the meeting. Smt. Preneet Kaur signed the Protocol from the Indian side.

India continued its participation in and contribution to multilateral projects under the ambit of the International Maritime Organization for enhancing safety of navigation and marine environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

ADMM Plus Meeting

Defense Minister Shri A. K. Antony, attended the first Meeting of ASEAN+8 Defense Ministers Meeting (ADMM Plus) held in Hanoi from 12-13 October, 2010. It marked an expansion of the existing annual mechanism among ASEAN Defense Ministers, which was formed in 2006, to include eight dialogue partners - Australia , China, India, Japan, New Zealand , Republic of Korea , Russia and the US. The meeting adopted a Joint Declaration recognising the importance of establishing the ADMM-Plus as a key component of a robust, effective, open, and inclusive regional security architecture that would enable the ADMM to cooperate with the eight "Plus" countries to address our common security challenges. During the meeting, Defense Minister stressed that this new mechanism for dialogue and interaction can play an important role in building trust and confidence among all countries within the group and make a

meaningful contribution to building an open and transparent security architecture.

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

The Indian delegation led by the Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma, participated in the third Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held on 3 June, 2010, in Istanbul, Turkey. The Summit was attended by the leaders of the 20 existing Member countries of CICA. Vietnam and Iraq joined as new Members of CICA while Bangladesh became an Observer. Turkey assumed the Chairmanship of CICA for a period of two years, replacing Kazakhstan , which had been the Chairman of CICA since its inception. The third CICA Summit Declaration recognized the important role being played by the CICA in meeting the challenges faced by the world community in general and Asia in particular. Member States reaffirmed their commitment to continue to develop CICA as a forum for dialogue and to enhance mutual cooperation. Member States condemned terrorism and recognized it as the most serious threat to international peace and security.

India attended the Special Working Group and Senior Officials' Committee meetings of CICA, in Ankara, from 4-6 October, 2010, which discussed ways to further strengthen confidence building measures among member states. Bahrain joined as a new Member of CICA while Philippines became an Observer.

Other issues

An India-US Strategic Security Dialogue led by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao, and US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Ms. Ellen Tauscher, was held in Washington on 17 September, 2010. The dialogue covered a range of global and regional security issues of mutual interest, multilateral developments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and the easing of US regulations for export of high-technology items to India.

IBSA (India , Brazil and South Africa)

IBSA was conceived in 2003 as a dialogue forum amongst the three large democracies and developing countries, from three continents, with shared values and similar aspirations. It has emerged as an institution which provides a framework for enhancing cooperation among the three countries, and their peoples. Under the IBSA Framework there are 16 sectoral Working Groups focusing on different areas of cooperation. The IBSA Trust Fund is a novel idea of trilateral cooperation to enhance South-South Cooperation through the implementation of development projects in other developing countries.

The fourth IBSA Summit was held in Brasilia on 15 April, 2010. The Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the Summit. The delegation included the Commerce and Industry Minister, and the then National Security Advisor. IBSA leaders held discussions on a wide range of issues including UN reform, the global economic and financial crisis, and terrorism. The leaders called for an urgent reform of the United Nations, including the Security Council, to make it more representative and democratic. The leaders considered terrorism as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The Brazilian and South African Presidents condemned terrorist attacks in India , and conveyed condolences to the people of India.

In addition to the Brasilia Declaration, the fourth IBSA Summit adopted two documents - Social Development Strategies, and the Future of Agricultural Cooperation in India, Brazil, and South Africa. Two MoUs on Cooperation in Science, Technology, & Innovation, and Solar Energy, were also signed at the Summit.

The External Affairs Minister attended the IBSA Foreign Ministers meeting in New York, on the sidelines of UNGA, in September 2010.

BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China)

BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) brings together four major emerging economies, which together command 25.9% of the world's geographic area, 40% of the global population, and about 22% of the global GDP (PPP).

The second Summit of BRIC Leaders was held back-to-back with the IBSA Summit in Brasilia, on 15 April, 2010. The Indian delegation was led by the Prime Minister. The Summit focussed on a range of issues including the international financial and economic crisis, reform of the international financial institutions, including its management structures, cooperation in G-20, UN reforms, and climate change. The Summit adopted a Joint Statement. An MoU on cooperation amongst development banks of BRIC was also signed at the Summit.

The second meeting of the BRIC High Representatives on Security was held before the Summit. India was represented in the meeting by the National Security Advisor. Other events/meetings held on the sidelines of the second BRIC Summit included the BRIC Development Banks Meeting (attended by the EXIM Bank), the BRIC Cooperatives' Meeting (attended by the Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative (IFFCO), National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd., and National Cooperative Union of India), and a joint BRIC and IBSA Business Forum, in Rio de Janeiro. The Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma, led the Indian delegation for the joint BRIC and IBSA Business Forum, which included business and industry representatives from FICCI, CII, and ASSOCHAM. Brazil also hosted a seminar of BRIC Think Tanks, on the sidelines of the second BRIC Summit, which was attended by scholars from RIS, ICRIER, Observer Research Foundation, and IIM (Ahmedabad).

The BRIC Foreign Ministers met in New York, on the sidelines of UNGA on 21 September, 2010. Cooperation in agriculture, energy security, the reform of the international financial institutions, development banks, competition authorities etc. figured in the discussions at the meeting. India was represented by India's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York .

The third International Conference of the Mayors of St. Petersburg, Rio de Janeiro, Qingdao, and Mumbai, was held in St. Petersburg, in May 2010. The Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai attended the Conference.

As proposed by the Prime Minister at the first BRIC Summit held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in June 2009, the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, hosted a BRIC Workshop, in New Delhi from

10-11 September, 2010, on a joint BRIC study on the state of the world economy during the next two years, and the role of the BRIC countries in it.

The National Security Advisor attended the third meeting of the BRIC High Representatives on Security, in Sochi, Russia, on 5 October, 2010.

BRIC Statistical Authorities held their second meeting, in Rio de Janeiro, from 1-3 December, 2010, to review and update the BRIC statistical publication to bring out the second edition of the publication on the occasion of the third BRIC Summit, in China, in 2011.

The Group of Fifteen (G-15)

The Group of Fifteen (G-15) was established during the ninth Non-Aligned Summit, in Belgrade, in September 1989. The mandate of the G-15 is to identify specific and concrete ideas to foster South-South cooperation and to hold a review of the world situation and the state of the international economic relations affecting developing countries, with a view to developing common perceptions and devising common strategies.

The 15th Summit of G-15 was hosted by Iran on 17 May, 2010, in Tehran, preceded by the G-15 Ministerial Meeting, on 15 May, 2010. External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation to the Summit. The global economic and financial crisis, its adverse impact on the developing countries, climate change, the Doha Round, and MDGs were the focus of the discussion at the Summit. A Joint Communiqué was adopted at the Summit. The chairmanship of the G-15 passed on to Sri Lanka, from Iran, at the end of the Summit. A Joint Communiqué set up a high-level task force of Senior Officials/Personal Representatives to undertake a review of the progress and the financial situation, and provide action-oriented recommendation on the revitalization of the group. The Permanent Representative of India to the UN Offices in Geneva led the Indian delegation to the G-15 Ministerial Meeting, preceding the Summit.

ASEAN/ASEM/ACD/BIMSTEC

The eight India-ASEAN Summit and the fifth East Asia Summit were held on 30 October, 2010, at Hanoi, Vietnam. The Indian delegation was led by the Prime Minister. The leaders of ASEAN and India took stock of the growth in India-ASEAN relations and renewed their commitment to take this relationship to new heights. The Prime Minister took this opportunity to announce new initiatives for India-ASEAN cooperation in various sectors. India apprised East Asia Summit leaders of the progress achieved in the Nalanda University Project, piloted by India.

An Indian delegation, led by the Vice President, attended the eight Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit held at Brussels from 4-5 October, 2010, and participated in discussions on various issues of international importance such as more effective global economic governance, sustainable development, fighting terrorism and combating organized crime, reform of the UN system etc.

An Indian delegation led by Smt. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State (HRD), attended the ninth Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) meeting, at Tehran, from 8-9 November, 2010.

The Indian delegations participated in the third Joint Working Group meeting (on the establishment of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) permanent secretariat), held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 6-7 December, 2010, and the third BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting on Agricultural Cooperation, held in Kandy, Sri Lanka, from 22-23 November, 2010.

Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)

The Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) came into existence in 1997. It comprises 18 countries viz., Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the UAE, and Yemen. It has five Dialogue Partners, viz. Egypt, Japan, China, the U.K., and France. Its guiding philosophy is 'open regionalism,' and it operates on the basis of voluntary action and decisions on the basis of consensus. The apex body of IOR-ARC is the Council of Ministers (CoM).

The tenth meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) was held in Sana'a, Yemen, on 5 August, 2010. The Indian delegation was led by the Minister of State for Human Resources Development Smt. D. Purandeswari. The Sana'a Communiqué was issued after the meeting. The Communiqué, inter alia, stressed greater cooperation among IOR-ARC member countries in areas such as the promotion of trade and investment, tourism, culture, education, combating communicable diseases and natural disasters, and tackling the challenges posed by climate change. The Council of Ministers also expressed support for the initiatives for combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden and other parts of the Indian Ocean. India will assume the Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), in 2011.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh in a group photo of the Heads of Delegations of the G-20 Summit, at Toronto, in Canada on 27 June, 2010.



President of Brazil, Mr. Lula da Silva, the President of Russia, Mr. Dmitry A. Medvedev, the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the President of China, Mr. Hu Jintao at the signing ceremony of the 2nd BRIC Summit, in Brasilia, Brazil on 15 April, 2010.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

The 16th SAARC Summit, held in Thimphu, from 28-29 April, 2010, was an historic event, coinciding as it did with the 25th Anniversary Year of SAARC. This was also the first SAARC Summit hosted by Bhutan. The Summit was successful in articulating decisions with a view to consolidating and accelerating gains made by the Association in the recent past.

The theme of the Summit was 'Climate Change,' as proposed by Bhutan. The Summit adopted the Thimphu Silver Jubilee Declaration entitled "Towards a Green and Happy South Asia," and a separate Ministerial Statement on Climate Change. Two agreements, a Convention on the Environment, and a SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services, were signed at the Summit. The SAARC Convention on the Environment is expected to open up the possibilities for regional cooperation on the environment, and climate change issues. The SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services is also expected to strengthen regional economic cooperation, and increase trade in services across the region, which will contribute to the objectives of economic development. The permanent premises of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat were also inaugurated in Thimphu, and the First Chief Executive Officer of the SDF was formally appointed.

At the Summit, the Prime Minister announced the setting up of an 'India Endowment for Climate Change in South Asia,' and the setting up of Climate Innovation Centres in South Asia, to develop sustainable energy technologies, based on indigenous resource endowments. The PM also announced the provision of 50 'SAARC-India Silver Jubilee Scholarships' for meritorious students from SAARC LDC countries for the South Asian University. A new initiative proposed by India, at the Summit, was the creation of a South Asia Forum, comprising eminent personalities from the region, to exchange ideas on the future development of South Asia. It was agreed that the next Summit would be hosted by the Maldives, in 2011.

The third SAARC Interior/Home Ministers Meeting took place in Islamabad on 26 June, 2010, after a gap of three years. The highlight of the meeting was the adoption of the Islamabad SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation against Terrorism. The meeting also considered issues relating to visas, security, terrorism, combating of trafficking in women and children, drugs and narcotics etc. It was decided that the fourth SAARC Home Ministers Meeting would be held in Bhutan, in 2011.

Issues of Climate Change and Global Warming were also taken up actively. An Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting (IGEG) took place in Thimphu from 16-17 August, 2010, and agreed on a common SAARC position, which was presented at the COP16 in Cancun, in end November 2010.

The fourth Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, on 24 August, 2010, preceded by the fourth meeting of the SAARC Finance Secretaries, from 22-23 August, 2010. The Meeting, inter alia, reiterated that regional/sub-regional projects, to be funded under the SAARC Development Fund, should be demand-driven, and such projects should be developed through the relevant SAARC sectoral mechanisms. The meeting also called for the expeditious ratification of the SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services. To avert and prepare for adverse impacts of any unforeseen future global financial crisis in the region, the Meeting recommended the convening of a High-Level Meeting, as also previously agreed by the Council of Ministers at their 31st session, held in Colombo, in February 2009.

The South Asian University (SAU) commenced functioning from its temporary premises at the (old) J.N.U. Campus, in New Delhi, on 26 August, 2010. For the current year, only two courses, viz. MA (Development Economics) and MCA (Masters Degree in Computer Applications), were offered by the University. 25 students in each course from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, enrolled during the first year. The University is expected to be fully established by 2015. The seventh Inter-Governmental Steering Committee on the establishment of the SAU met in New Delhi, from



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh along with other Head of State and Government of SAARC Countries, during the 16th SAARC Summit, in Thimphu, Bhutan on 29 April, 2010.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the inaugural session of the 16th SAARC Summit, at Thimphu, in Bhutan on 28 April, 2010.

21-22 September, 2010. The Meeting considered and finalized the remaining modalities of the University, including its Rules, Academic Structure, Regulations, and Business Plan.

To commemorate 25 years of the creation of SAARC, MEA extended support to an International Conference on SAARC @ 25 from 16-17 September, 2010, in New Delhi. This event was organized by the India International Centre (IIC), and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, gave the inaugural address. Participants included officials as well as academicians from the SAARC Member States. They discussed the progress achieved in SAARC, during the last 25 years, as well as the main challenges that continue to confront the organisation.

On 28 September, 2010, the customary Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers took place, on the margins of the 65th Session of the UNGA, in New York. The meeting, coordinated by Bhutan, as Chair of SAARC, discussed the current status of the implementation of the important decisions taken by the 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu. It also agreed to revise the schedule of the Inter-Session Summit.

The fourth meeting of the SAARC Food Bank was held in Dhaka from 27-28 October, 2010. Among other issues, the Meeting considered matters related to the operationalization of the Food Bank. It was agreed that further action would be taken to notify the depots/godowns, where the increased reserves of food grains are to be maintained by the Members. It was also agreed that the availability of a modern food analysis laboratory, or laboratories, in the region, could facilitate transactions of food grains from the reserves of the Food Bank. It was decided that a proposal in this regard would be prepared by India for the consideration of the Board, in its next meeting, including the exploration of support for such an initiative from the SAARC Development Fund.

As agreed during the 38th Session of the Programming Committee, preceding the 16th SAARC Summit, in April 2010, in Thimphu, the 1st meeting of the Chiefs of Public Service Commissions of the SAARC Member States was hosted by India, from 20-22 November, 2010.

At the meeting, presentations were made by the Chairpersons of the respective Public Service Commissions' on their role, functions, and objectives. They discussed the ways to share the best practices and to strengthen the Public Service Commissions in the region as a whole, through bilateral and regional cooperation. It was agreed that the Chairman, UPSC, would act as a focal point, till the next such meeting, which Pakistan has offered to host, in 2011.

At the third SAARC Transport Ministers Meeting, held in New Delhi, on 23 November, 2010 - preceded by the Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group on Transport, on 22 November - discussions were held on the prioritized SAARC Regional Multimodal Transport Study Recommendations at the National Level. It was agreed that the second Meeting of the Expert Group would be convened with a view to further consider the texts of the two draft Agreements on Motor Vehicles, and Railways. A decision was also taken to proceed with a demonstration run of a container train, initially from Bangladesh to Nepal, via India.

During COP16, held in Cancun, from 29 November-5 December 2010, SAARC was accorded the status of an Observer at the UNFCCC Secretariat, on the request of Bhutan, as Chair of SAARC, and with the support of other SAARC Member States.

The third Meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Tourism took place in Kathmandu, from 12-13 January, 2011. The Meeting highlighted the activities carried out by the Member States for the promotion of tourism, and discussed further measures to promote tourism in the region.

The 33rd (Inter-Summit) Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers took place in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 8-9 February, 2011. It was preceded by the 38th Session of the Standing Committee (Foreign Secretaries' level). During these meetings, apart from reviewing decisions taken at the 16th SAARC Summit, the entire gamut of issues pertaining to regional cooperation in the fields of the environment, health, transport, finance, education, agriculture, science & technology, terrorism, legal matters etc. were discussed, including steps to further enhance cooperation in these areas.

Technical and Economic Cooperation and Development Partnership

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The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP), and the Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) under the Colombo Plan, have been recognized as important components of India's development partnership and cooperation with the developing world. These cooperative interactions were aimed at capacity building, skills development, transfer of technology, and sharing of experiences. The usefulness and relevance of these cooperative interactions was reflected in the increasing number of participants in these programmes.

Civilian Training Programme

(A) Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP):

Starting on a modest scale in 1964, ITEC has grown over the years and is today a major component and dynamic part of India's bilateral assistance programme, manifesting itself in diverse areas of cooperation. It is demand-driven and response-oriented. There are 159 ITEC/SCAAP partner countries (list at Appendix-IV). ITEC and SCAAP continue to draw large numbers of participants to the training courses conducted by institutions in India, both Governmental, and in the private sector, under the civilian and Defense training programmes. The ITEC website at itec.mea.gov.in is more user-friendly and specifically targeted to the needs of ITEC/SCAAP participants in terms of making it easier for them to access details relating to empanelled institutions and approved courses as well as to download forms etc. A brochure - an annual compendium of ITEC/SCAAP courses and the training institutions - was brought out in English and five foreign languages, as a reference document for both participating Governments from ITEC/SCAAP partner countries, as well as individual candidates interested in the courses. Alumni networks have been encouraged, including through the annual 'ITEC Day' functions, organized at Headquarters, and in Missions abroad. ITEC has acquired a brand name or a popular image in the developing world.

During 2010-2011, around 5,500 civilian training slots under ITEC/SCAAP were allotted to 159 developing

countries in the areas of interest and advantage to them.

The civilian training programme, fully sponsored by the Government of India, with 46 institutions on the panel, conducted around 232 courses, primarily short-term, for working professionals, on a wide and diverse range of skills and disciplines. The most sought after courses were in the fields of Information Technology and the English language. Training was imparted to Government officials, and others, in areas such as finance & accounts, auditing, banking, education, planning & administration, parliamentary studies, crime records, textiles, rural electrification, tool design, ophthalmologic equipment etc. In addition, general courses pertaining to rural development, SMEs, and entrepreneurship development, also attracted many participants. (A list of institutions offering civilian training courses under ITEC and SCAAP programmes of the Ministry of External Affairs is at Appendix-V).

The ITEC Programme is essentially bilateral. However, in recent years the scope of ITEC activities has increased and it has also been associated with regional and multilateral organisations. These organisations and groupings include the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), G-15, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC), African Union (AU), Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), Pan African Parliament, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Commonwealth, and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

At the specific request of some of the ITEC/SCAAP partner countries, the following special courses, in the sectors mentioned below, were conducted (or are scheduled) during the financial year 2010-2011:

- (i) Special Training course on 'Jaipur Foot Technology' at Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur, for technicians from Iraq, from 14 September-8 December, 2010;
- (ii) Special course on 'Solar Energy Technology and Applications' by Solar Energy Centre, Gurgaon, from 18 October to 3 November, 2010;

- (iii) Special course on 'Wind Turbine Technology' by C-WET, Chennai, from 18 October-3 November 2010;
- (iv) Special course entitled 'International Training Programme on Bio-Energy,' by the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, from 25 October-3 November 2010;
- (v) Special course entitled 'Capacity Building Programme for Policy Makers and Negotiators,' for senior- and middle-level government officials of Ministries of Trade and Commerce, by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade's Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi, from 15 November-30 November, 2010;
- (vi) Special course entitled 'Leadership Programme for Post Masters and Managers,' from 6 December-16 December 2010, by the Postal Staff College, Ghaziabad;
- (vii) Special course entitled 'International Executive Development Programme for Post Masters and Managers,' from 7 March-18 March, 2011, by the Postal Staff College, Ghaziabad ;
- (viii) Special course entitled 'Educational Programme for Drug Regulatory Industry Representatives and Labs,' for Nigerians, from 7 February-25 February 2011, by NIPER, Mohali;
- (ix) Special course entitled 'Training Programme to Familiarize on the Pitfalls and Rewards of the WTO,' for representatives from the acceding countries of WTO, by IIFT's Centre for WTO Studies, from 28 February-4 March 2011;
- (x) Special course on 'Geographic Information System,' decided under the India-Africa Summit Forum, being conducted by the Geological Survey of India, Hyderabad, from 1 February-2 March 2011; and,
- (xi) Second special course entitled 'Capacity Building Programme for Policy Makers and Negotiators' for senior- and middle-level government officials of the Ministries of Trade and Commerce, by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade's Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi, from 14 March-25 March 2010.

(B) Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) under the Colombo Plan

The Colombo Plan for cooperative and economic social development in Asia and the Pacific is a regional inter-governmental organization, established in 1951, to enhance economic and social development of the countries of the region. As part of the South-South Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan, the Government of India started the Technical Cooperation

Scheme (TCS) with the view to providing technical assistance to 18 countries which are signatories of the Colombo Plan. The TCS of the Colombo Plan was transferred to the Ministry of External Affairs with effect from 1 April, 2010, from the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

During 2010-2011, the number of training slots was increased to 500 for the scholars of the Colombo Plan member countries. This included 90 slots placed at the disposal of the Colombo Plan Secretariat for allocation to participants from the Colombo Plan countries. The scholars attended training in various areas, in 39 institutes of India, under the TCS of the Colombo Plan. The areas of training covered human resource development, audit and accounts, commerce, Information Technology, computer education, parliamentary matters, rural development, textiles, water resources, medical sciences, engineering, financial management, insurance etc.

Further, technical and financial assistance to the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC), Manila, constitutes an important component of the Colombo Plan cooperation. During 2010-2011, CPSC, Manila, commenced the implementation of the two-year technical cooperation programme under a financial grant from the Government of India, entitled the 'Asia-Pacific Capacity Building Project for Technical Human Resources Development-TVET Skills for Poverty Alleviation' with activities organized in August, and November 2010. In respect of the engagement with Bhutan, the Government of India has approved the request of the Royal Government of Bhutan for increasing the number of Colombo Plan lecturers upto 30, from the academic year 2010-2011.

Defense Training

Growing interest in defense training was evident with the three wings of the Defense Services, i.e. Army, Navy, and Air Force, accepting over 800 officers/trainees in various defense training institutions. The courses were general and specialized in nature and included security and strategic studies, defense management, electronics, mechanical engineering, marine hydrography, counter insurgency and jungle warfare, as also foundation courses for young officers in the three services. Applications to the premier defense courses at the National Defense College (NDC), New Delhi, and the Defense Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, were oversubscribed and saw officers from developed countries also attending on a self-financing basis. The increasing interaction attests to the importance attached to defense training in India, by developing and developed countries.

Deputation of Experts

At the request of Governments and international organizations, 38 experts in the civilian and defense fields were on deputation to advise and provide expertise in areas including Information Technology, auditing, law, diverse agricultural fields, pharmacology, statistics and demography, public administration, and textiles. The services of Defense teams were availed of by Ethiopia, Laos, Lesotho, Mongolia, Seychelles, and Zambia, in training, and advisory capacities.

Development Partnership & Projects Cooperation

A number of bilateral projects were undertaken for implementation during 2010-2011, notably in the fields of archaeological conservation, Information and Computer Technology, and small and medium enterprises. The focus of the projects under the bilateral cooperation programme was on setting up of the requisite physical infrastructure and capacity building to ensure long-term sustainability of these projects.

The main projects under implementation included the following:

- (i) Cambodia: Under the project on conservation and restoration work at Ta Prohm temple, restoration work by the Archaeological Survey of India on various sites of the temple advanced further.
- (ii) Lao PDR: Conservation and restoration work at UNESCO World Heritage site of Wat Phou is continuing by the Archeological Survey of India. Under Phase-I of the Information Technology project to strengthen the IT infrastructure in Lao PDR, our commitment to train 30 Laos students in India was completed, in April 2010.
- (iii) El Salvador and Nicaragua: Additional one-year training in ICT Centres commenced in June 2010.
- (iv) Syria: Installation and commissioning of the ICT Centre in Damascus has been completed in December 2010, and training commenced.
- (v) Grenada: An agreement has been signed with the implementing agency in October 2010, to set up an ICT Centre. The implementation is underway.
- (vi) Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Fiji: Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed for setting up ICT Centres.
- (vii) Vietnam: Implementation of a project for setting up an Advance Resource Centre in ICT has commenced.
- (viii) Zimbabwe: The project commenced in 2006 in the field of small & medium enterprises and is at an advanced stage of completion. Last phase involving on-the-job training to the Zimbabweans is ongoing.
- (ix) Indonesia: An agreement was signed with the implementing agency, for undertaking the project on setting up a Vocational Training Centre in the construction sector. Work in Aceh, Indonesia, and project implementation is in progress.
- (x) Ecuador and Dominican Republic: Setting up of ICT Centres is under process.

Feasibility Studies

- (i) A feasibility study for the construction of a deep water river port at Berbice, Guyana, has been completed, and the feasibility study report has been forwarded to the Government of Guyana.
- (ii) A feasibility study for the setting up of a secured communication network in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro has been completed and has been forwarded to the Government of Montenegro.

Aid for Disaster Relief

During 2010-2011, India rendered immediate humanitarian and disaster relief assistance to countries affected by natural calamities. Relief assistance in the form of cash donations was provided to Benin, Chile, the Gambia, Jamaica, Liberia, Moldova, Myanmar, Niger, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

14 Investment and Technology Promotion

Economic Diplomacy has progressively acquired an important role in India's foreign policy. With rapid globalization, protecting and promoting India's economic and commercial interests abroad has become a key priority. The Ministry of External Affairs has been actively engaged in promoting and facilitating trade and foreign investment through its Missions abroad. An Investment & Technology Promotion (ITP) Division has been created in the Ministry for coordinating efforts on the commercial and economic front and liaising with various Government Departments, including the Ministry of Commerce, the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, and the Department of Economic Affairs, and also Export Promotion Councils, and Chambers of Commerce.

The Indian Missions are playing an increasingly proactive role in exploiting emerging opportunities and reaching out to foreign investors. They have also been supportive of industry initiatives and are working in partnership with the industrial sector, and chambers of commerce, to promote commercial linkages. Visits of investment delegations are encouraged and the cause of foreign investments is further supported by projecting India as an investment-friendly destination. Inclusion of business delegations in outgoing and incoming VVIP visits is encouraged to promote business- to-business links.

To help our Missions meet the growing demands of Indian industry in an effective manner, funds to the tune of ` 8.5 crores were allocated to them in 2010-2011, for undertaking market expansion activities including market surveys, seminars, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets etc. Missions have taken advantage of this facility to carry out market studies for identifying potential areas of cooperation, gathering information on local rules & regulations, organizing sector specific seminars and conferences, printing brochures and publicity material etc.

During 2010-2011, the ITP Division continued to liaise with various Government agencies including the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), the Reserve Bank of India, EXIM Bank, the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Invest India etc., providing policy inputs and feedback. It also worked with the

Ministry of Civil Aviation on bilateral civil aviation matters, and the Ministry of Commerce on trade-related issues. Trade promotion bodies and industry organizations like FICCI & CII were provided assistance in their external interface, in the form of facilitation, liaison with Missions, publicity etc. Financial assistance was extended to CII for organizing the Commonwealth Business Forum, at New Delhi, from 5-6 October, 2010, during the Commonwealth Games. Representatives from various Commonwealth countries attended the event.

The updated edition of the ITP Division's annual publication, entitled ' India - Dynamic Business Partner: Investor Friendly Destination,' was circulated to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad for dissemination and distribution to potential foreign investors and businessmen. This publication provides information on India's economic strengths and current business environment. In addition, a booklet entitled 'Doing Business in India,' giving an overview of the investment climate, taxation, forms of business organizations, and business and accounting practices in India, was also sent to all Missions/Posts.

The ITP Division's website, www.indiainbusiness.nic.in where comprehensive information on commercial and investment opportunities in India , is available - was revamped to make it more user-friendly. The website provides a detailed status of the Indian economy, Government policies, and trade & investment opportunities in various sectors, and is aimed at providing a one-stop source of information to foreign investors and businessmen. Weekly and monthly updates on the Indian economy are available on this website.

Lines of Credit

As part of its diplomatic strategy, the Government of India extends concessional Lines of Credit (LoCs) under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) to developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia . Aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation, these LoCs are a form of soft lending that enables the borrowing countries to undertake infrastructure development and capacity building, as per their

development objectives. In the process, the LoCs contribute to the socio-economic development of the recipient countries, earning tremendous goodwill for India. The LoCs also help in showcasing India's strength and expertise in project design and implementation, and in the promotion of exports of Indian goods and services.

The ITP Division is the nodal Division in the Ministry of External Affairs for the implementation of the LoCs. It works closely with the other Territorial Divisions of the Ministry, the Indian Missions, the Department of Economic Affairs, and EXIM Bank, for the effective implementation of the LoCs.

Revised LoC guidelines were issued, in July 2010, in consultation with the DEA and EXIM Bank, with a view to introducing greater efficiency and transparency in the LoC process. These guidelines require project preparation before approval, competitive bidding for the award of contracts, an elaborate monitoring mechanism, and other provisions.

Till date, 136 LoCs, worth US\$ 7,642.97 million, have been extended by the Government of India, to 56 developing countries. During 2010-2011, 16 Lines of Credit, amounting to US\$ 2,548.33 million have been approved. This includes LoCs of US\$ 1 billion to

Bangladesh for various infrastructure projects, US\$ 382.37 million to Sri Lanka for railway projects, US\$ 250 million to Nepal for infrastructure development, US\$ 210 million to DR Congo for hydropower projects, US\$ 213.31 million to Ethiopia for the development of their sugar industry, US\$ 72.55 million to Lao PDR for power generation projects, US\$ 61.6 million to Kenya for power transmission lines, and US\$ 48.5 million to Mauritius for purchase of an offshore patrol vessel. Other recipients include Malawi, Mozambique and Cambodia .

These LoCs have had a very positive impact on our bilateral cooperation with borrowing countries, by promoting trade and investment. Large scale projects are being implemented in several countries in the areas of power generation and transmission, rural electrification, transportation, railways, agriculture, irrigation, IT etc.

An amount of ` 5 crores has been earmarked to assist developing countries in carrying out feasibility studies for identifying viable projects to be financed under the LoCs. The funds will enable developing countries that lack technical expertise to identify focussed projects in priority sectors and prepare feasibility reports to establish their technical and financial viability.

An Energy Security Unit was first set up within the ITP Division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in September 2007. Given the country's increasing dependence on energy imports and the growing importance of energy security issues in international affairs, it was decided in 2009 to upgrade the Energy Security Unit into a full-fledged Division.

The work profile for the Ministry of External Affairs, in strengthening energy security, includes : making sustained diplomatic interventions on energy issues overseas; assisting the government's efforts to further diversify the country's supply base for oil, gas, and coal, as well as other energy resources; interfacing with nodal Energy Ministries; facilitating R&D tie-ups and technology-transfer in areas like renewable energy and energy efficiency; and, tracking of technological innovations and the expansion of the knowledge-base in the field of energy. In addition to energy security, resource and food security has also been brought into the mandate of the Energy Security Division.

Internationally, India supports a collaborative approach to energy issues and in that spirit has joined the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency and Cooperation (IPEEC), the Renewable Energy and Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), the International Energy Forum (IEF), and the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI), and enhanced its engagement with the International Energy Agency (IEA). Lead Participation in these platforms is from the nodal Ministries, along with representation from the Energy Security Division. The Division represented the MEA at the IPEEC Policy Committee Meeting (New Delhi, October 2010), IPEEC (Washington D.C., May 2010), IEF (Cancun, March 2010), and IRENA (Abu Dhabi, October 2010).

The Energy Security Division played a major role in the process of India joining the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which was established on 26 January, 2009. Its headquarters is in Abu Dhabi. The nodal ministry in Government of India is MNRE. India ratified the statute of IRENA, on 4 May, 2010, which later came into effect on 8 June, 2010, after its ratification by 25 countries. The Indian Ambassador in Abu Dhabi is accredited for representation to IRENA.

The Energy Security Division continued to provide inputs to articulate India's position on energy and food security matters in various multilateral fora like the UNGA, G-20, NAM, BRIC, ASEM, IBSA, East Asian Energy Ministers Meeting, CICA, and the Commonwealth. Inputs were also provided to the respective territorial Divisions and Ministries for the annual bilateral energy dialogues with the USA, Australia, and Germany, amongst other countries.

As the nodal point in the Ministry of External Affairs for all energy security matters, the Energy Security Division maintained close coordination with all the energy line Ministries and supported their international engagement on energy issues. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy was assisted in organizing the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference 2010 (DIREC - 2010), in October 2010. The Division continued to coordinate with the oil and infrastructure PSUs through periodic meetings of the Informal Working Group on Energy Security.

The Energy Security Division took part in the Technical Working Group (TWG) and Steering Committee Meetings of the proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline, leading to the eventual signing of the TAPI Intergovernmental Agreement and the Framework Agreement at the TAPI Summit, held on 11 December, 2010, at Ashgabat.

The main activities of the Policy Planning and Research Division include the processing of research projects and studies, relating to foreign policy and global affairs; preparation/updation of database of think tanks, research bodies, universities etc. dealing with subjects related to India's foreign policy and international affairs; interaction with the University Grants Commission (UGC) and its affiliates and the area study centres of different universities, specializing in research on different regions of the world; and, preparing draft speeches for Minister/Minister of State, & Foreign Secretary, if and when directed. In addition, the Policy Planning and Research Division prepares and dispatches the Monthly Summary of important developments of the month, for the Cabinet and senior officials of the Government of India. The Division also compiles, edits, prints, and distributes, Ministry of External Affairs Annual Report in a time-bound manner. The Report serves as a compendium of India's relations with the rest of the world and the views of the Government on various issues in the arena of international relations. The Division also collates and compiles materials for the "India & Abroad" chapter of INDIA, published by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

The Policy Planning Division has co-coordinated and monitored the establishment of the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies, which is within the jurisdiction of the University of Calcutta, and which has been established with the financial assistance of the Ministry of External Affairs. Its programmes include the introduction of M.Phil. courses and undertaking research projects concerned with India's foreign policy with a focus on East Asia and South Asian countries.

With the financial assistance under the Policy Planning and Research Division's Budget, the Institute of Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi, is undertaking a research project entitled "India's Neighbourhood: Challenges in the Next Two Decades".

Joint Secretary (PP&R) led the Indian delegation to Beijing to attend the fourth round of the India-China Foreign Policy Consultations during the month of September 2010.

A list of Seminars, Conferences, Meetings and Studies partly/fully funded by the Policy Planning and Research Division during the period is given at Appendix-VI.

The Policy Planning and Research Division also looks after the work of the 'Situation Room' and the 'Boundary Cell'. All their administrative issues and substantial works are looked after by the Division. The Division is responsible for scrutinizing the depiction of India's external boundaries in the foreign publications imported into our country, and offers its advice to the Ministries dealing with this matter. It coordinates the supply of map-sheets to various Government and semi-Government offices, and research scholars, for use in their official work with the Survey of India. The Division also deals with the requests from research scholars for access to the old records of the Ministry.

Situation Room

The Situation Room is a multifaceted, multi-facility state of the art complex of the Ministry. Set up in 2007, it has the requisite communication connectivity and display panels which would be required for handling any critical situation. Besides its primary role as a Crisis Management Cell of the Ministry, the complex has been effectively utilized by all Divisions for various purposes such as presentations & conferences including telephone/video conferences.

Role

The role of the Situation Room is as given below:-

- (a) To act as a multi-facility complex for holding conferences, presentations, periodic briefings, and video / telephone conferences with Head of Missions, and also for discussions on maps and images as required by the various Divisions of the Ministry.
- (b) To act as a Crisis Management Cell (Control Room) in cases of crisis.

Activities during the period of the report

The Situation Room as a Control Room : Leh Flash Floods: A round-the-clock Control Room was

established in the Situation Room to facilitate the smoother flow of information to/from Missions of friendly foreign countries whose nationals were affected by the Flash Floods in Leh in August 2010. The Control Room operated in consonance with similar Control Rooms established in Delhi and Srinagar, for smoother operations for seven days (9-15 August, 2010).

Establishment of Video Conferencing Facility in Missions: In consonance with the vision of the Ministry to add a new dimension to communication in the Ministry, video conferencing facility is being established in selected Missions in a phased manner. As a part of Phase I and Phase II of the project, the facility was installed in 13 Missions in 2009. During the period of this report, work on Phase III & Phase IV has progressed. Three more Missions, namely those at Thimphu, Bangkok, and Singapore, have been given the facility in 2010, taking the total number of Missions with video conferencing facility to 16. In addition, as a part of the implementation of Phase IV, technical feasibility studies of six more Missions have been completed and the facility will be installed in these Missions in the near future.

Usage of Video Conferencing Platform by Ministry Officials: The video conferencing facility in the Situation Room was effectively utilized for interactive communication by the senior officials of our Ministry during this period. A total of 18 video conferences were conducted by our officials, during the period of the report, to discuss various important issues with their counterparts in other countries.

Boundary Cell

The functions of Boundary Cell, established as a part of the PP&R Division, are enumerated as under:

- a) Examination of all aspects of India's external boundaries, and the scrutiny of map sheets involving international boundaries of India in coordination with the Survey of India, for publication.
- b) Providing cartographic advice and technical support on border-related matters to territorial Divisions.
- c) Assistance in the collection, and digitization of the available cartographic strip/Basis maps.
- d) Liaison with the Survey of India/State Governments regarding joint boundary survey work including maintenance/repairs of boundary pillars and on reports of any encroachment into Indian Territory (maintaining database etc.)
- e) Assistance in the collection, and digitization of information pertaining to the Maritime Boundary, and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and also the delineation of the Continental Shelf.
- f) Scrutinization of restricted map sheets - in coordination with the Ministry of Defense - requested by various Governmental and semi-Governmental organisations, for the purpose of development work.
- g) Liaison with the Naval Hydrographic Office and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- h) Being a repository of all maps/documents/information pertaining to India's International Borders.
- i) Scrutinization of inaccurate maps published in foreign magazines, journals, and atlases, and taking necessary action for getting these maps corrected. The Boundary Cell has participated in various internal/ inter-Ministerial meetings on the International Land and Maritime Boundaries of India as given below:
 - a) Provided cartographic and technical inputs to all territorial Divisions on various aspects of the International Boundary (Land and Maritime).
 - b) Provided inputs for inter-Ministerial meetings held and organized by various territorial Divisions.
 - c) IFS Probationers attached with the Boundary Cell for introduction to "Surveying and Mapping Trends and Technologies" and organized visit to Survey of India for field duties.
 - d) Inputs given on mapping of Indian enclaves in Bangladesh.
 - e) Provided cartographic inputs on the boundary conferences/meetings on the India-Bangladesh International Boundary by the concerned State Governments.
 - f) Provided inputs for JBWG meeting on the India-Bangladesh Boundary and participated in it.
 - g) Inputs provided to the Legal & Treaties Division on the India-Bangladesh Maritime and Land Boundaries.
 - h) Provided inputs on the Limits of Territorial Waters in the Krishna-Godavari basin to DGCEI, Ahmedabad.
 - i) Provided inputs to the Policy Planning & Research Division about wrong depictions of the External Boundary of India by various international agencies, on the Internet.

- j) Examination of Hindi series maps received from the National Archives.
- k) Planning, release of funds, and monitoring of the maintenance and construction of boundary pillars along the India-Pakistan International Boundary.
- l) Liaison with the Border Security Force, Survey of India, and State Government agencies, for maintenance/construction of boundary pillars.
- m) Authentication of the International Boundary on OSM and DSM maps submitted by Sol (44 Map sheets).
- n) Finalisation of the database for Boundary Strip Maps covering the External Boundary of India.
 - o Archival digitization of Boundary Strip Maps.
- p) Archival of topographical maps, in digital and hard copy form, published by the Survey of India covering the International Boundary of India.

45 incoming and 24 outgoing visits, at the levels of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government, and Foreign Minister, took place during the period April 2010-February 2011. The large number of visits, their wide range in terms of geographical coverage, and the intensity of the interface, was reflective of India's comprehensive engagement with the world in international affairs. Noteworthy was the fact that Heads of State or Government from all P-5 countries visited India

within the short span of six months, between July and December 2010. Five new resident missions were opened in 2010 bringing their total number to 145, in New Delhi. Two Consulates General were opened by Switzerland and New Zealand, in Bengaluru, and Mumbai, respectively. Besides, 14 countries opened new Honorary Consulates in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata. During the course of the year, 148 new posts were created by foreign diplomatic missions.

Incoming State/Official/Working Visits at the Level of President/Vice President/Prime Minister during the period April 2010-February 2011

S.No.	Name of Dignitary and Details	Dates
1.	H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan	26-30 April, 2010
2.	H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan	24-26 May, 2010
3.	H.E. Mr. James Alix Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles	1-3 June, 2010
4.	H.E. Dr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa	2-4 June, 2010
5.	H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka	8-11 June, 2010
6.	H.E. Lt. Gen. Mompoti S Merafhe, Vice President of the Republic of Botswana	15-19 June, 2010
7.	H.E. Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman, State Peace & Development Council, Union of Myanmar	25-29 July, 2010
8.	Rt. Hon. David Cameron, MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom	27-29 July, 2010
9.	H.E. Mr. Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland	6-8 September, 2010
10.	H.E. Mr. Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique	29 September-4 October 2010
11.	H.M. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan	5-7 October, 2010
12.	H.M. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan	20-29 October, 2010
13.	H.E. Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan	30 October-3 November 2010
14.	H.E. Nwazi Bingu-wa Mutharika, President of Malawi, and Mrs. Mutharika	3-7 November, 2010
15.	The Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America	6-9 November, 2010
16.	H.E. Mr. Raila A. Odinga, Prime Minister of Kenya	14-17 November, 2010

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| 17. | H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein, and
H.R.H. Princess Sophie | 14-20 November, 2010 |
| 18. | H.E. Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia and
Madam Hj. Ani Bambang Yudhoyono | 24-26 January, 2011 |
| 19. | H.E. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal | 27 January-5 February 2011 |

Incoming visits at the level of Foreign Minister during the period April 2010-January 2011

S.No.	Name of Dignitary and Details	Dates
1.	H.E. Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary General	27 March-1 April 2010
2.	H.R.H. Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Governor of Riyadh	11-15 April, 2010
3.	H.E. Mr. Alexander Stubb, Foreign Minister of Finland	3-5 May, 2010
4.	H.E. Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the UN General Assembly	3-5 May, 2010
5.	H.E. Baroness Catherine Ashton, Vice President of the European Commission	22-25 June, 2010
6.	H.E. Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini, Minister for Economic Affairs & Finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran	7-9 July, 2010
7.	H.E. Mr. Katsuya Okada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Transit halt at Delhi)	20 July, 2010
8.	H.E. Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Secretary of State (Technical halt at Delhi)	20 July, 2010
9.	H.E. Mr. George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore	31 July-4 August 2010
10.	H.E. Mrs. Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico	15-17 August, 2010
11.	H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Gambia	16-22 August, 2010
12.	H.E. Mr. Katsuya Okada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan	21-22 August, 2010
13.	H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	24-26 August, 2010
14.	H.E. Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey, Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland	29-31 August, 2010
15.	H.E. Mr. Rene Castro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica	19-20 October, 2010
16.	H.E. Guido Westerwelle, Foreign Minister of Germany	17-19 October, 2010
17.	H. E. Mr. Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman	20-22 October, 2010
18.	H.E. Mr. Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia	10-13 November, 2010
19.	H.E. Mr. Sergey Ivanov, Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation	17-19 November, 2010
20.	H.E. Mr. Sergey V. Lavrov, Minister of Foreign affairs of the Russian Federation	29 November, 2010
21.	H. E. Mr. Hailemariam Deslegn, Dy. PM/FM of Ethiopia	30 November-5 December 2010
22.	H. E. Ms. Lene Espersen, Dy. PM/FM of Denmark	14-16 December, 2010

Private/Transit Visits at the Level of President/Vice President/Prime Minister during the period April 2010-January 2011

1.	Lt. Gen. M.S. Merafhe, Vice President of the Republic of Botswana (Technical halt at Chennai)	20 July, 2010
2.	H.R.H. Maha Vajiralongkorn, Crown Prince of Thailand (Stopover at Mumbai)	25 July, 2010
3.	H.R.H. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand (Transit) (Mumbai)	13 August, 2010
4.	H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa (Transit)	22 & 26 August, 2010 (Mumbai)
5.	H.E. Mr. Rafael Correa, President of the Republic of Ecuador (Transit)	5 & 11 September, 2010
6.	H. E. Mr. Ivan Gasparovic, President of the Slovak Republic (Transit)	10 September, 2010
7.	H.E. Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza , President of Burundi (Private visit)	13-19 September, 2010
8.	H.E. Mr. Marcus Stephen, M.P., President of Nauru, and Madam Amanda Stephen (CWG)	1-5 October, 2010
9.	H.R.H. Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall (CWG)	2-5 October, 2010
10.	H.E. Mr. Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Republic of Maldives (CWG)	2-5 October, 2010
11.	Rt. Hon. Sir Anand Satyanand, the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of New Zealand, with Lady Susan Satyanand (CWG)	2-7 October, 2010
12.	H. S. H. Prince Albert II of Monaco (CWG)	3-5 October, 2010
13.	H.E. Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, the President of the Republic of Estonia (Transit)	4 October, 2010
14.	The Archbishop of Canterbury (Private)	9-28 October, 2010
15.	H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia(Transit)	10 & 13 November, 2010 (Kolkata)
16.	H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse, President of Sri Lanka(CWG)	12-14 October, 2010
17.	H.R.H. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand (Private) (Gaya)	13 November, 2010
18.	Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of the Republic of Mauritius (Private)	14-28 November, 2010
19.	H.E. Sir Anand Satyanand, Governor General of New Zealand	5-10 January, 2011
20.	H. E. Mr. Aires Bonifacio Batista Aly, Prime Minister of Mozambique, accompanied with spouse, & Delegation	5-14 January, 2011
21.	H.E. Prof. Gilbert Bukenya, Vice President of Uganda	9-14 January, 2011
22.	H.E. Mr. Bernard Makuza, Prime Minister of Rwanda	10-15 January, 2011

Outgoing Visits of President, Vice President and Prime Minister during the period April-December 2010

S.No.	Designation of Dignitary and Details	Dates
1.	Prime Minister to USA, and Brazil	10-16 April, 2010
2.	Prime Minister to Bhutan, for SAARC	28-30 April, 2010
3.	President to the People's Republic of China	26-31 May, 2010
4.	Vice President to Czech Republic, and Croatia	6-12 June, 2010
5.	Prime Minister to Canada, for G-20 Summit	25-29 June, 2010

6.	President to Laos, and Cambodia	9-18 September, 2010
7.	Vice President India to Brussels	3-6 October, 2010
8.	Prime Minister to Japan, Malaysia, and Vietnam	24-30 October, 2010
9.	Prime Minister to the Republic of Korea, for G-20 Summit	10-12 November, 2010
10.	President to the United Arab Emirates, and Syria	21-29 November, 2010
11.	Prime Minister to Belgium, & Germany	9-11 December, 2010

Outgoing Visits of Minister of External Affairs during the period April 2010-February 2011

S.No.	Designation of Dignitary and Details	Dates
1.	Minister of External Affairs to Beijing, for the 60 th Anniversary of India-China diplomatic relations	5-8 April, 2010
2.	Minister of External Affairs to Bhutan, for SAARC	26-30 April, 2010
3.	Minister of External Affairs to Kazakhstan	11-13 May, 2010
4.	Minister of External Affairs to Tehran, for G-15 FMs Meeting	15-18 May, 2010
5.	Minister of External Affairs to Washington, for Strategic Dialogue	2-6 June, 2010
6.	Minister of External Affairs to Tashkent, for SCO Summit	10-11 June, 2010
7.	Minister of External Affairs to Seoul	16-19 June, 2010
8.	Minister of External Affairs to Mauritius, Mozambique, and Seychelles	2-6 July, 2010
9.	Minister of External Affairs to Islamic Republic of Pakistan	14-16 July, 2010
10.	Minister of External Affairs to Afghanistan	19-20 July, 2010
11.	Minister of External Affairs to New York (USA), for UNGA	21 September-2 October 2010
12.	Minister of External Affairs to Singapore	26-28 October, 2010
13.	Minister of External Affairs to China, for RIC meeting	14-16 November, 2010
14.	Minister of External Affairs to Sri Lanka	25-28 November, 2010
15.	Minister of External Affairs to Kabul, Afghanistan	8-9 January, 2010
16.	Minister of External Affairs to Melbourne, Australia for Bilateral Meeting	18-20 January, 2010
17.	Minister of External Affairs to Thimpu, Bhutan	7-9 February, 2010

List of Foreign Ambassadors/High Commissioners who Presented their Credentials during the Period April 2010-January 2011

S. No.	Name of country	Name of the HoM	Presentation of credentials
1.	Algeria	Mr. Mohammed- Hacene Echarif	8 April, 2010
2.	Burundi	Mr. Aloys Rubuka	8 April, 2010
3.	Georgia	Mr. Zurab Katchkatchishvili	8 April, 2010
4.	Lithuania	Mr. Petras Simeliunas	8 April, 2010
5.	South Africa	Mr. Harris Mbulelo Sithembile Majeke	8 April, 2010

6.	El Salvador	Dr. Ruben I. Zamora	30 June, 2010
7.	Philippines	Mr. Ronald B. Allarey	30 June, 2010
8.	Lao PDR	Mr. Thongphanh Syackhaphom	30 June, 2010
9.	Kazakhstan	Mr. Doulat O. Kuanyshev	30 June, 2010
10.	Afghanistan	Dr. Nanguyalai Tarzi	30 June, 2010
11.	Monaco (Non-Resident)	Mr. Marco Piccinini	30 June, 2010
12.	Guatemala (Non-Resident)	Mr. Byron Escobedo Mmmdez	30 June, 2010
13.	Malawi	Dr. (Mrs.) Chrissie Chawanje Mughogho	5 August, 2010
14.	Czech Republic	Mr. Miloslav Stasek	5 August, 2010
15.	Rwanda	Mr. Williams Nkurunziza	5 August, 2010
16.	Nicaragua (Non-Resident)	Mr. Saul Arana Castellon	5 August, 2010
17.	Tunisia	Mr. Mohamed Elies Ben Marzouk	29 September, 2010
18.	Apostolic Nunciature (Holy See)	Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio	29 September, 2010
19.	Vietnam	Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tan	29 September, 2010
20.	Mali	Mr. Ousmane Tandia	29 September, 2010
21.	Chile	Mr. Cristian Barros Melet	29 September, 2010
22.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Prof. Dr. Sead Avdic	29 September, 2010
23.	Senegal	Mr. Amadou Moustapha Diouf	29 September, 2010
24.	Albania	Mr. Fatos Kerciku	18 October, 2010
25.	Denmark	Mr. Freddy Svane	18 October, 2010
26.	Egypt	Mr. Khaled Aly Elbakly	18 October, 2010
27.	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Joong-Keun	18 October, 2010
28.	Iraq	Mr. Ahmad Tahsin Ahmad Berwari	18 October, 2010
29.	Benin	Mr. Andre Sanra	18 October, 2010
30.	Italy	Mr. Giacomo Sanfelice di Monteforte	18 October, 2010
31.	Ukraine	Mr. Oleksandr Shevchenko	8 December, 2010
32.	Gambia	Mr. Dembo M. Badjie	8 December, 2010
33.	Yemen	Ms. Khadija Radman Mohamed Ghanem	8 December, 2010
34.	Canada	Mr. Stewart Beck	8 December, 2010
35.	Libya	Dr. Ali Abd-Al-Aziz Al-Isawi	8 December, 2010
36.	Namibia	Dr. Samuel Mbambo	8 December, 2010
37.	San Marino (Non-Resident)	Mr. Lucio Amati	8 December, 2010
38.	Estonia (Non-Resident)	Mr. Peep Jahilo	8 December, 2010

List of the Heads of Missions who left India during the period from April 2010-January 2011

S.No.	Name of the HoM	Country	Date of Departure
1.	H.E. Mr. Alfonso Silva	Chile	5 April, 2010
2.	H.E. Mr. Mohammed Ghali Umar	Nigeria	26 April, 2010
3.	H.E. Mr. Ly Bounkham	Lao PDR	30 April, 2010
4.	H.E. Mr. Ole Lonsmann Poulsen	Denmark	8 May, 2010
5.	H.E. Mr. Joseph Caron	Canada	11 June, 2010
6.	H.E. Mr. Mustapha A.M. Noman	Yemen	8 July, 2010
7.	H.E. Mr. Vu Quang Diem	Vietnam	30 July, 2010
8.	H.E. Mr. Pundit Maniedeo Persad	Trinidad and Tobago	31 July, 2010
9.	H.E. Mr. S.K. Walubita	Zambia	16 August, 2010
10.	H.E. Mr. Paek Young-sun	Republic of Korea	27 August, 2010
11.	H.E. Mr. Mohamed Higazy	Egypt	27 August, 2010
12.	H.E. Mr. Maten N. Kapewasha	Namibia	30 August, 2010
13.	H.E. Mr. Roberto Toscano	Italy	1 September, 2010
14.	H.E. Mr. Wilfred Kenely	Malta	3 September, 2010
15.	H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Daher	Jordan	9 September, 2010
16.	H.E. Mr. Larbi Moukhariq	Morocco	17 September, 2010
17.	H.E. Mr. Rupert Holborow	New Zealand	10 December, 2010
18.	H.E. Mr. Ion de la Riva	Spain	18 December, 2010
19.	H.E. Mr. Calvin Eu	Singapore	14 January, 2011
20.	H.E. Mr. Luis Filipe Castro Mendes	Portugal	27 January, 2011

Following Countries Opened their Resident Missions in New Delhi during the Period April-November 2010

S.No.	Name of the Country
1.	Costa Rica
2.	Mali
3.	Togo
4.	Benin
5.	Georgia

List of Consulates General/Honorary Consulates of Foreign Countries in India approved from April-November 2010.

Consulates General

1.	Switzerland	Bengaluru
2.	New Zealand	Mumbai

Honorary Consulates

1.	Mongolia	Bengaluru
2.	Iceland	Mumbai
3.	Cape Verde	New Delhi
4.	Ireland	Kolkata
5.	Jordan	Mumbai
6.	Chad	New Delhi
7.	Mozambique	Mumbai
8.	Ghana	Mumbai
9.	Sweden	Mumbai
10.	Peru	Bengaluru
11.	Korea	Mumbai
12.	Indonesia	Mumbai
13.	Macedonia	Mumbai
14.	Thailand	Kolkata

Month-wise List of Newly Created Posts in Foreign Diplomatic Missions/Posts in India from April 2010-January 2011

S. No.	Month	Number of Posts created
1.	April	49
2.	May	17
3.	June	12
4.	July	18
5.	August	17
6.	September	5
7.	October	11
8.	November	19
9.	December	5
10.	January	5
	Total	158

Passport Offices

There are presently 37 Passport Offices and 15 Passport Collection Centres in India. All Passport Offices are computerized and they issue machine-printed and machine-readable passports as per the guidelines laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Passport applications are being scanned and stored electronically.

High Demand for Passports

There has been a significant increase in the number of passports issued over the years. The growth in the number of passports issued is enumerated in the table below:

	1979-80	1989-90	1999-2000	2010
No. of passports issued (in lakhs)	8.51 lakhs	15.58 lakhs	25.80 lakhs	52.51 lakhs
Percentage increase over the previous period		83 %	66%	104 %

The number of passports issued in 2009 by the 37 Passport Offices was 50.28 lakhs and 6.76 lakhs miscellaneous services were rendered. During the year 2010, the total number of passports issued was 52.51 lakhs. The total revenue generated from all Passport Offices was ` 679.11 crores in 2010, compared to the total revenue of ` 610.10 crores, in 2009.

Central Passport Organization

The total strength of the Central Passport Organization, which was created in 1959 as a Subordinate Office of the Ministry, was 2,697, as on 31 December, 2010. The Ministry has taken several steps to improve the service conditions of the CPO personnel by the re-structuring of the cadre, faster promotion, and the introduction of a productivity - linked incentive scheme.

Passport Issuance System

The Ministry has been taking a number of measures to make the passport issuance system simpler and speedier for the comfort and convenience of the public. Some of the important steps are delineated as under:

- (a) Decentralization through District Passport Cells and Speed Post Centres

With a view to taking the passport issuance and related services nearer to the doorsteps of the applicants, District Passport Cells (DPCs) have been opened by the State Governments, at the district level, where the office of the District Magistrate/ Superintendent of Police receives passport applications and after scrutiny and police verification, forwards them to the concerned Passport Office for the issuance of the passports. The passport applications are also received through the network of 1,096 Speed Post Centers.

- (b) Online Applications

Online submission of passport applications has been introduced in all the Passport Offices. The District Passport Cells and Speed Post Centres have also been allowed to file applications online and transfer the data to the Passport Offices, which facilitates quicker turn around in the issuance of the passports.

- (c) Tatkaal scheme

During 2010, the passport offices in India issued 6.72 lakh passports under the Tatkaal scheme, which was launched in 2000, to issue passports to citizens in an expedited manner.

- (d) Passport Adalats

Passport Offices have been holding Passport Adalats, periodically, to redress the grievances of passport applicants. These Adalats have been very useful in disposing of old cases. As a part of the pendency clearance drive, Special Adalats were organized by Passport Offices, all over India, in January, February, and March 2011.

(e) Performance review meetings/RPOs Conference

A performance review meeting was held by the Ministry with 37 Passport Officers, on 19 November, and 29 November, 2010, in New Delhi. A Passport Officers' Conference, for the Regional Passport Officers from the Southern region was held on 26 December, 2010, at Kochi. A workshop on the Passport Seva Project was also held at Kochi on 27 December, 2010, for the officers of the Passport Offices of the Southern region.

(f) Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Steps have been taken to strengthen the public grievance redressal mechanism in all the Passport Offices. Facilitation Counters and Help Desks have also been set up to assist applicants and also to attend to grievances/complaints expeditiously. A public grievance redressal mechanism has also been set up, in the CPV Division, under the close supervision of the Joint Secretary (PSP), and the Chief Passport Officer. In addition, all the Passport Offices participate in the public grievances handling mechanism through the CPGram website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

(g) Right to Information Act (RTI)

A Central Public Information Officer and Assistant Public Information Officers have been appointed, in every Passport Office, to provide information to applicants under the RTI Act. A total of 943 RTI applications and 426 appeals were received and disposed off by the Division.

(h) Website

The website of the CPV Division, <http://passport.gov.in>, which was established in 1999, is being updated from time to time to make it more user-friendly. It has detailed information on passports, status enquiry, and links to various Passport Offices, and also has downloadable forms.

Infrastructure

Out of 37 Passport Offices all over India, 19 are operating from Government/MEA-owned buildings and the remaining 18 are operating from rented buildings. Eight Passport Offices have already purchased suitable plots of land for the construction of their own buildings. The building for the Passport Office, Vishakapatnam, has been completed during 2010. The construction of the new office building at Mumbai commenced in 2010.

New Projects

The Ministry has embarked on several projects with a view to modernizing and upgrading the passport/visa issuance system. These are as follows:

(a) Centralized Printing of Passports

In respect of 140 non-computerized Missions/Posts abroad, the Ministry issued 92,203 passports, during the year, after successfully implementing the project for the centralized printing of Machine Readable Passports (MRP) at the CPV Division, New Delhi.

(b) Issuance of e-Passports

The President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, launched the issuance of e-passports, also known as bio-metric passports, on 25 June, 2008. All diplomatic and official passports are now being issued as e-passports as part of a pilot project. The evaluation of global PQB applications for procurement of ICAO-compliant electronic contactless inlays along with its operating systems for the manufacture of e-passports by the India Security Press, Nashik, is under process. The final decision on the award of the contract would be taken only after the receipt of the technical and security clearance from the concerned agencies.

(c) Outsourcing of Passport/Visa Work

56 Indian Missions/Posts abroad have outsourced passport/visa applications and collection work, upto 31 December, 2010.

(d) Passport Seva Project

On the approval of the Union Cabinet, in September 2007, the Ministry embarked on the prestigious Passport Seva Project. The Project aims at delivering all passport-related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, and reliable manner.

The Project envisages setting up of 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs), across the country, where the non-sovereign functions, involved in the passport issuance process, such as the initial scrutiny of the application forms, acceptance of the fee, scanning of the documents, taking photos etc. will be performed by Tata Consultancy Services Limited, the service provider. The sensitive activities such as granting will be performed by the Government staff. The Project is expected to result in the issue of passports within three days, and where police verification is required, within three days after the completion of the verification process.

After rigorous testing by the third Party Audit Agency (3PAA) and trial runs, all the four PSKs in Karnataka were opened to the public on 21 May, 2010. On 28 May, 2010, External Affairs Minister formally inaugurated the Project (4 PSKs), in Karnataka, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Karnataka. The PSP was operationalised at 3 PSKs under the RPO, Chandigarh, on 17 August, 2010. All the seven pilot centres of the Passport Seva Project have been functioning satisfactorily. As on 31 December, 2010, a total of 2,60,420 applications were accepted at PSKs and 1,58,519 passports were dispatched in the Passport Seva Project system. The National Call Centre is operational to attend to the queries of applicants under the jurisdiction of the Passport Offices, at Bengaluru, and Chandigarh. The Third Party Audit Agency (3PAA), engaged by the Ministry (Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate-STQC), has certified the pilot phase in January 2011. According to the plan submitted by the service provider, all the remaining 70 PSKs are expected to be set up during 2011.

Visas

(a) Visa Issuance by Missions/Posts abroad

Over the years, the procedure for the grant of visas, by our Missions and Posts, has been simplified, which includes computerization of the issuance system. Most Missions and Posts grant visas either across the counter, on the same day, or at the most, within 48 hours. 56 Indian Missions/Posts abroad have outsourced visa application collection work upto 31 December, 2010.

(b) Visa Issuance by the CPV Division

The CPV Division issued 7,026 visas to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders in the year 2010.

(c) Visa-Waiver Agreements

India has Visa-Waiver Agreements with 51 countries by which diplomatic/official passport holders are exempted from the requirement of visas. The agreements signed with Egypt and Macedonia in 2009 have been implemented in 2010. During the current year, an Agreement has been signed with Syria.

Consular

(a) Launch of Apostille Convention Project

3,15,146 personal and educational documents, and 3,04,301 commercial documents were attested by the Ministry, during 2010. In addition, 1,64,872 documents were apostilled, for use abroad. (b)

Extradition Cases and Legal Assistance

The Ministry has been pursuing actively with various countries for negotiating bilateral agreements to provide a legal and institutional framework to combat international terrorism, organized crime including financial frauds, and drug trafficking. These consular agreements include Treaties on Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters, and Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners.

An Azerbaijan official delegation visited New Delhi, in June 2010, to negotiate an Extradition Treaty, a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters, and a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Civil and Commercial Matters. An Indian official delegation visited Indonesia in November 2010, and an official delegation from Indonesia visited New Delhi, in December 2010, to negotiate an Extradition Treaty.

During the year, ten requests were received from foreign countries for extradition from India, and India made two requests to foreign countries for extradition.

There are 176 Indian Missions and Posts abroad. In pursuance of India's foreign policy aims and objectives, necessitating increase in India's diplomatic presence abroad, two new Posts at Jaffna and Hambantota (both in Sri Lanka) were opened. The Mission in Guatemala City also opened during the period under report.

A new Parliament and VIP Division was created in the Ministry, to deal with the issues concerning the Parliament, Members of Parliament, and matters pertaining to high political dignitaries. The Parliament and VIP Division shall be responsible for Parliamentary work, in the Ministry, implementation of assurances given by Ministers in Parliament, coordination of responses to communications addressed to External Affairs Minister by Members of Parliament and VIPs etc.

Efforts continued to decentralize decision-making and simplify the rules, regulations, and procedures. The needs and requirements of India-based officers and staff, working in Missions/Posts in Afghanistan, were addressed further in terms of the grant of an additional set of home leave fares, permission to spend upto eight days compensatory leave in India without affecting the compensatory allowance, and increase in the sum insured from ` 30 lakhs, to ` 50 lakhs, under the Group Personal Accident Policy. Efforts at all times were made to deal with personnel-related issues sympathetically, while following the procedures.

The management of the different cadres in the Ministry was undertaken through regular Departmental Promotion Committee meetings and through the implementation of the provisions under the Modified Assured Career Promotion Scheme.

The strength of the Ministry is 3,459, excluding Group 'D' posts, as detailed in the table at Appendix-VIII, being the number of those who are deployed in the 176 Indian Missions and Posts abroad and Headquarters. The above-mentioned number includes officers from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Foreign Service 'B' (IFS B), and the Interpreters' and Legal and Treaties (L&T) Cadres.

Recruitment made to various groups in the Ministry from 1 April-30 November 2010, through Direct Recruitment (DR), Departmental Promotions (DP), and Limited Departmental Examination (LDE), including against reserved vacancies, are given at Appendix-IX.

The table at Appendix-X gives the details of the proficiency in foreign languages, of the officers of the Ministry.

The Ministry is committed to ensuring gender equality amongst its personnel. Equal opportunities are provided to women officers to take up challenging assignments, and currently 18 women officers are heading various Missions and Posts abroad. There are seven women officers at the Secretary level, four at the Additional Secretary level, 26 at the Joint Secretary Level, and 15 at the Director level. Women officers have also held important positions representing India in prominent international organizations such as the United Nations and its related organizations. A Complaints Committee against Sexual Harassment has been constituted in the Ministry, headed by a Secretary-level officer, to address complaints of sexual harassment by women officers at the work place, and to coordinate and interact with institutions like the National Commission for Women.

Ensuring adequate opportunity to persons with disability and to have suitable representation of persons with disability amongst its personnel is an important objective of the Ministry.

Establishment Division

As in the previous years, efforts were made to streamline and simplify procedures and increase efficiency in processing requests received from officers at Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad, to facilitate their functioning in terms of the supply and maintenance of office equipment, vehicles, furniture, furnishings, stationery, objets d' art, and related items. To facilitate the renting of better residential accommodation, rental ceilings for several Missions/Posts were revised, and proposals for the renting and maintenance of properties were expeditiously cleared. For the benefit of the officers and staff, at Headquarters, renovation work was undertaken at the

External Affairs Hostel, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, and the New External Affairs Hostel, Gole Market. For the convenience of residents, piped natural gas connections were provided in these Hostels as well as the Ministry of External Affairs Housing Complex at Dwarka. For the MEA Residential Complex at Chanakyapuri, new and enhanced integrated facility management services were arranged and additional trees were planted to provide more shade and green cover to the residents. NDMC has been requested to provide an additional water connection to the complex to augment water supply, especially in the summer months.

To streamline the functional as well as administrative aspects of their work, high-level teams of inspectors inspected the Missions/Posts at Ashgabat, Belgrade, Budapest, Guangzhou, San Francisco, Shanghai, Sofia, and Tashkent. Follow-up action was also taken on the reports of inspections undertaken earlier.

For the new Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan under construction, work was taken in hand to acquire furniture, furnishings, ICT services, machines and equipment, and objets d' art. Action was also initiated to tie up service providers for the repair and maintenance of machinery and equipment, as well as up-keep of the premises, including house keeping, gardening, and landscaping.

Arrangements were finalized with M/s Daimler Chrysler AG, Germany, to avail of diplomatic discount, which increased from 15% to 25%, for the vehicles purchased by Indian Missions/Posts abroad. With India's growing interaction with several countries, additional vehicles were sanctioned for a few Missions to meet enhanced transportation requirements. Full rates of DA were restored, in September 2010, for journeys on duty abroad, by doing away with the 25% cut which was applicable since September 2000.

Projects Division

The Projects Division is responsible for the construction of buildings and the purchase of built-up properties in India and abroad for the use of the Ministry of External Affairs for its offices and residences for employees. The repairs and renovation of Government-owned buildings in stations abroad are also handled by the Projects Division. The Government of India owns 81 Chancery buildings at 77 stations abroad, residences for Heads of Missions/Posts at 93 stations abroad, and 636 residences for officers/staff at 47 stations abroad. In addition, properties for Cultural Centres at two stations, and a Liaison Office in one station, are also owned by the Government. Currently, 53 construction projects including major renovation/redevelopment projects are at different stages of implementation.

The Ministry has adopted a two-pronged approach for the construction and acquisition of built-up properties abroad and in India. The Ministry is making continuous and vigorous efforts to acquire built-up properties at as many stations as possible and priority in this regard is accorded to stations where expenditure on the payment of rentals is higher.

Amongst projects abroad, construction and redevelopment work for the Chancery and residences at Budapest, Prague, and Beirut, have been completed. Construction on major projects such as the Chancery and/or residences in Beijing, Dhaka, Islamabad, Kabul, Kathmandu, and London, is presently going on. Based on the progress of the pre-construction activities, it is expected that a number of construction projects would commence in the next financial year. These include those at Abuja, Brasilia, Tashkent, and Warsaw.

Built-up properties have been acquired for residences in Sydney, Dubai, and Paramaribo, and for the Chancery in Hong Kong. Proposals for the acquisition of a built-up property for the establishment of an Indian Cultural Centre in Paris, and a residence for use by the Embassy in Paris, are at advanced stages of processing. A plot of land for the construction of the Chancery and residences has been acquired in Brunei. Many proposals are under process for the purchase of plots of land/built-up properties in Algiers, Helsinki, New York, Rabat, Rome, and Washington. Major redevelopment proposals in Brussels, Dublin, and London, are nearing completion. The exchange of properties between India and Vietnam is in the final stages and as per the Memorandum of Understanding between the two governments, the Chancery and Embassy Residence will be exchanged, for a plot of land in New Delhi for the Embassy of Vietnam, in the near future.

In India, construction of the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan for the offices of the Ministry of External Affairs is nearing completion. The transit accommodation project at Canning Lane, and the Foreign Service Institute complex, in New Delhi, have been completed.

An allocation of 375 crores has been made under the Capital Outlay in the approved budget estimates for 2010-2011. Budget estimates for 2011-2012 have been kept at 440 crores for ongoing and new construction projects, as well as for the purchase of built-up properties abroad, in the next financial year.

Welfare Division

The Welfare Division deals with all matters relating to the general welfare of the serving officers and the staff of the Ministry.

(i) Educational Matters

The Welfare Division has facilitated admissions of the children of Ministry of External Affairs personnel in Kendriya Vidyalayas, against 60 seats allotted to the Ministry of External Affairs by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

For the academic year 2010-2011, the Welfare Division also facilitated admission of 49 children of India-based personnel working in Indian Missions & Posts abroad, to various Engineering Colleges in India against seats allotted to the Ministry of External Affairs for this purpose, by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Similarly, three children could get admitted to medical colleges in India against seats allotted for this purpose, by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

(ii) Staff Benefit Fund

The Welfare Division operates a Staff Benefit Fund formed over the years by contributions from officers and members of the staff of the Ministry. This is mainly used to give financial assistance (` 15,000 per death case) to meet the funeral expenses in the case of the death of a member of the staff of the Ministry of External Affairs. On the recommendation of the Welfare Division, the External Affairs Spouses Association (EASA) presented cheques amounting to ` 70,000, to each of the seven dependents of the deceased employees of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(iii) Compassionate Appointment

Whenever a member of the staff passes away, the Welfare Division examines the financial status of the surviving family members, and also whether the spouse or any children of the deceased person is educationally qualified to be recruited in any Group 'C' or Group 'D' posts. A list of such persons is maintained in the Welfare Division, on the basis of the financial position of the family.

(iv) Grant-in-Aid

The Welfare Division provides Grant-in-Aid to all Indian Missions abroad, and to all Regional Passport Offices in India, for recreation facilities and sports activities. The Division also arranges and financially supports inter-Ministry sports activities.

(v) Flag Days

The Welfare Division arranges for the celebration of different Flag Days like the Communal Harmony Day and the Armed Forces Flag Day in order to collect funds for these organizations.

(vi) Canteens

The running of the Departmental Canteens of the MEA (located in Akbar Bhawan, South Block, and Patiala House) is the responsibility of the Welfare Division.

(vii) General

The Welfare Division facilitates admissions of the children of the Ministry of External Affairs personnel to various public and private schools, when they are on transfer to Hqrs. The Division also assists in the process of the settling down of the MEA personnel on transfer by helping them obtain Gas connections, Ration Cards, Telephone/Mobile connections, driving licenses, and the like.

Vigilance

No. of cases pending as on 31 March, 2010: 140

No. of cases received during the period 1 April-28 December 2010: 27

Total No. of cases, upto 28 December, 2010: (140+27=) 167;

No. of cases closed with imposition of formal penalty: 23 upto 28 December 2010;

No. of cases closed without imposition of formal penalty: 59 on account of VRS, death etc., upto 28 December, 2010

Total no. of cases closed upto 28 December, 2010: (23+59=) 82

Total no. of cases pending as on 28 December, 2010: (167-82=) 85

Vigilance Awareness Week was observed from 25 October-1 November 2010. All Indian Missions/Posts abroad, and various departments in the Ministry of External Affairs, administered the pledge prescribed by the Central Vigilance Commission.

Archives & Records Management Division

The A&RM Division diligently pursued its mandated task of Records Management (RM) during the period beginning 1 April, 2010.

The following RM Activities were undertaken:-

i) Digitalization of records	6695
ii) Declassification of records	4777
iii) Transfer of records to the National Archives of India	2704
iv) Referral of records identified for destruction during appraisal to the Divisions concerned	1536

Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office

20

A total of 774 applications seeking information under the RTI Act, 2005, have been received by the Ministry, during the period 1 April-15 December 2010. Applications covered subjects such as administration, personal grievances, the Haj pilgrimage, the Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra, Gulf War compensations, foreign policy, and economic issues. Out of these applications, 136 first appeals have been filed by the applicants, to the Appellate

Authority of the Ministry, during the same period. Further, the CPIO and the Nodal Officers of the Ministry have been attending the hearings held at the Central Information Commission, as and when required, to respond to the queries raised by the Commission. Efforts are being made to ensure full and timely implementation of the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

e-Governance and Information Technology

In view of the world-wide phenomenon of growing cyber-security threats and attacks faced by Ministry of External Affairs officers and officials, special emphasis was given on a draft IT security policy for the Ministry, as well as the training of officers and staff, at Headquarters. In these training sessions nearly 300 officers and staff were given intensive IT security training. More than

131 missions have now started using the IMAS software which has streamlined reporting of accounts by these Indian Missions abroad. It is expected that the rest of the Missions will be utilizing the software in the near future. The outsourcing of visa and passport services work was completed at the HCI, Kuala Lumpur, during the year 2010-2011.

The Coordination Division consists of three wings viz. the Parliament Section, the Coordination Section, and the Education Section.

Parliament Section

The Coordination Division functions as the nodal point of the Ministry of External Affairs for all work relating to Parliament including questions-answers, assurances, debates on foreign relations, and laying of reports on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament. The Division also has the responsibility of organizing the meetings of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs, and coordinates the work relating to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, and other Parliamentary Committees.

Coordination Section

The Coordination Section processes all proposals for the grant of no objection from the political angle, for the foreign visits of Governors, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Union Ministers, Ministers in the State Governments, Members of Parliament, Members of the State Legislative Assemblies, Members of the Judiciary, government officials etc. Political clearance is accorded by the Ministry of External Affairs after taking into consideration the guidelines laid down by the government for the purpose, the political and functional justification for the visit, meetings arranged, and the recommendation of the Indian Mission/Post concerned. During April to November 2010, the Coordination Section issued 2,253 political clearances for such visits.

The Section also handles work relating to the grant of diplomatic clearances for foreign non-scheduled flights and visits by naval ships. During the current year, the Division issued 917 clearances for foreign non-scheduled flights.

The Coordination Section processed a large number of approvals for the participation of Indian sports teams and sportsmen in international events abroad, and visits of foreign sports persons/teams to India.

The Section also examines requests for the grant of no objection for holding international conferences, seminars, workshops, grant of Amateur W/T Licence under the Indian Telegraph Act (1885) and grants in aid to Indo-foreign cultural friendship and cultural societies, located in foreign countries.

The Coordination Section coordinates the work relating to the grant of Padma Awards to foreign nationals. The nominations are obtained by the Coordination Division from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and the recommendations of the Ministry are conveyed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The observance of Anti-Terrorism Day (21 May), Sadbhavana Diwas (20 August) and Qaumi Ekta Week/Diwas (19-25 November) in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad are also undertaken by the Coordination Division; pledges were administered to the officers and staff, both at Headquarters and in Missions/Posts abroad.

Education Section

The Education Section deals with the selection, nomination, and admission, of foreign students, from 63 friendly, neighbouring, and developing countries, for MBBS, BDS, BE, B. Pharmacy, and diploma courses, in various institutions in India, under the Self Financing Foreign Students Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare, and Human Resource Development, respectively. Political clearances of foreign students seeking admission to Graduate and Post-Graduate courses in Engineering, Medicine, Management, other technical and professional courses, including elective training/internship/research in various medical institutions, and research courses, are also processed by the Education Section.

For the academic year 2010-2011, the Education Section received and processed 95 and 104 applications for admission to the MBBS/BDS, and B.E/B.Pharmacy courses, respectively. In addition, during 2010 (January-November) 989 foreign applicants were granted no objection from the political angle, to pursue various courses in India.

Press Coverage of Incoming VVIP Visits

The press facilitation work, in terms of extending logistical and liaison support to foreign media delegations accompanying Heads of State/Government (HoS/G) visiting India, and Indian media delegations accompanying the President, Vice President, and the Prime Minister, on their visits abroad, forms an important part of the Division's activities. India's robust engagement with the international community witnessed a marked upswing with a series of high-level visits. Notable among them were the visits of the Presidents of the USA, RoK, Iceland, Germany, Turkey, Palestine, Nepal, Turkmenistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Russia, France, South Africa, and Mozambique; the King of Bhutan, and the Prince of Belgium; Prime Ministers of U.K., Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, Poland, and Bhutan and; Foreign Ministers of Bahrain, Norway, Australia, Armenia, Mexico, the Gambia, Japan, Afghanistan, and Oman, in the course of the year. The XP Division arranged joint press conferences with the visiting dignitaries and assisted visiting media and foreign media based in India for suitable coverage of these visits.

Press Coverage of Visits Abroad by Indian Dignitaries

All logistical arrangements, including the setting up and operation of fully equipped Media Centres, media briefings, and other facilitation, for the media accompanying the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, and the External Affairs Minister, on their visits abroad, to ensure suitable media coverage of the visits, are made by the Division. During the year, media delegations accompanied the President on her visit to China, Lao PDR, Cambodia, United Arab Emirates, and Syria; the Vice President to the Czech Republic, Croatia, and Belgium; the Prime Minister to USA, Brazil, Bhutan, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, RoK (South Korea), Belgium, and Germany and; the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, China, Japan, Mozambique, Mauritius, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

The Official Spokesperson's Office

The Official Spokesperson's Office functioned as the hub for information dissemination on day-to-day developments related to the conduct of India's foreign policy. The office liaised with the Indian and foreign media, throughout the year, by conducting regular briefings on major developments which had a bearing on India's foreign policy, incoming and outgoing high level visits, and important day-to-day developments. During the year (upto November 2010), 80 press releases, 68 press briefings, 76 joint press statements, and 74 media advisories, were issued by the Division on various issues.

Additionally, constant efforts were made to communicate the position and perspective of the Government on various significant issues by providing background briefings to media persons. Interviews with the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, the Foreign Secretary, and other dignitaries, were arranged with Indian and international newspapers and TV channels. The transcripts of these interviews were quickly posted on the Ministry's website.

New MEA Website

A completely re-designed Ministry of External Affairs website was launched. The website has a new look & feel, is user-friendly, and aims to showcase the face of modern India to the world. The newly revamped MEA website was formally launched by the Foreign Secretary, in December 2010. The MEA website continued to serve as a useful medium for the dissemination of information by the Division. The statements section of the website is regularly updated with the speeches/interviews/statements on all important issues of foreign policy, by the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, and the Foreign Secretary, press releases, and briefings by the Official Spokesperson and other senior officers. The website is widely accessed both inside and outside India, and has hyperlinks to the websites of Indian Missions/ Posts abroad, and various Ministries.

Hindi, Urdu, & Arabic Website

The Hindi section of the website is being continuously updated. Members of the general public, including

representatives of the Indian media, have been appreciative of the Hindi website. The XP Division has since arranged for Urdu and Arabic translations of the website with ANI. The sites are widely accessed by the Urdu media in India and in our neighbourhood, as well as the Arabic-speaking countries.

The XP Notice Board

The Division continued to use the Ministry of External Affairs' Notice Board to provide the Missions/Posts abroad with professionally written feature articles on various aspects of India. News articles of interest from national newspapers were also uploaded on a daily basis on the Board for use by our Missions/Posts.

New Initiative: the MEA Web Portal

The XP division is now working on an ambitious project of developing an integrated Ministry of External Affairs Web portal with a view to having a common template (homepage) for all MEA websites including those of Missions and Posts abroad. A committee headed by Additional Secretary (AD) was constituted to oversee the development process. An invitation for tenders has been issued and work is proceeding apace.

India-Africa Connect Website

The India-Africa connect website, jointly developed by the XP Division and IANS, is devoted to promoting relations between India and the African countries. The website hosts news, features and essential information on India and Africa with a special emphasis on development cooperation. The website can be accessed at <http://www.indiaafricaconnect.in> and is being updated on a daily basis.

Logistical Support to Foreign Media Based in India

Over 300 foreign media representatives based in India were provided the necessary facilitation to enable them to function smoothly through the provision of relevant information on various issues of interest, as well as assistance in matters of credential documents, visas, and residence permits. Visa extensions and/or accreditation facilities were provided to these journalists during the year.

Familiarization Visits by Foreign Journalists

Familiarization visits by foreign journalists to India is a key element of the Division's efforts to expose them to different facets of India. It enables them to acquire a better

understanding through a first-hand exposure to India's politics, foreign policy priorities, economy, culture, and science and technology. XPD organized several such visits to important institutions and centres of excellence in India. Meetings with political leaders including Ministers, senior officials, intellectuals, academicians, business representatives, and the Indian media, were also organized. More than a hundred foreign journalists have been hosted so far with a special focus on India's neighbours. These included senior journalists and editors from China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Central Asian countries, Japan, and Korea, and Anglophone African countries, and women journalists from Nepal, and the SAARC and ASEAN countries. More such visits, including from Eastern European countries, IBSA, and BRIC, are expected during the year.

Training, Workshops, Conferences and Special Events

The External Publicity Division also organizes specialized training programmes and other events for the media from the neighbouring countries. Based on the recommendations of the concerned territorial Divisions, XPD arranged for a tailor-made training course for 30 Afghan journalists (15 print, ten AV, and five Radio), at Jamia Millia Islamia University. Training for 25 journalists from Myanmar was also organized at IIMC (Indian Institute of Mass Communication). Furthermore, visiting journalists met with senior officials, academics, and the Indian media, as well as visiting historical places & centres of excellence. The Division has also been extending assistance to PTI and IANS for the placement of correspondents in select African countries to enhance mutual understanding and bridge the information gap.

Documentaries and Films

A major area of the work of the Division is the processing and issuance of clearances for documentaries by foreign audio-visual agencies. During the period April-November 2010, more than 210 proposals for shooting documentaries in India, from foreign production houses, and international TV channels, on various themes and subjects, including tourism, wildlife, and economic activities, were processed and approved.

Administration/Housekeeping

There has been sustained effort by the Division to improve the general working environment and enhance an aesthetically pleasant appearance of the office space. Display of select historical photographs, along with a liberal splash of green plants, has made the area more presentable and attractive.

The Public Diplomacy (PD) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was set up in 2006. The Division's mandate includes, inter alia, the production of print and audio-visual material that enables our Missions to project the diverse facets of India more effectively. The Division also organizes a wide range of outreach activities that are aimed at creating a greater understanding of India and its foreign policy concerns, both within India and abroad. To achieve these objectives, the Division partners with major domestic and international universities, think tanks and research organizations, chambers of commerce, and even private organizations, to catalyze the holding of seminars, conferences, and special projects, on subjects that are relevant to our concerns. In addition, the Division hosts delegations from various countries and organizations in order to provide them with a broad-based exposure to India. Details of the specific outreach activities are given below:

Outreach Activities

Hosting Visitors

With a view to providing key decision-makers and influencers with a better understanding of India, we are expanding our Visitors' programme. A typical menu includes a couple of meetings with senior government representatives, briefings on the economy at a major chamber of commerce, like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), or the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), an interactive session at a think tank like the Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses (IDSA), or the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), that explains the security environment in India's neighbourhood, and a visit to a major city outside Delhi. Visits of parliamentary delegations are usually planned when our own Parliament is in session, so that the visitors can see the world's largest democracy at work. Other topics such as climate change, agriculture, small industries, microfinance, e-governance, or even tele-medicine, are included on the basis of the interest expressed by the visitors. The visitors hosted by the PD Division included:

A seven-member group of eminent film journalists and critics, from 18-22 August, 2010, to attend the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) International Conference.

A Multi-Party Parliamentary Delegation from the Cambodian National Assembly, from 22-28 August, 2010;

Dr. Eberhard Sandschneider Otto-Wolff, Director of the Research Institute of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), from 11-16 September, 2010;

A seven-member United Kingdom Liberal Democratic Friends of India Parliamentary Delegation, from 26 September-2 October 2010; A four-member Lithuanian Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. Algis Kaseta, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, from 13-18 November, 2010;

An 11-member Nepalese Parliamentary Delegation of Young Constituent Assembly (CA) Members, from 21-27 November, 2010;

A seven-member Australian Young Political Leaders, from 28 November-5 December 2010;

27 PIO (Persons of Indian Origin) journalists during the period 6-10 January, 2011, in connection with PBD 2011 (Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2011). The journalists attended the workshops and sessions, during the Conference, and were also taken to Agra for a day's visit;

A 14-member delegation of Permanent Representatives (PR) of CARICOM (Caribbean Community) countries from New York, from 23-29 January, 2011. During the visit, the delegation called on the External Affairs Minister (EAM), and the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Jairam Ramesh. Secretary (West), and the Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (DG, ICCR), hosted dinners in their honour. The delegation also visited Mumbai and Agra;

A seven-member delegation consisting of U.S. Congressional Staffers will be visiting India, from 19-27 February, 2011, and another group will be visiting from 19-27 March, 2011, back-to-back. During the visits, the delegations are likely to call on senior officers in the Ministry of External Affairs,

apart from holding meetings with think tanks and institutions dealing with the environment and climate change; and,

As part of the "Leaders for the Future Programme" 22 Members of Parliament from African countries will be visiting India, in March 2011.

Outgoing Visits

The Division has also supported several outgoing visits for events that are aligned with the objectives of the PD Division. These include:

Prof. Ramachandra Guha's visit to Israel, to participate in a Symposium on Mahatma Gandhi, marking 80 years of the Dandi March, as part of the 9th Annual Conference of Asian Studies, the University of Haifa, from 26-27 April, 2010;

Visit of a four-member delegation to Japan, led by the Director, United Service Institution of India (USI), for interaction with the Okazaki Institute, Tokyo, from 6-11 December, 2010;

Visit of Shri Tarun Das, former Chief Mentor, CII, to speak at a Business Seminar in Buenos Aires, on 16 November, 2010; and,

Visit of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission, who heads the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) programme, at the Planning Commission, and Mr. Rahul Barkataky, Chief Executive Officer, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) to participate in a Conference on Inclusive Growth, organised by CII, U.K., on 29 November, 2010, in London, and Birmingham.

Seminars/Bilateral Dialogues/Conferences/Book Exhibitions/Screening of Films/ Film Festivals

A two-day seminar entitled "From Land Locked to Land Linked: North East India in BIMSTEC", at Shillong, from 8-10 April, 2010;

A series of outreach events in Jakarta and Bali, from 3-5 May, 2010, in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, and Udayana University, Bali;

Ninth Annual India - Korea Dialogue, organised by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), in Seoul, from 24-25 May, 2010;

A Symposium on the "Role of Connectivity with South East Asian Neighbours to Facilitate Cross-Border Trade and Commerce", organised by the

Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata, under their programme "Industry Academia Lecture Series " at Guwahati, on 31 July, 2010;

International Conference on "Bangalore-Chennai-Vietnam-Hong Kong Commercial Corridor", on 10 September, 2010;

International Scientific Conference on "Great Cultural Heritage of India and Belarus", dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Roerich's Pact, Minsk, 17 September, 2010;

TARAGram YATRA 2010 - an international conference "Towards Green Economies" - scalable solutions for people and our planet," from 17-21 September, 2010;

The third meeting of the Indo-Gulf Partnership Project, in Riyadh, from 16-17 October, 2010, in association with the Gulf Research Centre, Dubai; The seventh Annual South Asia Media Summit - 2010, on the topic "Women in the Media in South Asia: Partners in Development," from 22-25 November, 2010, at the International Centre, Goa.

Participation in the Tehran Book Fair, one of the prestigious events in Iran;

The 23rd Turin International Book Fair, where India was the "Guest Country".

Release of the book "In the National Interest: A Strategic Foreign Policy for India," authored by Rajiv Kumar and Santosh Kumar, on 3 November, 2010.

A 24-minute documentary film on the economic resurgence of India, commissioned by the Division in 2010, was screened at the World Economic Forum at Davos, in January 2011, as a part of the India Inclusive Campaign being undertaken by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

A 30-minute documentary film entitled "It's Cricket, No!!!," on Blind Cricket in India, commissioned by the Division in 2010, was screened as a part of the 'Persistence Resistance 2011' Film Festival, at the India International Centre, New Delhi, on 8 February, 2011.

A one-day Symposium on the topic "India as an Emerging Soft Power, was held on 18 February, 2011, at the India Media Centre, University of Westminster, London, in collaboration with the Public Diplomacy Division, and the Confederation of Indian Industry, U.K. JS (PD) also addressed the Oxford India Society, Oxford University, on 19 February, 2011.

A Seminar on Indo-Nepal Relations will be held in Varanasi, from 4-6 March, 2011. 15 delegates from Nepal, and an equal number from the Indian side, will participate in the Seminar.

A Seminar on UNSC reforms will be held in New Delhi, in March 2011, in collaboration with Indian Council of World Affairs, and the Public Diplomacy Division.

Embassy of India, Brasilia, organized two film festivals of contemporary Indian films in Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Bengali languages. A total of 31 films were screened during the Festival - 19 films in Rio de Janeiro, and 12 films in Brasilia.

The Division helped many Indian Missions/Posts in organizing Film Festivals viz. those in Algiers, Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Mexico City, Kuala Lumpur, and several other capitals.

The International Day of Non-Violence was celebrated by a number of Missions and Posts. The programmes included lectures, seminars, conferences, photo exhibitions, film festivals, debates, competitions for school children, and cultural shows.

The Division also screened the following documentaries accompanied by panel discussions:

'Humsaye: Two Nations, Two Neighbours,' by Smt. Apama Srivastav Reddy, on 1 October, 2010. Panelists were SS (PD) and Ambassador of Afghanistan;

'Emerging Ties: India & Central Asia,' by Smt. Rashmi Luthra, on 11 October, 2010. Panelists were Secretray (East) and Dr Jyotsna Chaudhri, General Secretary, India-CIS Chamber of Commerce;

'God's Chosen One,' by Smt. Jyotsna Sood, on 28 October, 2010. Panelists were Shri Oscar Fernandes, MP, Dr. Vincent Michael Concessao, Archbishop of Delhi, and Mr Jerome Bonnafont, Ambassador of France;

"Urdu and Modern India," produced by Smt. Kamna Prasad, on 30 November, 2010. Panelists were Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, and Minority Affairs, and Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, Chairman, Lalit Kala Academy;

An abridged version of the documentary film 'IBSA: A People's Project', was screened at the IBSA Summit in Brasilia.

Distinguished Lecture Series

Under the Ministry of External Affairs Distinguished Lecture Series, the Division has organized lectures at different central and state universities which have had very encouraging responses from various universities. The list of lectures delivered from April 2010 onwards is available in the table on the next page.

This Programme is being expanded and lectures are being organised at other Universities across India, including the University of Tripura, Maharaja's College (Cochin), Ravenshaw University (Cuttack), University of Kerala, H.S. Gour University (Sagar), Aligarh Muslim University, Maharshi Dayanand University (Rohtak), Kurukshetra University, Indian Institute of Technology (Kanpur) etc.

Audio-Visual Publicity

The Division completed the following documentary films projecting diverse facets of India:

Animare - A Digital Story: Explores India's dramatic entry into the pulsating arena of animation, bringing out the skills, creativity, and technical acumen of the key players.

Bonding with Africa: Explores the ever growing relations of India with continental Africa.

Martial Traditions of the Indian Army: Portrays the way the Army strives to reconcile the inevitable process of modernization and the challenges of modern warfare with a profound commitment to preserving its unique and distinct traditions.

Urdu & Modern India (Urdu): Portrays the progress of the Urdu Language in modern India.

A Perfect Blend: A film on Darjeeling Tea.

Humsaye - Two Nations, Two Neighbours: The story of Afghanistan and India, of two ancient cultures which are bonded to each other through a myriad strands, of a friendship that has stood the test of time.

India by Choice: Foreigners have always been drawn to India as an exotic tourist destination but now it is India's booming economy that is drawing expatriates to set up permanent residence here.

Love Song of the World (a film on the Bauls of Bengal): The story of the Bauls, a cult of travelling minstrels who are reaching out to the world and winning it over with their simplicity and integrity of purpose, through their soulful music.

List of Lectures Delivered from April 2010 onwards

SNo.	Date	University	Speaker	Subject
1.	23 April, 2010	Hyderabad Central University	Amb. Shri K.V. Rajan	South Asian Developments and Implications for the Asian Century
2.	1 May, 2010	University of Sikkim	Amb. Shri Rajiv Sikri	India's Look East Policy
3.	13 May, 2010	University of Manipur	Amb. Shri Rajiv Bhatia	Addressing Africa's Challenges Through Partnership with India
4.	16 July, 2010	I.I.T. Mumbai	Amb. Shri R.M. Abhyankar	India and West Asia
5.	23 August, 2010	University of Bangalore	Amb. Shri C. Dasgupta	India's Climate Change Diplomacy
6.	25 August, 2010	University of Tripura	Amb. Shri S.T. Devare	India's Look East Policy
7.	27 August, 2010	Tezpur University	Amb. Shri S.T. Devare	India's Look East Policy
8.	30 August, 2010	North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong	Amb. Shri S.T. Devare	India's Look East Policy
9.	30 August, 2010	Indian Council for Social Science and Research	Amb. Shri S.T. Devare	India's Look East Policy
10.	6 September, 2010	Ranchi University	Amb. Shri H.H.S. Viswanathan	The Prospects & Challenges for a Resurgent Africa
11.	7 September, 2010	Central University of Jharkhand	Amb. Shri H.H.S. Viswanathan	India's Engagement with a Resurgent Africa
12.	13 September, 2010	Jadavpur University	Amb. Shri R. Sen	Making American Interest Groups Appreciate India's Concerns And Priorities: A Public Diplomacy Exercise Abroad
13.	14 September, 2010	University of Calcutta	Amb. Shri R. Sen	The Evolution Of India-Russia Relations
14.	28 September, 2010	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	Amb. Shri B. Balakrishnan	Role of Technology in India's Foreign Relations
15.	5 October, 2010	University of Rajasthan, Jaipur	Amb. Shri Kishan S. Rana	"Indian Foreign Policy: The Citizen Dimension"
16.	22 October, 2010	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	Amb. Shri K. Sibal	Indo - Pak Relations
17.	24 October, 2010	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Amb. Shri Swashpawan Singh	Role and Functioning of UN Organisations
18.	26 October, 2010	Punjab University, Chandigarh	Amb. Shri G. Parthasarathy	India - Pakistan Relations
19.	7 December, 2010	Jamia Millia Islamia	Amb. Ronen Sen	Indo-US Relations: Post President Obama's visit
20.	10 December, 2010	Bangalore International Centre	Smt. Vijaya Latha Reddy	India's Look East Policy

In the Season of Blue Storm: Provides an insight into contemporary Indian society vis-à-vis Muslim women and their achievements.

God's Chosen One: Captures the journey of an ordinary nun from Bharananganam, a small town in Kerala, achieving the extraordinary: the canonization of the 1st Indian Catholic woman, Sister Alphonsa, as a saint, by the Vatican.

Resurgent Manas: Captures new developments in the Manas National Park in western Assam, a World Heritage Site since 1992.

Footsteps into Future: Focuses on different facets of a mutually beneficial partnership between India and Russia that has spanned generations.

India Empowered: A documentary on the Indian Power Sector.

On the Wings of Courage: An extensively researched film of cataclysmic events showcasing the roots of conflicts in the modern evolving human societies.

The Pathbreakers III: A series to put special focus on those rare individuals, who, through sheer grit, determination, and commitment, have succeeded in reversing near impossible problems, and shaken society out of its apathy.

Vibrant Colors: Traces the genesis of India's publishing industry, starting the journey in ancient and medieval times, travelling through the colonial period and the freedom struggle, before arriving at the present juncture.

A People's Project (A film on IBSA): Reflects the commitment of the governments of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) to promote a new model of South-South cooperation for the collective benefit of the people.

Emerging Ties; India-Central Asia Economic Relations: Depicts long traditions of social, cultural, religious, political, and economic contacts, of four Central Asian countries and India, since centuries.

A la Carte! (Food in the Fast Lane): Focuses on the wide variety of street food in India... a variety that reflects remarkable innovation.

Several of these films have been prepared in multiple formats so that not only can they be screened on various TV channels but also on other new media channels. 20 films have already been uploaded onto You Tube.

In addition, the Division has commissioned 20 documentaries in the current year on a wide variety of

subjects including Literature, Indian weddings, the Jaipur foot, MNREGA, e-Governance initiatives, Saris, Blind Cricket, and Indian Architecture. We have also commissioned three documentaries in association with other Ministries/agencies i.e. on Kishori Amonkar, by Shri Amol Palekar, with the National Culture Fund, a 10-part series on the Indian Diaspora, by Shri Siddharth Kak, with MoIA, and a film on the Golden Temple, with the Discovery Channel. The Division has also made a conscious effort to shift to the High Definition format and to subtitle or dub the documentaries in multiple languages. As part of the effort to create a wider viewership for these films, the PD Division has entered into a special arrangement with Doordarshan. 90 documentaries produced by the Division are also being screened on DD-India, from October 2010.

To ensure wider availability of our documentaries, we have entered into non-exclusive distribution arrangements with M/s Saregama, and Magic Lantern Foundation, an NGO.

To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Tagore, the Division is bringing out a customized set of compilations of Tagore's works, in association with M/s Saregama. This set will consist of the critically acclaimed documentary film 'A Story of Gitanjali', produced by the Division in 2008, an audio CD containing songs from the 'Gitanjali', as well as a multiple language booklet (Spanish, Portuguese, German, French, and English) containing a write-up, interesting anecdotes, etc. on Tagore.

Print Publicity

The Division has published the following books:

A book by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) entitled 'Simplifying Climate Change,'

A coffee table book by Smt. Radha Raina entitled 'India & Kazakhstan - Echoes of Distant Past,' and,

A coffee table book entitled 'Something Old Something New - 150th Birth Anniversary Tribute to Rabindranath Tagore,' published by Marg Publications.

Four new coffee table books on different facets of India have been commissioned and appropriate sets of regional language books in Gujarati, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu, are being finalized so that our Missions can use these for our outreach efforts to the Indian diaspora.

The Division has supported the initiatives to publish the translations of 'The Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi'

into Slovenian, the translation of the 'Glimpses of World History' by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru into Bulgarian, and the translation of Tagore's works into Serbian. An amount of Euros 3,000 was sanctioned for the translation & printing of a book containing a collection of 50 contemporary poems, of 30 poets, writing in 14 different Indian languages, into German.

India Perspectives

A special effort has been made to create a more diverse content and appealing format for the flagship publication of the MEA. The Division took the initiative to bring out a special issue of India Perspectives to coincide with the commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Rabindranath Tagore. To bring out this issue, the Division established a close partnership with the Visva Bharati University. The issue was made available in 17 major languages. With a view to giving a more professional dimension to India Perspectives, a decision has been taken to outsource its publication to a reputed private company, from January 2011.

The Division has commissioned M/s Media TransAsia to update and print 15,000 copies of the coffee table book 'Timeless Splendour', first published in 2005-2006 in six languages i.e. English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, and Arabic.

"India Perspectives", the flagship magazine of the Ministry of External Affairs has been made available online. The last issue of the year 2010 was brought out in collaboration with the National Gallery of Modern Art, and is about Modern and Contemporary Art and was distributed at the Indian Art Summit and the Jaipur Literature Festival.

Digital Diplomacy

The PD Division has embarked on an active digital diplomacy approach aimed at harnessing the potential offered by Web 2.0 tools with three clear objectives:

- To connect with the Internet-savvy younger generation.

- To utilise the powerful, low-cost, communication channels offered by Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Blogspot, and the like.

- To use these channels for receiving feedback and for creating interactive platforms that improves our interface with the citizens.

The PD Division has established a presence on each of these channels and has also started a website (www.Indiadiplomacy.in) which is based on the Web 2.0 platform. The response from the public has been extremely

positive and the Twitter account, for instance, already has over 4,000 followers. Short versions of documentaries have been put on YouTube and an interactive space on Facebook has been created to convey and share information about the activities of Missions abroad. These initiatives have recently won recognition through the India e-Governance 2.0 Awards 2010, where the Public Diplomacy Division received the award for the most innovative use of the social media in Government.

"Friends of India Perspectives" and "Friends of ITEC" groups are being created on the Facebook page of the Public Diplomacy Division.

Building Brand India

The PD Division has taken several initiatives to promote the building of Brand India overseas. A few of the major initiatives in this regard include: support to the first Hay Literature Festival, organized in Kerala, from 12-14 November, 2010; support to the India Future of Change campaign, that attempts to create an awareness of India in 18 major university campuses around the world, through a series of design, business plan, photography, essay writing, and other competitions, and; partnership with the CII to mount a major branding campaign, themed 'India.Inclusive@Davos,' during the World Economic Forum's Summit in Davos in January 2011.

The PD website makes a conscious effort to create and amplify examples of India's Development Partnerships around the globe under the ITEC and other aid programmes. A similar effort is also being made to project and highlight the global reach and impact of India's soft power. Active discussions are underway with Doordarshan to expand its global footprint and make it an effective vehicle for our public diplomacy efforts.

Creating an International Relations Community

The Division has created a nationwide database of all international relations scholars and experts. This has been done in partnership with the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (J.N.U.), and the JAIR. A closed Google mail group has been created where these scholars have interacted with each other and have established relationships with the PD Division. A proposal for the 1st ever International Conference on International Relations Scholars is in the pipeline.

Imparting Momentum to Public Diplomacy

The Division has embarked on a range of activities to create greater awareness about the field of Public

Diplomacy and its increasingly important role in foreign policy. A major international conference themed 'Public Diplomacy in the Information Age' - the first of its kind to be held in India - was organised in New Delhi, from 10-11 December, 2010. The keynote address was delivered by the Foreign Secretary who also hosted a dinner for the visiting delegation. Joint Secretary (PD) has also delivered

lectures on the subject at various university campuses and at think tanks like the IDSA and ORF. In view of the Division's ambitious plans for Public Diplomacy, it has also created a separate logo that can be used on all its products and at events supported by the Division. This is a key milestone in the ongoing efforts to create a distinct identity for the Division.

Training of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Probationers

One of the primary activities of the Foreign Service Institute is the training of IFS Probationers. The Probationers undergo a one-year long training programme at FSI to prepare them to handle the wide range of tasks that they would be required to perform during their professional careers, both at Headquarters, and in Missions and Posts abroad.

After the completion of their training programme, the 2008 Batch IFS Probationers started their language postings abroad, in July-August 2010. The valedictory function for the batch was held on 14 June, 2010. Ms. N. Subhashini was selected for the Bimal Sanyal Gold Medal for the Best Probationer, as well as the Bimal Sanyal Silver Medal for the Best Dissertation. The Medals were presented to her by the Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao, who was the Chief Guest at the valedictory function.

24 IFS Probationers, of the 2009 batch, have completed their training programme, at FSI, in January 2011. The training of the Probationers was conducted through lectures, as well as attachments to various institutions. It included modules on a large number of subjects such as international relations and foreign policy, international law, Defense and security, economic diplomacy and international trade, cultural diplomacy, the heritage of India, environmental and climate diplomacy, energy security etc. In addition to the traditional foreign policy subjects, the young entrants to the Service were also briefed on the contemporary social development issues, minority rights and problems, right to information, human rights issues etc. Group discussions, case studies, and presentations on topical issues, were also introduced in order to develop effective communication skills and creative thinking among the Probationers.

The Probationers were sent on attachments with the Indian Army and the Air Force, and also on a visit to the Western Naval Command in Mumbai. During their Mumbai visit, in September 2010, they also participated in interactive sessions with experts from leading financial institutions, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), EXIM Bank, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) and the Securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI).

The Probationers visited Kathmandu (Nepal), Male (Maldives), and Yangon (Myanmar), in three groups, in April-May 2010, in order to familiarize themselves with the work of Indian Missions abroad, and enhance their knowledge of India's immediate neighbourhood.

A seven-week course was organized for the Probationers at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, to develop their skills in management and economic issues.

The Probationers went on the 'Bharat Darshan' tour, in October 2010, with a view to acquaint themselves with the rich cultural diversity, heritage, and the economic and tourism potential of the country. During their District Training, in November 2010, the Probationers got the opportunity to learn about the grass-root level administration, and problems faced by the rural communities. After the completion of their FSI training, the IFS Probationers of the 2009 batch began their Desk Attachments in the Ministry, in January 2011.

The IFS Probationers of the 2010 batch joined the institute, in December 2010, and their training programme has commenced.

Training of the Officers and Staff of the Ministry

The email-based Mid-Career Training Programme for Director-level Officers of the 1992 batch was completed, in May 2010. The programme for the IFS Officers of the 1993 batch is in the final stage of completion, and that for the batch of 1994 has been initiated. This programme consists of assignments on four modules of India's foreign policy, economy, security, and regional issues, apart from the writing of a detailed monograph.

A one-day module on Right to Information for the officers of the Ministry is being held on 11 February, 2011.

Two Refresher Courses for Section Officers of the Ministry were conducted from 20-30 April, 2010 and 4-15 October, 2010, during which the participants were briefed on communication skills and various functions in Missions abroad. The participants also underwent training in the Integrated Mission Accounting Software (IMAS).

Another Refresher Course for Section Officers of the Ministry is proposed from 14-31 March, 2011.

A Basic Professional Course (BPC), for Assistants and Clerks of the Ministry, was conducted from 26 July-3 August 2010. The participants were imparted training on Mission-related topics. Besides that, three training programmes on Integrated Mission Accounting Software (IMAS) were also organized for Assistants and Clerks of the Ministry. Another Basic Professional Course (BPC), for Assistants and Clerks, followed by two Integrated Mission Accounting Software (IMAS) training programmes, will be organized from 7 February- 2 March 2011.

Promotion of Links with Other Ministries and Training Institutes

The fifth Vertical Interaction Training programme was conducted by the Foreign Service Institute, on behalf of the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) on 'Main Currents in India's Foreign Policy' from 5-9 April, 2010. The Course was jointly attended by IAS, IPS, IFS, and Defense Officers.

One of the Joint Secretaries represented FSI at the 11th Conference of Central Training Institutions, held at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, from 11-12 October, 2009.

Programme for Foreign Diplomats

The Foreign Service Institute continued to conduct various training programmes for foreign diplomats, in its efforts to build bridges of friendship, and cooperation, with different countries around the world.

A special course for diplomats from IOR-ARC member countries was organized from 28 April-11 May 2010. 13 diplomats from IOR-ARC attended the course. A special course for ASEAN Diplomats was also organized from 18 August-16 September 2010, in which 31 diplomats from seven ASEAN countries participated. The participants of the Special Courses were taken to

various places of historical, cultural and industrial importance, in and around Delhi. They also visited Agra, Bodhgaya, and Bangalore. The seventh Special Training Course for diplomats from Afghanistan was held in November-December 2010, with the participation of 18 diplomats.

The Foreign Service Institute also organized a Special Course, in Fiji, from 10-14 January, 2011 for diplomats of the Pacific Island Countries. 14 diplomats, from ten countries, participated in the course.

The 50th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats is being held at the FSI from 5 January-4 February 2011. 38 diplomats from 37 countries are participating in the 50th PCFD programme. A Special Course for Commonwealth Diplomats, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth, is being organized from 7-11 March, 2011.

Linkages with Counterpart Institutes Abroad

An MoU providing for an institutional framework of cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute and the Diplomatic Academy of South Africa was signed on 4 June, 2010. A five-member delegation, from the Gambia, led by Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Gambians Abroad, met with the Dean (FSI), in August 2010. A delegation from Myanmar led by Mr. U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board (CSSTB), visited FSI, in September 2010. A four-member delegation, from Ethiopia, led by Mr. Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, of Ethiopia, called on the Dean (FSI), in December 2010.

The Dean (FSI) visited Malta from 27-29 September, 2010, to attend the 38th Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training. The Annual Meeting is attended by Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations.

Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

The Ministry has a well-organized Programme for the Propagation of Hindi Abroad with the involvement of our Missions/Posts. Under this scheme, Hindi teaching material (including Hindi textbooks, literary and children's books, Hindi magazines, Hindi learning CDs, software to work in Hindi on computers, and dictionaries) is supplied to educational institutions. The Ministry also extends support to various foreign Universities and other educational institutions, through the Indian Missions abroad, for Hindi-related activities. During the year 2010-2011, Hindi books, teaching materials, and software, were supplied to about 70 Missions/Posts abroad. Hindi magazines were supplied to about 100 Missions/Posts abroad. Miscellaneous grants were also sanctioned to four Missions/Posts for the promotion and propagation of Hindi.

To promote Hindi as an international language, a World Hindi Secretariat has been set up in Mauritius, under a bilateral agreement. The functioning of the Secretariat is coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs and its Mauritian counterpart in the Government of Mauritius.

The Ministry coordinates work relating to the grant of scholarships to foreign students to study Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. 100 scholarships are offered every year. 82 students availed of the scholarships in 2010-2011.

The Implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Government of India continued to be accorded a very high priority by the Ministry of External Affairs. Documents like Bilateral Treaties, Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, the Annual Report of the Ministry, Parliament Questions, and other documents meant to be placed before the Parliament, are prepared bilingually. Besides, speeches of four members (who were MPs) of the Official Indian Delegation to the UNGA were translated into Hindi online on short notice.

Training in Hindi as official language forms an integral part of the training programme of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in the Ministry. Four such programmes were held during the year. About 200 officers and staff attended the training programmes.

The Ministry organized Hindi Pakhwara and Hindi Diwas at Headquarters. Hindi Essay Writing, Hindi Noting & Drafting, Hindi Typing, Hindi Stenography, Hindi Quiz, and Hindi Poetry Recitation Competitions, were organized during the fortnight. This time the response from the officers and staff of the Ministry was overwhelming. The prize distribution function for the Hindi Pakhwara was organized in the Committee Room of the South Block and the Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Hindi Advisory Committees have been set up in various Ministries/Departments to advise on the proper implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Government of India. Accordingly, the Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs has been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of External Affairs Minister.

Under the "Kautilya Puraskar Yojna", the Ministry of External Affairs honours Hindi writers for their original works in Hindi, on subjects pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs. During the year, Dr. Vikram Singh was conferred the Kautilya Prize for his book (Bharat Mein Rajnitik Chintan Ki Prampara) on the recommendations of the Committee on the Kautilya Puraskar. The Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao felicitated Dr. Vikram Singh with a cash award of ` 60,000, a memento and a shawl, on the occasion of Hindi Day, organized in the Committee Room of South Block, on 5 October, 2010, which was well attended by the officers/staff members.

Our Regional Passport Offices as well as our Missions organized different competitions such as a Hindi Essay Competition, Hindi Writing Competitions, and Quiz Competitions, on the occasion of Hindi Pakhwara, 2010. Special grants were sanctioned to 36 Missions/Posts abroad for organizing these activities.

The Hindi Section organized Hindi Workshops for the officials of the Ministry. Participants were given valuable information about the Government's Official Language Policy, and Noting and Drafting in Hindi. Certificates and Hindi books were also distributed to the participants on the concluding day.

The World Hindi Day is celebrated every year in all our Missions/Posts abroad on 10 January, as well as at Headquarters. 40 Missions/Posts abroad have been sanctioned special grants for celebrating World Hindi Day on 10 January, 2011. Instructions have been issued for organizing special programmes on the occasion of World Hindi Day on 10 January, 2011.

The Parliamentary Committee on the Official Language visited the Regional Passport Offices at Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kochi, during the year

2010-2011 to take stock of the progressive use of the Official Language, Hindi. Work related to these visits was coordinated by the Hindi Section of the Ministry. During the current year, 25 Sections of the Ministry and three Regional Passport Offices i.e. at Chandigarh, Shimla, and Hyderabad, were inspected by the officials of the Hindi Section, to assess the progress made in the use of the Official Language, Hindi. Proper guidance was given regarding the implementation of the Official Language Policy to the officials of these offices.



Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao with the Prize winners at the Commemoration of World Hindi Day, in New Delhi, on 10 January, 2011.



Union Minister for External Affairs, Shri S.M. Krishna addressing the Conference of Heads of Missions, in New Delhi on 27 August, 2010.

Third Heads of Missions' (HoMs) Conference

The third Indian Heads of Missions' (HoMs) Conference was held from 27-29 August, 2010, in New Delhi. 119 High Commissioners and Ambassadors from across the world participated in this Conference. The Conference was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, on 27 August, 2010. The Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, External Affairs Minister, Home Minister, Defense Minister, Minister of Human Resource Development, Environment & Forests Minister, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Minister of State for External Affairs, President of the ICCR, and the National Security

Advisor, addressed the Conference. The HoMs also called on the President and the Vice President of India.

The HoMs participated in a series of interactive sessions covering a wide spectrum of foreign policy issues, including developments in our immediate and extended neighbourhoods, relations with key nations and regions, as well as regional and international issues of importance to India. The HoMs also interacted with distinguished personalities from business and industry, including Mr. Gurcharan Das and Ms. Indra Nooyi, during sessions organized by the CII and FICCI.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations was formally set up in 1950, with the primary objective of establishing, reviving, and strengthening, cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. Its aims, as enunciated in the Memorandum of Association, are:

To participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes relating to India's external cultural relations;

To promote cultural exchanges with other countries and peoples;

To promote and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries; and,

To establish and develop relations with national and international organizations in the field of culture.

The Council has worked steadily to attain these objectives. The major activities of the Council are:

Administration of scholarship schemes for overseas students on behalf of the Government of India and other agencies; welfare of international students; grant of scholarships to foreign students to learn Indian dance and music; holding of exhibitions on a reciprocal basis; organization of, and participation in, international seminars and symposia; participation in major cultural festivals abroad; organization of "Festival of India" in countries abroad; exchange of groups of performing artists; organization of lecture-demonstration by performing artistes abroad; Distinguished Visitors Programme under which eminent personalities from abroad are invited to visit India, and the outgoing visitors' programme in which experts are sent abroad for delivering lectures; presentation of books, audio-visual material, art objects, and musical instruments, to institutions abroad; providing the secretariat for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding; organization of the annual Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture; conducting the Maulana Azad Essay Competition; publication of books and journals for distribution in India and abroad; maintaining Indian Cultural Centres abroad; maintaining a well-stocked library and the manuscripts of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad; and, digitization of rare manuscripts.

Regional Offices

The Council now has 15 Regional Offices which continue to function in Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cuttack, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, Shillong, Thiruvananthapuram, and Varanasi. The Regional Office in Goa was inaugurated on 23 November, 2010, by the Chief Minister of Goa, and President, ICCR, & Director General, ICCR, in the presence of Minister, PWD, Government of Goa. The process of opening more Regional Offices at Ahmedabad, Patna, Srinagar, and Bhopal, are also underway.

The activities of the regional offices include coordination with local bodies/organizations and providing assistance to foreign students studying under the Council's scholarship schemes. The regional offices also extend logistic facilities to Incoming and Outgoing Cultural Delegations and the Council's Distinguished Visitors. There is greater emphasis, now, to increase the number of activities by the Regional Offices of the ICCR in various regions and also to enhance ICCR's outreach in different parts of India.

Meeting of Regional Directors/Regional Officers: A meeting of the Heads of Regional Offices was convened on 8 September, 2010, at Azad Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi, to discuss various issues concerning the welfare of foreign students and to review the activities undertaken by the Regional Offices for foreign students. All Sectional Heads at Headquarters were also present.

Indian Cultural Centres: The Council is presently maintaining 25 Indian Cultural Centres abroad, which continue to function in Abu Dhabi (UAE), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Bangkok (Thailand), Beijing (China), Berlin (Germany), Cairo (Egypt), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Durban, & Johannesburg (both in South Africa), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Georgetown (Guyana), Jakarta (Indonesia), Kabul (Afghanistan), Kathmandu (Nepal), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), London (U.K.), Mexico City (Mexico), Moscow (Russian Federation), Paramaribo (Suriname), Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago), Port Louis (Mauritius), Suva (Fiji), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), and Tokyo (Japan), as well as three

sub - centres at Bali (Indonesia), Lautoka (Fiji), and Thimpu (Bhutan). The Nehru - Wangchuk Cultural Centre in Thimpu was formally inaugurated at a ceremony in September 2010, by the President, ICCR, Dr. Karan Singh.

The ICCR, under its Chairs Programme, endeavours to promote India- related awareness and appreciation of the rich Indian culture abroad. With this objective, Indian Professors and Associate Professors are deputed to long- and short-term Chairs by ICCR in various prestigious and prominent foreign universities.

The Chairs are established under various programmes like the Cultural Exchange Programme, and the Propagation of Hindi Abroad, and under the Council's own 'Expansion Plan'. The Long-Term Chairs are for a one-year duration or more. The Short-Term Chairs are for one semester of three to six months. Besides teaching, the deputed Professors take up other academic activities like research guidance, seminar coordination, publications, and as speakers at other institutions. ICCR now has 65 Chairs abroad. Out of the 65 Chairs, 42 Chairs existed till the financial year 2009-2010. ICCR established 23 additional Chairs in the financial year 2010-2011 (till 30 November, 2010).

The new Chairs established in the financial year 2010-2011 (till 30 November, 2010), are located in China (two Chairs, one each in Indian Economy, and Social Sciences), Canada (2 Chairs, one each in Indian History, and Social Sciences), U.K. (2 Chairs, one each in Modern Indian History, and Social Sciences), Cambodia (Sanskrit & Buddhist Studies), Indonesia (Sanskrit), Mauritius (Sanskrit & Indian Philosophy), Italy (Indian Economy), Nepal (Political Science), New Zealand (Indian Politics), Sweden (Indian History), Netherlands (Contemporary Indian Studies), Mexico (Indian Studies), Ireland (Ecumenics), Japan (Contemporary Indian Studies), Germany (5 Chairs, one each in Environmental Policy, Sociology, Literary/Media/Culture Studies, Law, and Political Sciences & International Studies), and South Africa (Social Sciences).

The ICCR has signed an MoU with Ryukoku University, Kyoto, to establish its second Chair in Japan. In addition, the ICCR is in the process of signing MoUs with universities in Italy, Indonesia, and Nepal, to establish three new Chairs.

Fellowship Programme

The idea of the Fellowship Programme was conceptualized by the Council, keeping in view the great deal of interest

scholars have in India and its cultural & intellectual heritage worldwide. It was proposed that 30 Fellowships would be awarded to carefully selected scholars from our Missions abroad who have strong & impressive academic credentials with a good number of publications and research studies in India-related subjects. Under this programme, the selected Fellow receives a Fellowship of US\$ 3,000 p.m. and is affiliated to any Indian university, think tank, or NGO, desired by him/her. While in India, the Fellow also interacts with students, teaching faculty, Fellows, and writers, and participates in different talks, conferences, seminars, and lectures, organized by the Council.

Till date, 26 Fellows have been short-listed under this scheme out of which six Fellows, one each from New Zealand, Hungary, South Africa, Zambia, Mongolia, & Netherlands, have come and returned after completing their Fellowship tenures at various Indian universities. 12 Fellows from Bulgaria, Germany, Mongolia, Greece, Uzbekistan, Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Japan, Ireland, Mexico, Myanmar, & Iran, are pursuing their research work in various Indian universities and eight more Fellows from Trinidad & Tobago, Fiji, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Italy, Australia, Hungary, & Nepal, are scheduled to come to pursue their Fellowships in the coming months.

Conferences and Seminars

During the period under review, the Council collaborated in the holding of various International Conferences & Seminars with a view to facilitate interactions between intellectuals, opinion makers, and academicians, representing various countries. These included (a) Buddhist Conferences in South Korea (10-11 May, 2010), & Singapore (24-25 May, 2010), and (b) Indology Conferences in the Czech Republic (17-19 June, 2010), & Indonesia (11-16 October, 2010). Scholars of Buddhist Studies, and Indology, from India, the host country, & the countries neighbouring the host country, participated in the Conferences. These Conferences evoked good responses. Encouraged by the response, the Council is planning more conferences on Indology, & Buddhist Studies, abroad. In India, the Council collaborated with the Mexican Embassy, New Delhi, in organizing a conference to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between both the countries.

The Council also assisted various organizations and prominent institutes like J.N.U., Delhi University, and IAS (Shimla), in organizing international conferences in India, in which several prominent Indian and foreign

scholars participated, and deliberated on cultural and literary themes, including the Urdu and Persian languages. The Council assisted various Universities in organizing Conferences/Seminars/Symposia on subjects related to Culture. The major Universities assisted by the ICCR were Allahabad University, Sikkim University, and MG University (Kottayam).

The Council also organized an International Conference on Cross Cultural Conversation, in New Delhi, from 28-29 December, 2010. In a major event organized by the Council, in association with Dastkari Haat, the Council brought together crafts women from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, & Sri Lanka, to participate in the seminar & workshops organized at Dilli Haat, during the period 3-17 January, 2011. The Council also organized a Buddhist Conference in Cambodia from 3-4 December, 2010, as a part of its policy of enhancing the bonds of Buddhism, between India and the South East Asian Countries.

During the period mid-January 2011 to the end of the current financial year 2010-2011, the Council will be associating with various universities/institutes in organizing Conferences/Seminars. A Buddhist conference has also been scheduled to be organized in Sri Lanka in mid-March 2011.

Scholarship and Welfare of International Students

One of the important activities of the ICCR is the implementation of scholarship schemes for overseas students for doctoral, post-graduate, and under-graduate courses, as well as professional courses such as engineering, pharmacy, business administration, and accountancy. Around 4,700 foreign students are currently studying in India under the various scholarship schemes administered by the ICCR. During the period April-November 2010, the Council offered 2,350 new scholarships, including 675 scholarships for Afghan students, and 251 under the Africa Scholarship Scheme, out of which 1,379 foreign students joined their respective universities/institutes in India.

The Council regularly organizes "winter and summer camps" and "study tours" for the benefit of international students.

During the period December 2010 to mid-January 2011, the Council organized 14 Winter Camps for foreign students in different parts of India.

A Familiarization Course for 35 visiting Overseas Scholars of Indian Origin from various countries was organized, at

the request of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, New Delhi, at ICCR, Azad Bhawan, from 10-11 January, 2011. The programme included lectures and Power Point Presentations on Indian Culture, Dances, Cinema, Art, & Architecture, as well as visits to the Red Fort, and Humayun's Tomb, in New Delhi.

Orientation Programme

An Orientation Programme for the benefit of the newly-arrived students in various universities/institutions in Delhi was held. The Programme included briefings by the DG, DDG(O), and International Students Advisors of Delhi University/J.N.U., and lectures by representatives of SPIC-MACAY, and a lecture demonstration by Ms. Navina Jafa, a Kathak dancer.

To commemorate 60 years of ICCR and the 122nd Birth Anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the First Education Minister of independent India, and the Founder- President of the ICCR, the Council organized the 18th International Students Cultural Festival called "Friendship Through Culture" on 12 November, 2010, at IGNC, New Delhi. The international students' community from 18 countries participated enthusiastically in this event by depicting representative aspects of the cultures of their respective countries. The ICCR's Regional Offices and some Indian Missions abroad also celebrated this festival.

An Orientation programme for the IFS Probationers of the 2010 batch will be organized by the Council at the request of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), from 21-25 March, 2011. The programme would include Lectures, Lecture-cum-Demonstrations, Power Point Presentations, and Sight-seeing/Trips to places of cultural and historical interest. The Lectures on the art and culture of India would be delivered by eminent cultural personalities.

Incoming Cultural Delegations

ICCR organizes the visits of foreign performing artistes to India for performances in various cities of India. These groups are hosted under the ambit of bilateral Cultural Exchange Programmes as well as in response to the recommendations of Indian Missions abroad, and requests received from foreign diplomatic Missions, and Cultural Centres in India. During the period April 2010-January 2011, the Council hosted the visits of 31 foreign cultural groups from Egypt, Pakistan, South Africa, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Russia, Germany, Mauritius, Thailand, China, Iran, Indonesia, Taiwan, U.K., Afghanistan, Colombia, Nepal, Botswana,

Poland, Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, and Algeria. The Council also organized 54 special events, including the Thumri Festival and the Malhar Festival, in Delhi.

The Council also organized two big Festivals like the South Asian Band Festival, and the Delhi International Arts Festival, in which participants from Austria, Italy, the U.K., Mexico, Japan, Spain, Belarus, Egypt, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Nepal, have participated, and have given performances at Delhi, Guwahati, Jaipur, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Chandigarh. Besides, six special events of Indian artistes including the Ritu Samhara Group's dance performance were organized in New Delhi on 7 January, 2011, on the occasion of the ninth Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas.

The Council hosted the visit of 11 Bhutanese artisans in order that they learn skills in the area of bronze casting and moulding under the "Dharma Project," in India, from 1 December 2010-31 January 2011.

Publications

The Council has an ambitious publication programme, which has grown over the years. The Council published five journals in five different languages namely, "Indian Horizons" and "Africa Quarterly" (both English quarterlies), "Papeles de la India" (Spanish, bi-annual), *Rencontre Avec L' Inde* (French bi-annual) and "Thaqafat-ul-Hind" (Arabic quarterly). On the occasion of the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of ICCR, its publication entitled "India's Maulana" (in four volumes) was reprinted.

Busts and Exhibitions

Two busts and 23 Exhibitions were sponsored during the year. 32 countries were the beneficiaries, namely, Slovenia, Mauritius, Algeria, Turkey, Iran, Trinidad and Tobago, South Korea, Syria, Guyana, France, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Sweden, Italy, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, China, Spain, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Russia, Armenia, and the U.K.

Sponsorship provided to artistes/exhibitions for shows abroad:

16 sponsorships were extended to different artistes and exhibitions during the year.

Local Exhibitions under the "Horizon Series" at the Azad Bhawan Art Gallery, ICCR, New Delhi.

37 Exhibitions were sponsored.

Incoming Exhibitions

Two Incoming Exhibitions were held during the year.

Outgoing Cultural Delegations

85 cultural delegations were sponsored by the ICCR during April 2010-January 2011.

33 additional cultural delegations are likely to be sponsored by the ICCR upto March 2011.

Festival of India

As part of its effort to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries, the Council organized the following Festivals:

The Festival Unit of the Council coordinated various events for the Festival of India in China, which started on 4 April, 2010, at Beijing with the performance of the 30-member Ratan Thiyam's Troupe and the three-member Nimai Das Baul's troupe. The Festival was based on a seamless blend of Indian classical dances and comprised 21 performing arts groups, from various parts of India. It concluded in October 2010, when the ICCR organized a Closing Ceremony of the Festival of India in China with a performance by a 30-member Bharatnatyam dance troupe of Kalakshetra, at Chengdu.

The Council organized the Festival of India in France namely "Namaste France". The Inaugural Event in April 2010 was a great show of folk and tribal dances by a 20-member Darpana Academy Group, led by Smt. Mallika Sarabhai. It is continuing till May 2011.

The Council sponsored two dance troupes - a 10-Member Odissi Dance Group, led by Smt. Kumkum Mohanty, and a 12-Member Goenchin Nocketram Group, led by Smt. Marianela, from 4-14 November, 2010, for the Festival of India in Argentina.

Outgoing Visitors Programme

The Council sponsors the visits of Indian intellectuals, scholars, academicians, and artistes, to facilitate their participation in seminars, symposia, study tours, and conferences, abroad.

During the period April-November 2010, the Council sponsored the visits of 44 eminent scholars to various parts of the world.

Distinguished Visitors Programme

As part of its effort to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and

other countries, the Council facilitates the visits, to India, of eminent public personalities as well as scholars, intellectuals, academicians, and artistes, from other countries under its Distinguished Visitors Programme. During the period, the Council hosted 15 distinguished visitors from different countries such as Trinidad & Tobago, Canada, Cambodia, USA, Mexico, Azerbaijan, Suriname, Zambia, Vietnam, Sweden, Poland, Singapore, Mexico, and South Africa.

Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture

The Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture 2010, on the topic "Globalization and Cosmopolitan Culture" was delivered by Lord Meghnad Desai on 12 November, 2010, at the Teen Murti Auditorium, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. The event was presided over by Dr. Karan Singh, President, ICCR.

Activities with Regard to Hindi

In view of the growing demand of its quarterly Hindi Magazine "Gagananchal" among Hindi experts, writers, and readers, the ICCR has converted this Magazine from a quarterly to a bi-monthly w.e.f. 2010. It is also considering increasing its publication from 3,000 to 5,000. The ICCR provided financial support of ` 1,00,000, to

the Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar Foundation, for the organization of a Hindi Seminar, in May 2010. The ICCR organized a Hasya Kavi Sammelan, in honour of Senior Citizens, in May 2010. The ICCR provided financial support of ` 50,000 to the Rashtrakavi Maithili Sharan Gupt Trust and established a Rashtrakavi Maithili Sharan Gupt Award, in August 2010. The ICCR has been regularly sending Hindi books, such as dictionaries and books on Indian culture, to its Indian Cultural Centres abroad, in order to promote Hindi teaching. An Indian tour of the winners of "Hindi Gyan Pratiyogita" held in Europe, in August 2010, was sponsored by the ICCR. The ICCR sends a group of poets to different cities of the U.K., every year, in order to propagate Hindi. In August 2010, also, a group of poets was sent to London. The ICCR sent its representative delegation to participate in the Hindi Seminar organized at Kathmandu, in September 2010. The ICCR sent its representative delegation to participate in a Hindi Seminar-cum-Workshop, organized at Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in November 2010. The ICCR provided financial support of ` 2,00,000 to the Tamilnadu Hindi Sahitya Academy for organizing a Hindi Seminar in November 2010. The ICCR sent its representative delegation to participate in a Hindi Seminar organized at Tokyo, and Osaka, Japan, in November 2010.

During the period from 1 April 2010-9 January 2011, the Indian Council of World Affairs organized and planned the events as under:

i) Lectures	15
ii) Seminars	9
iii) Bilateral strategic dialogues	14
iv) Panel Discussions/Background briefings	3
v) Other events (book release/film screening etc.)	3
Total	44

Some of the major events included:

- i) One-day seminar on 'India and China: Public Diplomacy, Building Understanding,' to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. Keynote Address by Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor (1 April, 2010).
- ii) Lecture on "South Asian Regionalism: Prospects and Challenges", by Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (14 September, 2010).
- iii) Lecture by Mr. Vladimir I. Semashko, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus (25 October, 2010).
- iv) ICWA-AAS Asian Relations Conference 2010, on "India and GCC Countries, Iran and Iraq: Emerging Security Perspectives"
Inaugural Address by Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President, and Valedictory Address by Smt. Nirupama Rao, Foreign Secretary (20-21 November, 2010).
- v) Lecture by Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, on "Ethiopia-India Relations" (1 December, 2010).
- vi) ICWA-PISM Seminar on 'India and Poland in the Changing World Order' (in collaboration with the Polish Institute for International Affairs with which ICWA has an MoU) (7 December, 2010).

- vii) ICWA- MGIMO Conference on "Evolving World Order: India Russia Perspectives" [in collaboration with the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)] (9-10 December, 2010).
- viii) International conference on "Rethinking International Intervention in Afghanistan" [in collaboration with the Maulana Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata (MAKAIAS)] (6-7 January, 2011).

A list of the events organized by the ICWA during the period is attached at Appendix-XV.

Outreach programmes with Universities and Centres for International Affairs, within India:

During the period, the ICWA signed MoUs for bilateral cooperation with the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies, University of Calcutta.

Outreach programmes with Universities and Centres for International Affairs, outside India:

During the period, the ICWA signed MoUs for bilateral cooperation with the following:

- i) Ethiopian International Institute for Peace and Development (EIIPD).
- ii) Centre for Strategic Research, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.
- iii) The Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), of the Republic of Korea.
- iv) The Nepal Council of World Affairs, NCWA Building, Harihar Bhawan, Pulchowk, Kathmandu.

Visits of Foreign Dignitaries to ICWA:

The Council hosted the following foreign dignitaries during the above period:

- 1 Sir Howard Davies, Director, London School of Economics. (8 April, 2010)
- 2 Mr. Alexander Stubb, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland. (3 May, 2010)
- 3 Mr. Viktor Mayko, Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine. (22 September, 2010)

- 4 Mr. Vladimir I. Semashko, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus. (25 October, 2010)
- 5 Mr. Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. (11 November, 2010)
- 6 Dr. Robin Niblett, Director, Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London. (16 November, 2010)
- 7 Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. (1 December, 2010)
- 8 Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. (16 December, 2010)

Research Activities

The ICWA continued to consolidate its research activities. The Research Fellows focused on study and research of the political, security, and economic trends and developments, in China, Japan, Nepal, the Persian Gulf, and Russia/CAR. The Research Fellows actively participated in conferences in India and overseas where they presented papers. They also contributed Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs, and Viewpoints, that have been published on the ICWA website. These activities have promoted academic networking, synergy in multi-disciplinary research, and in expanding ICWA's research capacity and profile.

During the period from 1 December 2010-9 January 2011, the Research Fellows of the Indian Council of World Affairs attended the following conferences in India and overseas, where they presented papers:

- 1 ICWA-PISM, Conference on 7 December, 2010. (New Delhi)
- 2 "Evolving World Order: India Russia Perspectives" by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), Moscow, from 9-10 December, 2010. (New Delhi)
- 3 An Interaction with an eight-member group from Japan led by Ms. Yoshiko Sakurai, Japan Institute for National Fundamentals, Tokyo (JINF), on "India-Japan Relations" on 14 December, 2010. (New Delhi)
- 4 International Conference on "Rethinking International Intervention in Afghanistan" by ICWA-MAKAIAS, from 6-7 January, 2011. (New Delhi)

- 5 Conference on 'Security Challenges in South Asia: Emerging Paradigms & Strategies,' organized by the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, from 9-10 December, 2010. (Jaipur)
- 6 Conference on "Rise of China and Emerging Security Issues in South Asia," South Asia Studies Centre, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, on 10 December, 2010. (Jaipur)

The ICWA has commissioned two eminent scholars / former practitioners to bring out research publications at ICWA. They have been awarded research grants and are expected to submit their research results in 12 months. These projects will result in books/monographs.

In its efforts to reach out to universities and think tanks outside Delhi, ICWA has established academic linkages with a number of universities in medium and smaller-sized towns. As directed by the Governing Council, ICWA will host conferences with Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Muzaffarpur, and Jaipur University, Jaipur. Similar attempts are in progress to develop linkages with the Nagpur University, Warangal University, Pondicherry University, Tezpur University, Shillong University, and Tripura University. The ICWA has constituted a sub-committee headed by Prof. Suranjan Das, VC, University of Calcutta, to advise on its outreach programme. ICWA has also brought many universities and think tanks outside Delhi into its e-mail network system.

The ICWA website is now functional, and is updated on a regular basis, to include ICWA publications, events, and announcements.

ICWA's Journal 'India Quarterly' (IQ) was brought out regularly during this period. The issues for October-December 2009, January-March 2010, & April-June 2010, were brought out on 9 June, 2010, 28 July, 2010, & 28 October, 2010, respectively. In addition, the ICWA has brought out a publication entitled "India-Russia Strategic Partnership," edited by Nivedita Das Kundu, on 16 April, 2010.

ICWA participated in the following Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)-related events organized from April-December 2010:

- 1 33rd Steering Committee Meeting, & 23rd Asia Pacific Round Table Meeting, held in Kuala Lumpur from June 10, 2010, attended by Ambassador Kishan S. Rana, Chairman (CSCAP India).
- 2 CSCAP Study Group Meeting on CPWMD (Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass

- Destruction) held in Singapore, from 3-4 July, 2010, attended by Ambassador Dilip Lahiri (Retd.)
3. CSCAP SGM ON R2P scheduled to be held in Metro Manila, Philippines, from 21-22 September, 2010, attended by Lt. General Satish Nambiar.
 4. 34th Steering Committee Meeting of CSCAP held in Metro Manila from 21-22 November, 2010, attended by Ambassador Leela K. Ponappa, Chairperson, CSCAP-India.
 5. CSCAP Study Group Meeting on CPWMD from 16-17 December, 2010, held in Ho Chi Minh City, attended by Ambassador Dilip Lahiri (Retd.)

ICWA Library

The ICWA Library has made a giant leap forward into the future by automating the entire collection of books, journals, and UN, & EU documents. The use of cutting edge technology of RFID takes the age-old Sapru House library onto the next level, more in tune with today. RFID gates at the entry and exit point help in securing the resources of the library and the inventory manager helps in the inventory management of the library. This will immensely help in carrying out the stock verification of the library regularly. The collection is now searchable through OPAC (an online public access catalogue) thus paving the way for a complete electronic dissemination of information. The energies of the management, and the library team, are now focused on creating the digital content out of the valuable collection of rare books, bound volumes of newspapers, and press clippings. This process will greatly help in systematizing and preserving the rich and unique resource this library possesses in the field of international affairs which will be very useful for researchers and experts in the field of world affairs, across the country and abroad. The entire collection of India Quarterly (1945-2008) has been digitized and can be browsed on the website. The documents of the first Asian Relations Conference are available, digitally preserving them for the future. The Library's membership is growing by leaps and bounds and so is its generation of revenue. From a mere earning of ` 0.59 lakhs, revenue has touched ` 8.90 lakhs, at the end of the financial year 2009-2010. Membership, in December 2010, touched 713, and is still growing, and revenue has touched ` 8,61,500. The library ambience looks inviting, and attractive, and the look and feel has been greatly enhanced. The seating has increased to 250, and is still growing. The décor has now attractive Roman blinds, and new comfortable chairs, and tables.

The atmosphere is comfortable and conducive to learning. The library is now attracting everyone alike. The increase in the number of researchers now using the library is a testimony of the growing popularity of the place. The Sapru House library is now a member of several esteemed institutions and reputed national and international professional bodies viz. IFLA, DELNET and IASLIC. These memberships are optimally used to seek information or borrow material for our Research faculty and research students. Another feather in our cap is the visibility of our library collection on the DELNET's union catalogue. Our presence is felt these days by some reputed organizations as we receive queries from the American Center, the British Council, the India International Centre, the NMML (Teen Murti), the Central Secretariat, DELNET, and various other renowned libraries. Media personnel of prestigious newspapers have been visiting the library for information. A good number of books are being added to the collection such as those on key issues in international affairs and foreign policies, pertaining to Africa, South Asia, and Central, East, and West Asia, Energy Security, the environment, and Global Warming. The book and journal collection is being augmented with the addition of new books and subscriptions to new electronic journals. The subscription of JSTOR (an online database of journals with archival content) and other print and online journals of repute from SAGE, Taylor and Francis, and others like the same, will help the researcher a great deal. A collection of books written by our diplomats is being created in the Library entitled 'Heritage of Diplomacy'. This collection is also highlighted on our website. The additions to the list of the names of new books is a regular feature on our website, which gives information about books which have been added recently in the library's collection. We will be circulating the information about the modernization of our library to Indian and foreign universities and institutions. Professors and research scholars, alike, from reputed Indian institutions and Universities have referred to the books, periodicals, and press clippings, available in the library. Key Government officials have been utilizing and applauding the library services which indicates that the popularity of our library is growing. We are also upgrading the skills of our library personnel. They are sent regularly for intensive training and conferences to keep them abreast with the latest trends and technology. An intensive and extensive training programme was organized recently in the ICWA library exposing the entire team of the library to the library software to carry out the routine library jobs using computers. Library WEB-OPAC will be a new

beginning in the ICWA library in disseminating information about the heritage of Sapru House all across the globe. All the details have been finalized and shortly the WEB-OPAC will be operational on the ICWA website giving ease to the researchers and practitioners of foreign policy in finding out resources relating to their respective

area of studies. The WEB-OPAC will give a peep into our collection and greater visibility to our rich heritage. The signage in the stack hall and in the library eases the reader's journey in the library as the subject; its location is mentioned on the bay guide to help the reader reach the respective destination of the subject.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Overview

RIS, a New Delhi-based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, is an organization that specializes in international economic relations and development cooperation. RIS has the mandate to function as an advisory body to the Government of India on matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues, including regional and sub-regional cooperation arrangements, as may be referred to it, from time to time. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing country think tanks on international economic issues.

RIS conducts policy research on international economic issues and provides analytical support to the Government of India in preparation for major meetings and negotiations. The focus of the work programme of RIS has been on promoting South-South Cooperation and on assisting developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various areas. RIS has prepared major research studies to assist various NAM Summits, the East Asia Summit, the SAARC Summits, the IBSA Summit, the BIMSTEC Summits, the UNCTAD Ministerial Conferences, and the WTO Ministerial Conferences, amongst other high-level events. RIS has been engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives, including the Track II Study Group of CEPEA. RIS has also provided analytical support to the Government of India during the negotiating processes for concluding comprehensive economic partnership agreements with different countries. The organization has been engaged in policy dialogue on the way forward for an Asian Economic Community with leading policy think tanks in Asia. Through its intensive network of policy think tanks, both in India and other countries, RIS has sought to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues.

Highlights of the RIS' work, during the year 2010-2011, are presented below:

Research and Policy Inputs Provided to the Government

RIS conducted research studies to assist the policy formulation, specifically, in the context of India's economic engagement with its partner countries. Some of the specific inputs provided by RIS include:

India-ASEAN: Note on India-ASEAN Action Plan for 2010-2015 was prepared for the MER Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Provided inputs to the MER Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for the 12th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), held at Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 30 June-1 July, 2010.

Canada Joint Study Group: Draft chapter on India-Canada services trade was prepared for the India-Canada Joint Study Group (JSG) Report, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India.

G-20 Issues: Note on Some Aspects of the G-20 Process was prepared for the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Paper on Genesis and Functioning of G-20 was prepared for the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

WTO Negotiations: Paper on Negotiations in the Doha Round: The Critical Issues was prepared for the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Policy Dialogues, Conferences, Symposia

During 2010-2011, RIS organized a number of policy dialogues, conferences, symposia, and other events, to fulfil its mandate of fostering intellectual dialogue amongst developing countries. The select major events organized in the period include the following:

The first Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Think Tanks: RIS, in association with the Ministry of External Affairs, organized a two-day consultation of the BIMSTEC Think Tanks in New Delhi from 18-19 February, 2010. Smt. Vijaya Latha Reddy, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, delivered the Inaugural Address.

Ambassador Farooq Sobhan, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute; Mr. U. Kyi Thein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in India; Mrs. Kunzang Lhamu, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan; Dr. Surat Horachaikul, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; and, Mr. Bharat Prasad Pokharel, CEDA, Nepal, chaired the different sessions of the Meeting.

The Meeting addressed the following themes: Trade and Investment, Transport and Communications, Energy, Agriculture, and Technology.

Workshop on Trade, Investment, and Regional Integration - Lessons for Policymakers: RIS, in association with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Centre for WTO Studies of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, the Jadavpur University, and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, organized a Workshop on Trade, Investment, and Regional Integration - Lessons for Policymakers, from 11-12 March, 2010, at IIFT, New Delhi. The workshop was aimed at disseminating the most recent research works carried out by the research scholars of the organizers of this workshop on trade, investment, and regional integration. It also provided a forum for information exchanges and interactions on trade, investment, regional integration, and trade facilitation policies.

The agenda of the workshop included a discussion on international production networks and regional trade agreements; a study of the automotive sector; trade policies for delivering an inclusive development; trade in agriculture goods and inclusive development; trade cost, trade facilitation measures, and emerging policy and research issues; and emerging issues that matter for policymaking on trade, investment, and regional integration.

Symposium on Concepts, Definition and Data Issues Relating to FDI in India: RIS, and the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi, jointly organized a Symposium on Concepts, Definition, and Data Issues, Relating to FDI in India, in New Delhi, on 16 March, 2010. The background paper for the symposium was prepared jointly by Dr K.S. Chalapati Rao, Professor, ISID, and Dr Biswajit Dhar, DG, RIS. Prominent participants included Prof. S.R. Hashim, and Prof. S.K. Goyal, ISID, Prof. Sunanda Sen, ICSSR National Fellow, Prof. C. P. Chandrasekhar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Dr Sutanu Sinha, Institute of Company Secretaries of India, and Shri A. P. Gaur, RBI, Mumbai. From RIS, Shri Reji K. Joseph presented a paper.

Informal Dialogue on Trade and Climate Change in Emerging Economies: RIS, jointly, with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva, organized a two-day informal dialogue on Trade and Climate Change in Emerging Economies: The Competitiveness, Technology, and Intellectual Property Rights Dimension, in New Delhi, from 30-31 March, 2010.

Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, India, delivered the Keynote Address and

Shri Rajiva Misra, Joint Secretary (UNES), Ministry of External Affairs, India, was the Moderator. Ambassador Chandrashekhar Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), dwelt on the Developing Country Perspective in the UNFCCC Negotiations. The issues discussed in the Conference included competitiveness and border measures and technology development and transfer.

Prominent participants included Dr. Joel Yudken, High Road Strategies LLC; Mr. Cristophe Bellmann, ICTSD; Ms. Ding Wei, Ministry of Commerce, China; Mr. Mukul Sanwal, South Centre, Geneva; Mr. Ahmed Abdel Latif, ICTSD; Mr. Rene Vossenaar, ICTSD, Mr. Pedro Terra, Embassy of Brazil; Dr. M. Mani, World Bank; Shri Surya P. Sethi, former Principal Adviser, Planning Commission; and, Mr. Sergio C. Trindade, International Fuel Technology Inc. From the RIS, the participants were Dr. Biswajit Dhar, DG, Dr. S. K. Mohanty, Senior Fellow, Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, and Dr. Krishna Ravi Srinivas, Associate Fellow.

RIS-ADB Roundtable on Regional Economic and Trade Outlook: RIS and ADB jointly organized a Roundtable on Regional Economic and Trade Outlook, in New Delhi, on 29 July, 2010. Shri Rajat M. Nag, Managing Director General, ADB, and Dr. Srinivasa Madhur, Senior Director, OREI-ADB, made presentations on the Regional Economic Outlook. From RIS, Dr. Biswajit Dhar made the presentation on the Global and Regional Trade Outlook. Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission, Government of India, made a presentation on the Implications for the Indian Economy.

RIS-ADB Conference on Sustainable Growth and Enhancing Integration in Asia: RIS and ADBI, jointly, organized the Conference on Sustainable Growth and Enhancing Integration in Asia, in New Delhi, on 15 September, 2010. The agenda of the conference included the following themes: Infrastructure for Enhancing Asia's Economic Integration, and Rebalancing for Sustainable Growth.

Participants included Dr. Masahiro Kawai, ADB Institute; Dr. Suman Bery, NCAER; Shri K. P. Krishnan, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister; Dr. Alok Sheel, Ministry of Finance; Dr. M. Govinda Rao, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy; Shri K. T. Chacko, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade; Dr. Partha Mukhopadhyay, CPR; and, Dr. Shashanka Bhide, NCAER.

International Conference on SAARC @ 25: RIS and India International Centre, jointly, with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India,

and the SAARC Secretariat, organized the International Conference on SAARC @ 25, in New Delhi, from 16-17 September, 2010.

Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, MP, Life Trustee, IIC, and Chairperson, IIC Asia Project, chaired the inaugural session, and delivered the Chairperson's Address. Shri Shyam Saran, Vice-Chairman, RIS, delivered the opening address. Shri S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, delivered the inaugural address. Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, Secretary General, SAARC, delivered the special address.

The agenda of the two day international conference addressed the themes of Perspectives on SAARC after 25 Years; Trade in Goods: Progress and Impediments; Trade in Services: Present Status, Prospects, and Challenges; Strengthening Physical Connectivity; Ensuring Energy Linkages; and, Implementation of Steps for the Consolidation and Growth of SAARC.

Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development, and Vice-Chairman, RIS Research Advisory; Dr. Rehman Sobhan, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Professor G. K. Chadha, CEO, SAARC University; Dr. K. L. Thapar, Asian Institute of Transport Development; Shri J. C. Sharma, Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; and Dr. Saman Kelegama, Institute of Policy Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, chaired the different sessions of the conference.

Eminent speakers at the different sessions of the conference included Dr. Sridhar K. Khatri, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies, Kathmandu, Nepal; Dr. Uttam Deb, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Faiqa Umer, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan; Mr. Ahmed Salih, Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture, Maldives; Dr. Rohan Samarajiva, LIRNEAsia, Colombo, Sri Lanka; Shri Arvind Mehta, Department of Commerce, Government of India; Dr. Mohammed Rahmatullah, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Mr. Mohammad Hassan Soroosh Yousufzai, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kabul, Afghanistan; Dr. M. P. Lama, Sikkim University, Sikkim; Mr. Rinzin Dorji, Thimphu; Aisha Pasha, Institute of Public Policy, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore; Akmal Hussain, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore; Shri Pavan Kapoor, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India.

RIS faculty members who presented their papers were Dr. Biswajit Dhar, DG, Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Senior Fellow, and Dr. Prabir De, Fellow. A large number of participants attended the different sessions of the conference and took part in the open discussion.

Seminar on International Trade and Climate Change - Emerging Issues: RIS and the India Trade Promotion

Organization (ITPO) organized a joint seminar on "International Trade and Climate Change: Emerging Issues", in New Delhi, on 16 November, 2010. Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, RIS, delivered the theme address. The seminar held the technical sessions on Issues related to Market Access for Environmental Goods and Technology Transfer; and, Global Carbon Market and India. The speakers were: Dr. Apama Sawhney, JNU; Shri K.M. Gopakumar, TWN; Mr. Bishal Thapa, ICF; Shri R. K. Sethi, MoEF; and, Dr. Kaushik Ranjan Bandyopadhyay, Senior Fellow, AITD. From RIS, presentations were made by Dr. S. K. Mohanty, Senior Fellow, and Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Senior Fellow.

Capacity Building Programmes

RIS/ERIA Capacity Building Programme on Global and Regional Economic Cooperation Issues (GRECI), from 15 November-10 December 2010.

Capacity-Building Programme on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives, organized for the diplomats from ASEAN countries, on behalf of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi, on 3 September, 2010.

ARTNet/RIS Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research: Gravity Modelling, from 23-27 August, 2010, hosted by the Economics Department, Bogor Agricultural University, Bogor, Indonesia.

Capacity Building Programme on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives, organized by RIS, for foreign diplomats, on behalf of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi, on 10 January, 2011.

Capacity Building Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP), under ITEC/SCAAP, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi, from 14 February-11 March 2011.

RIS Publications

RIS published four Policy Briefs, nine Discussion Papers, two issues of the South Asia Economic Journal; one issue of the Asian Biotechnology and Development Review; two issues of the New Asia Monitor; and, a combined issue of the RIS Diary. RIS publications can be downloaded from its website <http://www.ris.org.in>

Budget

RIS received the budgetary support of ` 5.35 crore from the Ministry of External Affairs during 2010-2011.

The Ministry's Library has over 1,00,000 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/receives, and maintains, about 450 periodicals/journals and newspaper titles (including online journals and databases).

The library has an in-house computer system consisting of a server, and 12 PCs. The system supports data entry and retrieval in Hindi as well. The Library has CD-ROM databases on foreign affairs and current affairs. The Library PCs are also equipped with CD writers and laser printers. The Library also has a scanner, a microfilm / fiche reader, a printer, and photocopiers.

A Library Committee manages library activities including the purchase of books and subscriptions to journals/periodicals. In April 2010, the Library Committee was re-constituted. The present committee consists of Joint Secretary (PP & R) as Chairman, three Directors from territorial Divisions as Members, and Director (Lib & Info) as Member Secretary.

All Documentation/Bibliographic Services as well as other library operations and services have been computerized, using an integrated library software package "LIBSYS" covering all features of library management. LIBSYS follows the MARC as well as the non-MARC format. It supports word based free text searching, using Boolean operators. It also provides online validation of input data prior to updating the database. Information on all books, maps, documents, and selected articles, from periodicals/journals, received in the Library, are available online through intranet on all PCs of the Library, at Patiala House. The Library's information can also be accessed through the Internet at the MEA Library's website, <http://mealib.nic.in>.

All new documents received in the Library i.e. books, maps, microfilms, and selected articles from periodicals, are being fed, on a regular basis, into the database on foreign affairs called FAIRS. Using this database, and CD-ROM Databases, the Library provides Current Awareness Service and Bibliographical and Reference Service. In addition, the Library regularly issues:

Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin (FADB): a list of selected articles on International Relations and related subjects.

Recent Additions: an annotated list of books/publications added to the Library.

Chronicle of Events: important news items on International Relations and related subjects.

The library also regularly issues a daily news chronicle, a book alert, and an article alert, sent through group email id to all Foreign Service Officers in the Ministry and Indian Missions abroad.

In addition, the Library also subscribes to the "EIU online database/ services", "MBIC from Data monitor", "Business Monitor International", "Kessing's World News Archive", "Newspaper Direct" and "JSTOR" etc., for the users at Headquarters in New Delhi and all Indian Missions and Posts abroad. These online databases and journals/periodicals can be accessed on the Internet via username and password. A list of such titles has also been circulated from time to time at Headquarters as well as Indian Missions abroad and is also available on the MEA Library's Website, <http://mealib.nic.in>.

The Library in cooperation with NIC has brought out a full text CD-ROM version of the Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs (from 1948 to 1998-1999) and Foreign Affairs Record [1995 to 1999 (August)]. The information on the CD can be retrieved via a combination of searches including Boolean search on any given word or combination of words. This CD-ROM version was prepared, based on materials available as on 1 January, 2000. This CD can be consulted in the Library at Patiala House, New Delhi.

The project of retro-conversion and bar-coding of the MEA Library records has been completed successfully during this period.

The Library also provides practical training to students of Library Science studying in various institutions of Delhi, from time to time.

The Director, and the ALIO, have attended IFLA Committee meetings as members. The MEA Library's officers and staff members participated in International and National Conferences/Seminars of various professional organizations and associations including IFLA and SLA.

The Ministry of External Affairs Library fulfills the requirements for categorization as a Category V Library as per the orders of the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of External Affairs Library website, <http://mealib.nic.in>, is being updated regularly.

Library users, including research scholars, are welcome to access the Library and its databases, including CD-ROM databases. Photocopying and computer print-out facilities are also available to all Library users, including research scholars.

Appendices

Appendix I

Treaties/Conventions/Agreements Concluded or Renewed by India with other countries 2010

S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
A. MULTILATERAL				
1	SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS)	29.4.2010	3.9.2010	
2	Statute of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)	17.3.2009	22.3.2010	
3	SAARC Convention on Cooperation on environment	29.4.2010	5.10.2010	
4	Signing of Supplementary Convention on Nuclear Damage	27.10.2010		
5	Inter Governmental Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the Republic of India on the implementation of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Natural Gas Pipeline Project.	11.12.2010		
6	Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the Republic of India. B.	11.12.2010		
BILATERAL				
1	Angola MoU between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Petroleum of the Government of the Republic of Angola for Promoting cooperation in the Oil & Natural Gas Sector.	1.11.2010		
2	Argentine Republic Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Argentine Republic for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.	23.9.2010		
3	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Argentine Republic on Gainful Occupation for the Family of the Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post	4.10.2010		
4	MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Argentina in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors	11.9.2010		
5	Australia MoU on New and Renewable Energy Cooperation between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of the Republic of India and Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, Government of Australia.	5.2.2010		
6	Austria MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of the Republic of Austria in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.	13.9.2010		

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
7	Bangladesh Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Combating International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking.	11.1.2010	10.2.2010	
8	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	11.1.2010	10.2.2010	
9	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	11.1.2010	9.8.2010	
10	Bhutan Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan regarding the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project.	30.4.2010		
11	Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and the Royal government of Bhutan regarding the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project.	30.4.2010		
12	Bosnia & Herzegovina Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia & Herzegovina.	21.5.2010		
13	Botswana Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Botswana on Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology.	17.6.2010		
14	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Botswana on cooperation in the field of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises.	17.6.2010		
15	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Botswana on cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.	9.1.2010		
16	Central African Republic MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Central African Republic for setting up an Information Technology Centre of Excellence(CETI) in the Central African Republic.	16.3.2010		
17	Protocol for consultations between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regional Integration and Francophone of the Central African Republic.	3.9.2010		
18	MoU between the the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Central African Republic.	3.9.2010		
19	Canada MoU between the Ministry of Culture of the Government of the Republic of India and the Department of Canadian Heritage on Cultural Cooperation.	27.6.2010		
20	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Canada for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.	27.6.2010		

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
21	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Canada concerning Cooperation in Higher Education.	27.6.2010		
22	MoU between the Ministry of Mines of the Republic of India and the Department of Natural Resources of Canada concerning Cooperation in the field of Earth Sciences and Mining.	27.6.2010		
23	MoU between the Ministry of Mines of the Republic of India and Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry of the Province of Ontario of Canada, regarding cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources.	8.7.2010		
24	Congo Protocol for consultation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Congo.	17.3.2010		
25	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for the Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments.	13.4.2010	30.4.2010	
26	China Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the establishment of the Direct Secure Telephone link between the Prime Minister of India and the Chinese Premier.	7.4.2010		
27	MoU between the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the field of Civil Services, Personnel Management and Public Administration.	27.5.2010		
28	MoU on Sports Cooperation between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India and the General Administration of Sport of the People's Republic of China.	27.5.2010		
29	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Streamlining the Visa Application Formalities for the Airline Staff of the two Countries.	27.5.2010		
30	MoU between the Reserve bank of India and the China Banking Regulatory Commission.	16.12.2010		
31	MoU between Export-Import Bank of India and China Development Bank Corporation.	16.12.2010		
32	MoU between the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China Upon Provision of Hydrological Information of the Langqen Zangbo/Sutlej River in Flood Season by China to India.	16.12.2010		
33	MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of the Republic of India and the State Council Information Office of the Government of the People's Republic of China on Media Exchanges.	16.12.2010		
34	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation on Green Technologies.	16.12.2010		

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit/ Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
35	Programme of Cultural Exchanges between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the years 2010-2012.	16.12.2010		
36	Croatia Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.	9.6.2010		
37	Czech Republic Protocol between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic on the amendment to the Agreement between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic for the Promotion and Protection of Investments, signed on 11 October, 1996 at Prague.	10.6.2010	2.8.2010	
38	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic.	9.6.2010	20.8.2010	
39	Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Czech Republic.	9.6.2010		
40	Administrative Arrangement for the Implementation of the Arrangement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic.	9.6.2010		
41	Chad Protocol for Consultation between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of External Affairs African Integration and International Cooperation of the Republic of Chad.	6.9.2010		
42	Denmark Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Denmark.	17.2.2010	14.6.2010	
43	Dominican Republic MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Dominican Republic for the setting up an Information Technology Centre of Excellence (CETI) in the Dominican Republic.	23.1.2010		
44	European Community Agreement renewing the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the European Community.	13.11.2007	7.5.2010	
45	European Commission Joint of the European Commission and the Government of India on Culture.	10.12.2010		
46	Finland Agreement on Economic cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Finland.	26.3.2010	7.6.2010	
47	Agreement between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of India and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Finland for Cooperation in the field of Information Security.	19.1.2010		

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
48	France Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic on the development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.	13.9.2008	12.1.2010	
49	Georgia Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Georgia on the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.	30.3.2010		
50	Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Georgia on cooperation in the field of Culture, Education, Science, Sport and Youth.	30.3.2010		
51	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Georgia on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology.	30.3.2010		
52	Gambia Protocol for consultations between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International cooperation and Gambians Abroad of the Republic of the Gambia.	19.8.2010		
53	Islamic Republic of Iran MoU on Cooperation in field of New and Renewable Energy between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India and Ministry of Power of the Islamic Republic of Iran.	9.7.2010		
54	Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.	9.7.2010		
55	Iceland Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Iceland.	14.1.2010		
56	Japan Joint statement between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Planning Commission of India on the Occasion of the fourth meeting of the Japan-India Energy Dialogue.	30.4.2010		
57	Grant Agreement for the project for Strengthening of Electronic Media Production Centre in Indira Gandhi National Open University between Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Government of India.	26.6.2010		
58	Joint Statement Vision for India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade.	25.10.2010		
59	MoU on simplifying Visa procedures between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan.	25.10.2010		
60	Joint Declaration between the Leaders of the Republic of the India and Japan on the Conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of India and Japan.	25.10.2010		

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
61	Korea Programme of Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea for the period 2010-2012.	25.01.2010		
62	MoU between the Indian Space Research Organization and Korea Aerospace Research Institute for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.	25.01.2010		
63	MoU between the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology) of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Knowledge Economy of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in Information Technology and Services.	25.01.2010		
64	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Republic of Korea on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	25.01.2010	9.8.2010	
65	MoU between the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of India and Small and Medium Business Administration of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the Field of Small and Medium sized enterprises.	18.6.2010		
66	MoU between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) (Department of Information Technology) of the Republic of India and Korea Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Center (KrCERT/CC), (Korea Internet and Security Agency) of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in Information Security.	20.7.2010		
67	MoU between the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Defence of India concerning Research and Development Collaboration.	3.9.2010		
68	MoU on Cooperation between the India Council of World Affairs (ICWA) of the Republic of India and the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) of the Republic of Korea.	18.6.2010		
69	Latvia Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Latvia for Promotion and Protection of Investments.	18.2.2010	5.3.2010	
70	Liberia MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Liberia.	5.7.2010		
71	Luxembourg Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.	30.9.2009	15.6.2010	
72	Malawi Protocol for Consultations between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi.	8.1.2010		
73	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Malawi on Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources Development.	3.11.2010		

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
74	General Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Malawi.	3.11.2010		
75	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Malawi on cooperation in the field of Rural Development.	3.11.2010		
76	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Malawi on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.	3.11.2010		
77	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Malawi in the field of Agriculture & Allied Sectors.	8.1.2010		
78	Malaysia Extradition Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia.	20.1.2010	27.9.2010	
79	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia on cooperation in the Information Technology and Services.	27.10.2010		
80	Mozambique MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique on Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources.	30.9.2010		
81	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	30.9.2010		
82	MoU on Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises between the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Republic of India and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Republic of Mozambique.	30.9.2010		
83	Mauritius MoU between Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) (Department of Information Technology) of the Republic of India and National Computer BOARD (NCB) of the Republic of Mauritius on Cooperation in Information Security.	3.7.2010		
84	MoU between National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICS) of the Republic of India and Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) of the Republic of Mauritius.	16.3.2010		
85	Mongolia Protocol on Cooperation between the Secretariat of the State Great Hural of Mongolia and the Lok Sabha Secretariat, India.	28.6.2010		
86	Myanmar Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Republic of India and the Union of Myanmar.	27.7.2010	25.8.2010	

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
87	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Union of Myanmar on Information Cooperation.	27.7.2010		
88	Nepal Air Services Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal.	16.2.2010		
89	MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal Regarding the establishment of Nepal Bharat Maitri Polytechnic at Hetauda in district Makwanpur, Nepal.	16.2.2010		
90	MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal Regarding construction of Nepal Bharat Maitri Sabha Griha for Birgunj Sub-Metropolitan city office at Birgunj, Parsa.	16.2.2010		
91	MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal Regarding development of Railway Infrastructure at five Border Points along the Indo- Nepal Border.	16.2.2010		
92	Mou between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal Regarding Strengthening of road Infrastructure in the Terai Area of Nepal.	15.1.2010		
93	MoU between Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), India for the establishment of Nepal Bharat Maitri Science Learning Centre in the premises of Nepal Academy of Science & Technology at Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal.	11.5.2010		
94	Netherlands Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.	22.10.2009	15.6.2010	
95	Norway MoU on cooperation on fisheries issues between the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India and the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs of Norway.	2.3.2010		
96	MoU between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj Republic of India and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development Kingdom of Norway for Mutual Cooperation on Local Governance.	15.9.2010		
97	Peru Protocol of cooperation in Science and Technology between the Government of the Republic of India (DST) and the Government of Republic of Peru (CONCYTEC) for 2010-2012.	22.01.2010		
98	Russian Federation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on After Sales Support for the Russian Arms and Military Equipment Supplied to the Republic of India.	7.12.2009	12.2.2010	
99	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Reciprocal protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in the field of Military Technical Cooperation.	6.12.2005	19.2.2010	

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
100	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the use of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes.	12.3.2010		
101	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Oil and Gas sector.	21.12.2010		
102	Rwanda MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.	21.12.2010		
103	Saudi Arabia MoU Between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) of the Republic of India and King Abdul Aziz city for Science and Technology (KACST) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Cooperation in the field of Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.	28.2.2010		
104	Agreement of News cooperation between the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) and Press Trust of India (PTI).	28.2.2010		
105	MoU Between Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Department of Information Technology, Republic of India and King AbdulAziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Cooperation in Information Technology and Services.	28.2.2010		
106	MoU on Cultural cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Information in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Ministry of Culture in the Republic of India.	28.2.2010		
107	Extradition Treaty between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of India.	28.2.2010		
108	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	28.2.2010	4.11.2010	
109	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	28.2.2010	9.11.2010	
110	Extradition Treaty between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of India.	3.11.2010	4.11.2010	
111	Seychelles Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.	2.6.2010	25.6.2010	
112	South Africa MoU on mutual cooperation between the foreign service institute of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Diplomatic Academy of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.	4.6.2010		
113	Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of South Africa.	4.6.2010		
114	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on Agricultural Cooperation.	4.6.2010		

Appendix I

S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
115	Sri Lanka Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	9.6.2010	27.9.2010	
116	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	9.6.2010	30.6.2010	
117	Swiss Confederation Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Swiss Confederation.	3.9.2009	7.7.2010	
118	Sweden MoU on India-Sweden Renewable Energy Cooperation between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications of Sweden.	19.4.2010		
119	Syrian Arab Republic MoU for Cooperation on Trade Facilitation and Process Measure between Ministry of Commerce Industry Republic of India and Ministry of Trade and Economy, Syrian Arab Republic.	10.6.2010		
120	MoU between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Government of Republic of India for Cooperation in Fertilizer Sector.	5.10.2010		
121	MoU between the General Organization for Radio and Television in the Syrian Arab Republic and Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) in the Republic of India.	27.11.2010		
122	MoU between the Press Trust of India (PTI) and the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA).	27.11.2010		
123	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports.	10.6.2010		
124	Executive Program of Culture Cooperation between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Government of the Republic of India for the years 2010-2013.	27.11.2010		
125	Tajikistan MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.	7.10.2010		
126	Turkmenistan Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan on cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology.	25.5.2010	20.8.2010	
127	U.S.A. MoU on Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security between the Government of India and the Government of the USA.	16.3.2010		
128	India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation initiative.	23.7.2010		
129	MoU between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Government of India and the Department of State Government of the United States of America on Shale Gas Resources.	6.11.2010		

Appendix I

S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
130	MoU between the United States Trade and Development Agency the United States Department of Commerce and the Planning Commission of the Republic of India to Establish the U.S.-India Energy Cooperation Program.	6.11.2010		
131	Agreement between the Planning Commission of the India and the Department of Energy of the United States of America for Cooperation on Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center.	4.11.2010		
132	Zimbabwe Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe concerning the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments.	10.2.1999	4.10.2010	

Appendix II

Instruments of Full Powers Issued during the period 1 January 2010 to December 2010

Sl. No.	Convention/Treaty	Date of Full Powers
1	Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Finland.	11.1.2010
2	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Denmark.	16.2.2010
3	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Latvia for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.	17.2.2010
4	Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation on fisheries issues between the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India and the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs of Norway.	25.02.2010
5	Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Georgia on Cooperation in the field of Culture, Education, Science, Sport and Youth.	29.3.2010
6	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Georgia on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology.	29.3.2010
7	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Georgia on the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation	29.3.2010
8	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for the Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments.	13.4.2010
9	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj Republic of India and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development Kingdom of Norway for Mutual Cooperation on Local Governance.	30.4.2010
10	Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Czech Republic.	3.6.2010
11	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic.	3.6.2010
12	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.	3.6.2010
13	Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) (Department of Information Technology) of the Republic of India and Korea Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Center (KrCERT/CC), (Korea Internet and Security Agency) of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in Information Security.	20.7.2010
14	Framework Agreement on Trade Facilitation in APTA Participating, States; Framework Agreement on the Promotion and Liberalization of Trade in Services among APTA Participating States and; Framework Agreement on the Promotion, Protection and Liberalization of Investments in APTA Participating States;	23.8.2010
15	Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Republic of India and the Swiss Confederation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income with Protocol, signed at New Delhi on 2 November, 1994, as amended by the Supplementary Protocol signed at New Delhi on 16 February, 2000	27.8.2010
16	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Argentine Republic for cooperation in the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy.	20.9.2010

Appendix II

Sl. No.	Convention/Treaty	Date of Full Powers
17	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Bermuda for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes.	28.9.2010
18	Agreement and Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	30.9.2010
19	Memorandum of understanding for the creation of IBSA CETI between Department of Revenue (as represented by Revenue Secretary) and The Secretariat of the Federal Revenue of Brazil (as represented by the Secretary of the Federal Revenue) and The South African Revenue service (as represented by the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service).	4.10.2010
20	Agreement on social security between the Republic of India and the Republic of Korea.	15.10.2010
21	Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.	26.10.2010
22	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.	2.11.2010
23	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Norway.	25.10.2010
24	Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the Republic of India on the implementation of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Natural Gas Pipeline Project.	11.12.2010

Appendix III

Instruments of Ratification/Accession issued during the period 1 January 2010 to December 2010

Sl. No.	Instruments of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification
1	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.	11.01.2010
2	Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy	12.01.2010
3	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.	12.01.2010
4	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	10.2.2010
5	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Combating International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking	10.2.2010
6	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on After Sales Support for the Russian Arms and Military Equipment Supplied to the Republic of India	12.02.2010 Date of Effect 19.2.2010
7	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Reciprocal Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in the Field of Military Technical Co-operation.	19.2.2010
8	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of South East Asian Nations: Trade in Goods Agreement along with its annexes; Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism; Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement; and Understanding on Article 4 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods Agreement	2.2.2010
9	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Latvia for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.	5.3.2010
10	Statute of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)	22.3.2010
11	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for the Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments	13.4.2010
12	Agreement Renewing the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the European Community	7.5.2010
13	Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Finland	7.6.2010
14	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Denmark	14.6.2010
15	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for the Promotion and Protection of Investments	25.6.2010
16	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	30.6.2010
17	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Swiss Confederation	7.7.2010

Appendix III

Sl. No.	Instruments of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification
18	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Transfer of Sentence Persons	9.8.2010
19	Agreement between Government of the Republic of India and Government of Republic of Korea on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	9.8.2010
20	Protocol between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic on the amendment to the Agreement between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic for the Promotion and Protection of Investments	2.8.2010
21	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan on cooperation in the field of Science and Technology	20.8.2010
22	Agreement On Social Security between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic	20.8.2010
23	Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Republic of India and the Union of Myanmar	25.8.2010
24	SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS)	3.9.2010
25	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	27.9.2010
26	Extradition Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of Malaysia.	27.9.2010
27	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	28.9.2010
28	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe concerning the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments.	4.10.2010
29	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.	9.11.2010

Appendix IV

List of ITEC Partner Countries

S. No	Countries	S. No	Countries
1	Afghanistan	40	Czech Republic
2	Albania	41	D.R. Congo
3	Algeria	42	Djibouti
4	Angola	43	Dominican Republic
5	Anguilla	44	East Timor
6	Antigua and Barbuda	45	Ecuador
7	Argentina	46	Egypt
8	Armenia	47	El Salvador
9	Azerbaijan	48	Equatorial Guinea
10	Bahamas	49	Eritrea
11	Bahrain	50	Estonia
12	Bangladesh	51	Ethiopia
13	Barbados	52	Fiji
14	Belarus	53	Gabon
15	Belize	54	Gambia
16	Benin	55	Georgia
17	Bhutan	56	Ghana
18	Bolivia	57	Grenada
19	Bosnia & Herzegovina	58	Guatemala
20	Botswana	59	Guinea
21	Brazil	60	Guinea Bissau
22	Brunei	61	Guyana
23	Bulgaria	62	Haiti
24	Burkina Faso	63	Honduras
25	Burundi	64	Hungary
26	Cambodia	65	Indonesia
27	Cameroon	66	Iran
28	Cape Verde	67	Iraq
29	Cayman Islands	68	Ivory Coast
30	Central African Republic	69	Jamaica
31	Chad	70	Jordan
32	Chile	71	Kazakhstan
33	Colombia	72	Kenya
34	Commonwealth of Dominica	73	Kiribati
35	Comoros	74	Korea (DPRK)
36	Cook Islands	75	Kyrgyzstan
37	Costa Rica	76	Laos
38	Croatia	77	Latvia
39	Cuba	78	Lebanon

Appendix IV

S. No	Countries	S. No	Countries
79	Lesotho	120	Russia
80	Liberia	121	Rwanda
81	Libya	122	Samoa
82	Lithuania	123	Senegal
83	Macedonia	124	Serbia
84	Madagascar	125	Seychelles
85	Malawi	126	Sierra Leone
86	Malaysia	127	Singapore
87	Maldives	128	Slovak Republic
88	Mali	129	Solomon Islands
89	Marshall Islands	130	South Africa
90	Mauritania	131	Sri Lanka
91	Mauritius	132	St. Kitts & Nevis
92	Mexico	133	St. Lucia
93	Micronesia	134	St. Vincent & the Grenadines
94	Moldova	135	Sudan
95	Mongolia	136	Suriname
96	Montenegro	137	Swaziland
97	Montserrat	138	Syria
98	Morocco	139	Tajikistan
99	Mozambique	140	Tanzania
100	Myanmar	141	Thailand
101	Namibia	142	Togo
102	Nauru	143	Tonga
103	Nepal	144	Trinidad & Tobago
104	Nicaragua	145	Tunisia
105	Niger	146	Turkey
106	Nigeria	147	Turkmenistan
107	Oman	148	Turks & Caicos Islands
108	Palau	149	Tuvalu
109	Palestine	150	Uganda
110	Panama	151	Ukraine
111	Papua New Guinea	152	Uruguay
112	Paraguay	153	Uzbekistan
113	Peru	154	Vanuatu
114	Philippines	155	Venezuela
115	Poland	156	Vietnam
116	Qatar	157	Yemen
117	Republic of Congo	158	Zambia
118	Republic Of Sao Tome	159	Zimbabwe
119	Romania		

Appendix V

List of ITEC/SCAAP Empanelled Institutions

S.No.	Name of Institute	City
Accounts, Finance, and Audit Courses		
1.	Institute of Government Accounts and Finance	New Delhi
2.	International Center for Information and System Audit	Noida
IT, Telecommunication, and English Courses		
3.	Aptech Limited	New Delhi
4.	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing	Mohali
5.	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing	Noida
6.	Centre for Excellence in Telecom Technology and Management	Mumbai
7.	CMC Ltd.	New Delhi
8.	NIIT Ltd.	New Delhi
9.	The English and Foreign Languages University	Hyderabad
10.	UTL Technologies Ltd.	Bengaluru
Management Courses		
11.	Administrative Staff College of India	Hyderabad
12.	Institute of Applied Manpower Research	Delhi
13.	IIM	Ahmedabad
14.	International Management Institute	New Delhi
15.	National Institute of Bank Management	Pune
SME/Rural Development Courses		
16.	Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India	Ahmedabad
17.	National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development	Noida
18.	National Institute of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises	Hyderabad
19.	National Institute of Rural Development	Hyderabad
Specialized Courses		
20.	Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training	New Delhi
21.	Human Settlement Management Institute	New Delhi
22.	Indian Institute of Mass Communication	New Delhi
23.	International Statistical Education Centre	Kolkata
24.	National Crime Records Bureau	New Delhi
25.	National Institute of Training for Standardization (Bureau of Indian Standards)	Noida
26.	National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research	Chennai
27.	National University of Educational Planning and Administration	New Delhi
28.	Research and Information System for Developing Countries	New Delhi
29.	V.V. Giri National Labour Institute	Noida
Technical Courses		
30.	Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute	Faridabad
31.	Central Institute of Rural Electrification	Hyderabad
32.	Central Institute of Tool Design	Hyderabad
33.	Central Scientific Instruments Organization	New Delhi
34.	Fluid Control Research Institute	Kerala
35.	Geological Survey of India Training Institute	Hyderabad

Appendix V

S.No.	Name of Institute	City
36.	Indian Institute of Production Management	Orissa
37.	Indian Institute of Remote Sensing	Dehradun
38.	Indian Institute of Technology	Roorkee
	a) Alternate Hydro Energy Centre	
	b) Department of Hydrology	
	c) Department of Water Resources Development and Management	
39.	National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research	SAS Nagar, Punjab
40.	rites (Courses for Railway Personnel only)	Gurgaon
41.	South India Textile Research Association	Coimbatore
	Environment and Renewable Energy Courses	
42.	The Barefoot College	Tilonia, Rajasthan
43.	Centre for Wind Energy Technology	Chennai
44.	Indian Institute of Science	Bengaluru
45.	Solar Energy Centre	Gurgaon
46.	TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute)	New Delhi

Appendix VI

Conference/Seminars/Study Projects organized/undertaken by Institutions/NGOs, which were funded, partially or wholly, by Policy Planning & Research Division during the Period 2010-2011

Sl. No.	Event	Institution / Beneficiary
1	Research Project on POK (5 years)	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi
2	Seminar on Nepal	Asia Centre, Bengaluru
3	Setting up an Institute of Foreign Policy Studies in the Calcutta University Campus, Alipur (Recurring grant)	Calcutta University, Kolkata
4	Three-day International Seminar on "Abu-Raihan Al-Beruni & his Relevance in Present World"	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
5	Financial assistance to the project entitled "India's Neighbourhood : Challenges in the Next Two Decades"	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi
6	Seminar on "Nuclear Disarmament : Global Steps towards Human Security"	Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Mumbai
7	International Conference on "Higher Education (ICMGU-2010) on the theme Education for Peace, Social Inclusion, and Sustainable Development : Towards a Paradigm Shift"	Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala
8	Third National Workshop on Chinese Studies	Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), New Delhi, along with the Jadavpur University

Appendix VII

Statement showing the number of passport applications received and passports issued, miscellaneous applications received and services rendered, No. of Passports issued as well as Revenue under Tatkaal Scheme and total Expenditure of Passport Offices from 1 January – 31 December 2010.

Name of RPO/PO	No. of Applications received	No. of Passports issued	No. of miscellaneous applications received	Miscellaneous services rendered	Passports issued under Tatkaal Scheme	Revenue under Tatkaal Scheme	Total Revenue	Total expenditure
Ahmedabad	301972	300409	13894	14147	15635	20073000	318708937	50658839
Amritsar	82238	84472	14202	13679	2879	4875000	96731525	#
Bengaluru	325430	296212	28238	26925	62907	117207100	407015766	48957295
Bareilly	65512	58828	10437	10061	2647	4218000	73960571	21462764
Bhopal	85479	89126	3071	3047	14464	18753000	103813772	14826446
Bhubaneswar	44955	44417	5283	5236	15590	38348500	71390615	8185425
Chandigarh	239665	233911	27157	26808	12547	32082200	271483130	43516013
Chennai	226696	230058	36131	32012	89690	224678300	299776547	36836012
Coimbatore	77811	74923	3032	3005	20359	52910900	109541005	11453464
Dehradun	49978	44655	3967	3663	3666	6856600	56923525	7500994
Delhi	318480	281154	27010	25991	61972	153055300	556240874	52572425
Ghaziabad	128544	116697	10311	9379	9023	18094300	133331335	17559583
Guwahati	54620	44737	6221	5424	7568	19040200	63627600	12426575
Hyderabad	402545	330749	52354	46534	69625	189625900	526043637	67158507
Jaipur	179752	174934	29981	29835	20512	51038800	223499980	28411263
Jalandhar	122582	125225	28854	27636	1839	3333900	155059044	55274911
Jammu	24953	21158	3665	3369	135	194500	27850651	9666473
Kochi	239138	236591	43929	43035	41705	102227000	312561000	52757892
Kolkata	292825	253456	32132	28167	13291	3299600	294137465	34271260
Kozhikode	193275	191869	29514	29160	28787	43786000	241144934	39024497
Lucknow	328971	325236	69740	66977	14099	21690500	404182510	56417912
Madurai	119419	120812	17947	17805	4362	10384900	133888148	26725889
Malappuram	154508	150753	29847	29847	17533	26622500	196625807	26954279
Mumbai	310530	296031	20393	19734	22253	35606500	354016976	81911245
Nagpur	75689	66494	2409	2310	6882	8709000	83820883	7544723
Panaji	33755	33687	6566	6316	1789	2685000	42602671	6350962
Patna	138186	170921	32464	30044	6016	9863000	162779950	29769345
Pune	144157	129514	6766	6779	16968	25827500	170048100	15517079
Raipur	29593	26821	906	898	4540	11690000	35986700	3419518
Ranchi	44814	44816	6736	6700	10911	16529500	45982783	8365320
Shimla	25438	25524	2470	2487	2426	526000	30936318	4743020
Srinagar	33842	39021	1650	1466	519	763500	41218894	9436286
Surat	94186	91051	10544	9889	1727	2238000	97544700	14933191
Thane	175729	164372	8447	8325	10248	16508500	192386400	30319084
Thiruvananthapuram	139234	142005	34423	32969	35661	54748500	206206994	26842166
Trichy	120421	118251	21279	21148	11189	16383500	152125108	26979346
Vishakapatnam	77166	72554	29115	25417	10748	16700500	97916590	12236073
Total	5502088	5251444	711085	676224	672712	1381175000	6791111445	1000986076

Expenditure incurred by P.O. Jalandhar

Appendix VIII

Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions abroad during 2009-10 (including Posts budgeted by Ministry of Commerce and those Ex-Cadred etc.)

S. No	Cadre/Post	Posts at Headquarters	Posts at Mission	Total
1	Grade I	5	28	33
2	Grade II	6	40	46
3	Grade III	38	123	161
4	Grade IV	44	121	165
5	Grade/Senior scale/Junior Admn.	70	164	234
6	(i) Junior Scale	10	25	35
	(ii) Probationers Reserve	62	-	62
	(iii) Leave Reserve	15	-	15
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	19	-	19
	(v) Training Reserve	7	-	7
	Sub Total	276	501	777
	IFS(B)			
7	(i) Grade I	84	122	206
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6	-	6
8	(i) Integrated Grades II&III	149	242	391
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30	-	30
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	16	-	16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25	-	25
9	(i) Grade IV	176	421	597
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60	-	60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	55	-	55
10	(i) Grade V/VI	142	103	245
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60	-	60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	14	-	14
11	(i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre	39	147	186
	(ii) Leave Reserve	24	-	24
12	(i) Stenographers' Cadre	125	513	638
	(ii) Leave Reserve	47	-	47
	(iii) Training Reserve(Hindi)	10	-	10
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	12	-	12
13	Interpreters' Cadre	7	26	33
14	L&T Cadre	23	1	24
	Sub Total	1104	1578	2682
	Grand Total	1380	2079	3459

Appendix IX

Data on Recruitment through Direct Recruitment, Departmental Promotion and Limited Departmental Examination made in the Ministry along with the Reserved Vacancies for April 2010 to November 2010

Groups	Total No. of Vacancies	Number of Vacancies Reserved			Unreserved
		SC	ST	OBC	
Group A	6	-	-	-	6
Group A (Ex-Cadre)	2	-	-	-	2
Group B	93	13	7	8	65
Group C	9	2	1	6	6
Total	110	15	8	14	79

Appendix X

Number of IFS Officers with Proficiency in various Languages

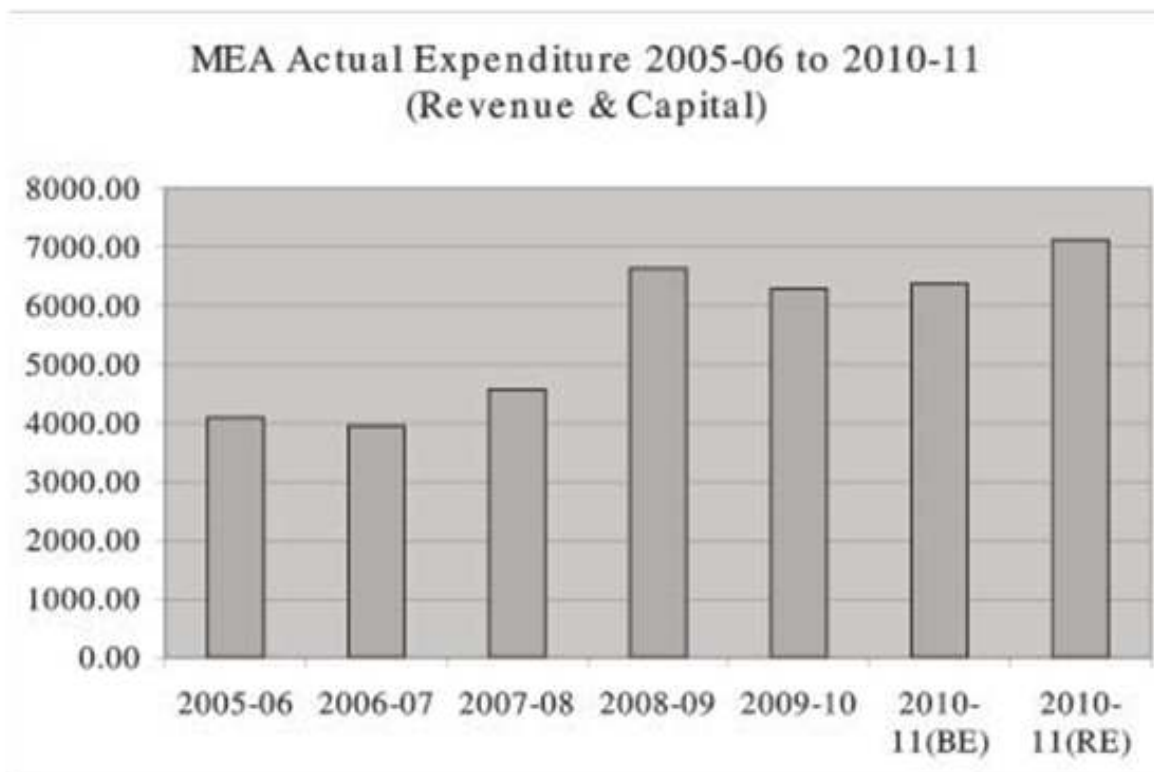
Language	Number of Officers	Language	Number of Officers
Arabic	96	Kiswahili	5
Bahasa Indonesia	10	Korean	3
Bahasa Malay	2	Nepalese	3
Burmese	2	Persian	20
Chinese	62	Portuguese	20
Dutch	1	Russian	81
French	68	Serbo-Croatian	2
German	28	Sinhalese	1
Hebrew	4	Spanish	61
Italian	3	Turkish	6
Japanese	23	Ukrainian	1
Kazakh	1	Vietnamese	2

Appendix XI

The Budget Allocation (BE) 2010-2011 is Rs.6375 crores, which is 1.30% more than BE 2009-2010 of Rs. 6293 crores. The RE 2010-2011 of Rs. 7120 crores is 11.69% more than the BE 2010-2011.

MEA Actual Expenditure 2005-2006 to 2010-2011
(Revenue & Capital)

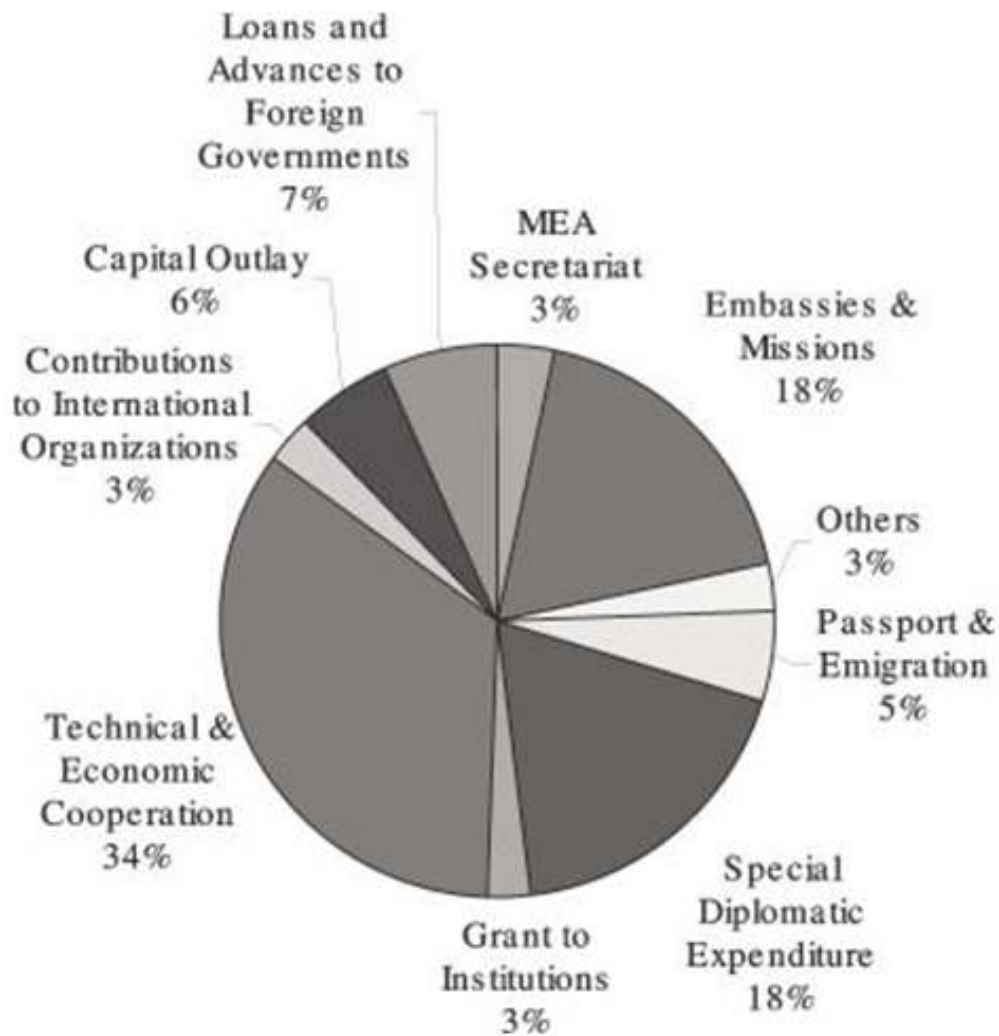
Years	Actuals (in Rs. Crores)	Percentage of variation from previous year
2005-2006	4089.67	8.88
2006-2007	3949.68	-3.42
2007-2008	4572.39	15.77
2008-2009	6630.73	45.02
2009-2010	6290.77	-5.13
2010-2011(BE)	6375.00	1.34
2010-2011(RE)	7120.00	11.69



Appendix XII

The Major Sectoral Allocations in the 2010-2011 Budget (Revised Estimate)

Sectors	Allocation (in Rs. Crores)
MEA Secretariat	236.11
Embassies & Missions	1313.60
Passport & Emigration	380.41
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	1300.01
Grant to Institutions	180.42
Technical & Economic Cooperation	2445.35
Contributions to International Organizations	202.57
Capital Outlay	400.00
Loans and Advances to Foreign Governments	472.00
Others	189.53
Total	7120.00



Appendix XII

1. The Government of India has extended a loan to the Government of Bhutan to assist in the implementation of developmental projects. During 2010-2011, the loan extended amounts to ` 430.44 crores.
2. The Budget of the Ministry of External Affairs is essentially a Non-Plan Budget. However, from 1996-1997, a Plan Budget Head has been established with the approval of the Cabinet. The Plan Budget caters to certain large developmental projects undertaken in some of the neighbouring countries of India, such as Bhutan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. The other projects in Bhutan being funded from the Plan Budget Head are the Punatsangchu Hydroelectric Projects - I and II, the Mangdechu Hydroelectric Project, and the construction of the Dungsum Cement Plant. The construction of the Kabul to Pul-e-Khumri double circuit transmission line in Afghanistan has been completed. Two sub-stations would be now constructed at Doshi and Charikar in Afghanistan as additional components of this project. The construction of Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project in Myanmar and the Nalanda International University in India are also being funded from the Plan allocations.
3. The Revised Budget Estimate of the Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs for the Financial Year 2010-2011 is ` 236.11 crores, which is 3% (approx) of the total budget of ` 7120 crores. The revised Budget Estimate for Indian Missions and Posts abroad is ` 1313.60 crores which is about 18% (approx) of the total capital and revenue budget of the Ministry.
4. The Ministry of External Affairs' revenue from Passport, and Visa fees, and other receipts, up to 31 December, 2010, has been ` 1733 crores. Receipt on account of Passport fee is ` 659 crores, of Visa fee is ` 928 crores, and other receipts is ` 146 crores.

Appendix XIII

Principal Destinations of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes

The principal beneficiaries of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes in the Current Financial Year 2010-2011 are as under in Revised Estimates 2010-2011

Aid & Loan to Countries	(In Rupees Crores)	% of India's total aid and loan budget
Bhutan	1723.00	59.06
Afghanistan	310.00	10.63
Nepal	150.00	5.14
African Countries	150.00	5.14
Sri Lanka	90.00	3.08
Myanmar	90.00	3.08
Eurasian Countries	30.00	1.03
Bangladesh	3.00	0.10
Maldives	11.00	0.38
Latin American Countries	4.00	0.14
Others	356.35	12.21
Total	2917.35	100.00

Appendix XIV

Status of Pending C&AG Audit Paras

Sl.No.	Year	No. of Paras/PA reports on which ATNs have been submitted to PAC after vetting by Audit	Details of the Paras/PA reports on which ATNs are pending		
			No. of ATNs not sent by the Ministry even for the first time	No. of ATNs sent but returned with observations and Audit is awaiting their resubmission by the Ministry	No. of ATNs which have been finally vetted by audit but have not been submitted by the Ministry to PAC
1	2003	-	-	-	1
2	2004	-	-	1	-
3	2005	-	-	2	-
4	2006	-	-	3	1
5	2007	-	-	5	5
6	2008-2009	-	-	2	2
7	2009	-	-	3	2
8	2010-2011	-	8	-	-
	Total		8	16	11

Appendix XV

ICWA - Seminars/Conferences/Lectures/Meetings: April 2010 - January 2011

Date	Event
Lectures	
8 April, 2010	The First K. R. Narayanan Lecture on "Europe, the Lost Continent?" by Sir Howard Davies, Director, London School of Economics. Chair: Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Minority Affairs [in collaboration with the London School of Economics (LSE)]
19 April, 2010	Lecture by Mr. Mohammed Jassem Al-Sager, Chairman, Council for Arab and International Relations, on "The Gulf and the Arabs after 9/11"
3 May, 2010	Lecture by Mr. Alexander Stubb, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, on "Giants at Crossroads - Prospects for the India-European Union Strategic Partnership after the Treaty of Lisbon"
26 May, 2010	'Africa Day' Lecture on "India-Africa Relations"
17 August, 2010	Lecture by Mr. Peter Varghese, Australian High Commissioner to India, on "Australian Perspectives on the Asia-Pacific Region and India-Australia Cooperation in the Region"
14 September, 2010	Lecture on "South Asian Regionalism: Prospects and Challenges," by Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Chair: Shri M. Rasgotra, former Foreign Secretary
25 October, 2010	Lecture by Mr. Vladimir I. Semashko, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, on "Contemporary Belarus: Opportunities for Business Cooperation and Partnership" Chair: Ambassador V.K. Grover
11 November, 2010	Lecture by Mr. Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, on "Armenia and Her Neighbourhood: Prospects for New Dynamics" Chair: Shri Sudhir T. Devare, DG, ICWA
16 November, 2010	Lecture by Dr. Robin Niblett, Director, Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London, on "UK and European Perspectives of India in a Changing World". Chair: Dr. Abid Hussain
22 November, 2010	Lecture by Dr. Aris Ananta, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, on "Poverty and Food Security in Uncertain Southeast Asia". Chair: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma, Director, Institute for Human Development
23 November, 2010	Talk on "Germany and India - Partners in Addressing Common Challenges" by Mr. Thomas Matussek, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany. Chair: Ambassador S. K. Lambah
24 November, 2010	Lecture by Dr. Marie Lall (South Asia Specialist), Institute of Education, University of London, and Chatham House, on "The World through Myanmar's Eyes - What Do these Elections Mean?" Chair: Shri Ravi Bhoothalingam, Chief Executive, Manas Advisory [in collaboration with the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), New Delhi]
1 December, 2010	Lecture by Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, on "Ethiopia-India Relations". Chair: Ambassador Kishan S. Rana
16 December, 2010	Address by Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. Presided over by: Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs
5 January, 2011	Talk by Dr. Farish Ahmad-Noor, Senior Fellow for the Contemporary Islam Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, on "The Long Historical Connections between India and Southeast Asia: From the arrival of Hinduism to the Tabligh Jamaat today". Chair: Prof. Veena Sikri, Ford Foundation Chair, Jamia Millia Islamia
20 January, 2011	Lecture by Mr. Khurshid Kasuri, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, on "Evolution of India - Pakistan Relations in the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century" [C/o. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)]
Seminars	
1 April, 2010	One-Day seminar on 'India and China: Public Diplomacy, Building Understanding', to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. Keynote Address: Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor [in collaboration with the EA Division, MEA, and Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi]

Appendix XV

Date	Event
17 May, 2010	ICWA-IDSAs Joint Conference on "Afghanistan: The Way Ahead"
25 September, 2010	Joint Seminar in collaboration with Asia Centre, Bengaluru, on "Emerging Realities of Indo-US Strategic Relations: A Cost Benefit Analysis". Venue: Bengaluru
30 September, 2010	One-day Workshop on "India-Vietnam Strategic Partnership: Exploring Vistas for Expanded Cooperation"
17 November, 2010	Conference on "Revival of Buddhism at Global Level and Its Possible Impact on World Culture". Jointly organized by the ICWA, Institute for Chindian Studies, Jinan University, Guangzhou, and Dept. of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi.
20-21 November, 2010	ICWA-AAS Asian Relations Conference 2010, on "India and GCC Countries, Iran and Iraq: Emerging Security Perspectives". Inaugural Address by: Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President Valedictory Address by: Smt. Nirupama Rao, Foreign Secretary [in association with the Association of Asia Scholars (AAS), New Delhi]
7 December, 2010	ICWA-PISM Seminar on 'India and Poland in the Changing World Order' [in collaboration with the Polish Institute for International Affairs, with which ICWA has an MOU]
9-10 December, 2010	ICWA- MGIMO Conference on "Evolving World Order: India Russia Perspectives" [in collaboration with the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)]
6-7 January, 2010	International Conference on "Rethinking International Intervention in Afghanistan" [in collaboration with the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata (MAKAIAS)]
12 January, 2011	Know India Programme: Workshop on Democracy and Diplomacy in Emerging India [in collaboration with the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA)]
22 January, 2011	Joint Seminar on 'Constitutional Crisis in Nepal' Venue: Muzaffarpur, Bihar [in collaboration with Bhim Rao Ambedkar Bihar University]
Phase I: 22-23 January, 2011	Annual Conference of South Asia Think Tanks (COSATT), in Kathmandu, sponsored by the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi. Participation of the ICWA invited.
28 January, 2011	Function to Mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Speakers: Mr. Adli Hassan Shaban Sadeq, Ambassador of the State of Palestine in India; Dr. Ahmed Salem Saleh Al-Wahishi, Chief Representative, League of Arab States Mission. Chief Guest, Shri E. Ahmad, Minister of State for External Affairs.
Bilateral Dialogues	
20 April, 2010	Interactive Session with a Delegation of Women Journalists from SAARC Countries. Chaired by: Smt. Shashi Uban Tripathi, former Ambassador and Member, UPSC
26-30 June, 2010	Five-member ICWA delegation to Dushanbe, for Dialogue on the Geo-Political Dynamics in India-Tajik Relations, with the Tajik Academy of Sciences (TAS), as per MoU signed with TAS. Venue: Dushanbe
2 July, 2010	Interaction with a Delegation of Senior Journalists from Pakistan. Chair: Ambassador Satish Chandra
23 August, 2010	Interaction with a Delegation of Senior Journalists from CIS Countries
22 September, 2010	Interaction with Mr. Viktor Mayko, Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine. Chair: Ambassador V.B. Soni
11-12 October, 2010	Second ICWA-EUISS Forum Meeting. Venue: Brussels
14-15 October, 2010	Fifth India-Spain Dialogue Forum. Venue: Madrid
21-22 October, 2010	India Mexico Bi-National Seminar on "Democracy, Diversity and Development," Celebrating 60 years of Mexico - India Diplomatic Relations
11 November, 2010	Interaction with a Delegation of Journalists from Rwanda. Chair: Prof. Suresh Kumar, Head, Department of African Studies, University of Delhi
23 November, 2010	Roundtable with the Delegation of Young Parliamentarians from Nepal, on "Democracy and Constitutional Developments in Nepal and India"

Appendix XV

Date	Event
1 December, 2010	Roundtable discussion on "India and China in the Second Decade of the 21st Century". Initiated by: Dr. Alka Acharya, Ambassador Vinod C. Khanna, and Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty [in collaboration with the Institute of Chinese Studies]
14 December, 2010	Interaction with a Delegation from Japan Led by Ms. Yoshiko Sakurai, Japan Institute for National Fundamentals, Tokyo (JINF), on "India-Japan Relations"
14 December, 2010	An Interaction with Alex Vines OBE, Director of Regional and Security Studies, and Head of the Africa Programme, and Dr. Gareth Price, Acting Head and Senior Research Fellow of the Asia Programme, Chatham House, London, on "India's Engagement in Africa"
21 December, 2010	Interaction with a delegation from Center for Vietnamese and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City)
11 January, 2011	Interaction with a Delegation of Editors/Journalists from East European Countries. C/o XP Division of MEA
Panel Discussions/Background Briefings	
9 July, 2010	A Roundtable on "Bangladesh-India Relations: Six months after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Visit to India". Chair: Ambassador Muchkund Dubey
21 August, 2010	Roundtable with Ambassador Frank G. Wisner, former US Ambassador to India, and Dr. Thomas Graham, Senior Director at Kissinger Associates, on "Reflections on Russia and the US-Russia Relationship". Chair: Shri Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary
6 September, 2010	Roundtable on "Current Developments in South China Sea". Speakers: Ambassador T.C.A. Rangachari, Rear Admiral Raja Menon, Dr. Vijay Sakhujia, and Commander Shishir Upadhyaya [in collaboration with the National Maritime Foundation (NMF)]
Book Releases	
18 August, 2010	Release of Book "Colonialism and Indian Economy", by Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Director, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata (IDSK) [in collaboration with the Oxford University Press]
20 September, 2010	Launch of Shri Talmiz Ahmad's book entitled "Children of Abraham at War: The Clash of Messianic Militarisms," by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
4 November, 2010	Launch of the book "Arming Without Aiming: India's Military Modernization"[authored by Stephen P. Cohen and Sunil Dasgupta]. Speakers: Shri Jaswant Singh, Member of Parliament; Shri K.S. Bajpai, Noted diplomat, and columnist; and, Mr. Stephen Cohen.
Activities Planned (Between 12 February-31 March 2011)	
12 February, 2011	Joint Seminar on 'Strengthening Cooperation in SAARC: In the context of Non-Traditional Security Threats'. Venue: University of Rajasthan, Jaipur [in collaboration with the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur]
19 February, 2011	Joint Seminar in collaboration with Asia Centre, Bengaluru on "Is the Indian Ocean Ceasing to be Indian? Current Realities, Challenges and Opportunities for India". Venue: Bengaluru.
Mid-February 2011	Afro-Asian Conference, in collaboration with African Studies Association of India.
3-4 March, 2011	Delhi Dialogue III: Beyond the First Twenty years of India-ASEAN Engagement - ICWA, FICCI and ISEAS, Singapore, with support of MEA. Venue: New Delhi
Feb-March 2011	One day Seminar on "G-20 & International Financial Cooperation," by - 'Indian Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries, New Delhi,' - in association with ICWA

Appendix XVI

RIS

RIS Publications	
Policy Briefs	
#48 Economic Cooperation among the BRIC.	#164 Does Governance Matter for Enhancing Trade? Empirical Evidence from Asia, by Prabir De.
#47 Challenges to Food Security in South Asia.	#163 Rules of Origin under Regional Trade Agreements, by Ram Upendra Das .
#46 The Advent of Corn-based Ethanol: A Re-examination of the Competition for Grains.	#162 Geographical Indications at the WTO: An Unfinished Agenda, by Kasturi Das.
#45 Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform in India: Addressing the Challenges.	#161 Revision of India-Nepal Treaty of Trade and Its Implications for Strengthening Bilateral Trade and Investment Linkages, by Indra Nath Mukherji.
Discussion Papers	Periodicals
#169 International Food Safety Standards and India's Food Exports - An Analysis Based on Gravity Model Using Three-Dimensional Data, by Rajesh Mehta.	South Asia Economic Journal, Vol. 11, No. 1, March 2010
#168 Technological Change and New Actors: Debate on Returns and Regulations, by Sachin Chaturvedi.	South Asia Economic Journal, Vol.10, No. 2, December 2009
#167 The Food-Feed-Fuel Triangle: Implications of Corn-based Ethanol for Grain-Use Competition, by Arindam Banerjee.	Asian Biotechnology and Development Review, Vol. 12, No.1, March 2010
#166 Global Financial Crisis: Implications for Trade and Industrial Restructuring in India, by Prabir De and Chiranjib Neogi.	New Asia Monitor, Vol. 7, Nos. 2 & 3, July 2010.
#165 Are Trade Openness and Financial Development Complementary? by Ram Upendra Das and Meenakshi Rishi.	New Asia Monitor, Vol. 6, No. 4, & Vol. 7, No.1, January 2010.
	Newsletter
	RIS Diary Vol 7, Nos. 3-4 & Vol. 8, No. 1, January 2010.

Abbreviations

AALCO	Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation	CLCS	Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing	CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet
ACABQ;	UN's Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	CIC	Central Information Commission
ACD	Asia Cooperation Dialogue	CII	Confederation of Indian Industry
ADMM	ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting	CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
ANDI	Colombian Association of Entrepreneurs (Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia)	CoD	Community of Democracies
AMM	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting	COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum	CORPAT	Coordinated Patrol
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations	COSC	Chiefs of Staff Committee
ASEM	Asia Europe Meeting	CPIO	Central Public Information Officer
ASSO-CHAM	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry	CPV	Consular Passport and Visa
AU	African Union	CRRID	Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development
AWG	Ad-hoc Working Groups	CSCAP	Council for Security Cooperation in Asia Pacific
AYUSH	Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy	CSD	Comprehensive Security Dialogue
BARC	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
BIPPA	Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement	DIPP	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China	DRDO	Defence Research and Development Organization
BWC	Biological Weapons Convention	DSSC	Defence Services Staff College
CANDU	CANada Deuterium Uranium	DTAC	Double Taxation Avoidance Convention
CAPEXCIL	Chemicals & Allied Product Export Promotion Council	EAC	East African Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	EAS	East Asia Summit
CCIT	Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism	ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
CCPCJ	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
CD	Conference on Disarmament	EEPC	Engineering Export Promotion Council
C-DAC	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing	EFTA	European Free Trade Association
CECA	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	EIL	Engineers India Limited
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	EMM	East Asia Energy Ministers Meeting
CEP	Cultural Exchange Programme	EU	European Union
CEPA	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	EXIM	Export Import Bank of India
CETI	Information Technology Centre of Excellence	FATF	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
CICA	Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia	FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
		FIPB	Foreign Investment Promotion Board
		FMCT	Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty
		FOC	Foreign Office Consultations
		FITA	International Tourism Fair of the Americas

Abbreviations

FTA	Free Trade Agreement	IOR-ARC	Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation
GAIL	Gas Authority of India Limited	IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
G-15	Group of Fifteen	IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
GFCS	Global Framework for Climate Services	IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development	ISCS	Inter-State Council Secretariat
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council	ITEC	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation
GST	Goods and Service Tax	ITLOS	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
HAL	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited	ITU	International Telecommunication Union
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno Virus / Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome	JEC	Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation
HLG	High Level Group	JWG	Joint Working Group
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	LDC	Least Developed Country
IATT	Inter Agency Task Team	LLMC	Liability for Maritime Claims
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank	LMMC	Like Minded Mega-diverse Countries
IAFS	India-Africa Forum Summit	LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
IBF	India Business Forum	LoC	Line of Credits
IBEF	India Brand Equity Forum	MDG	Millennium Development Goals
IBSA	India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum	MECON	Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants Limited
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation	MERC-OSUR	Market of Southern Cone Countries
ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations	MFN	Most Favoured Nation
ICRIER	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
ICWA	Indian Council of World Affairs	NAFED	National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited
IDSA	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses	NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University	NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
IIBF	Indian Institute of Banking and Finance	NASSCOM	National Association of Software and Service Companies
IFS	Indian Foreign Service	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
IIFT	Indian Institute of Foreign Trade	NDIC	National Development and Innovation Committee
IIFC	India International Film Convention	NELP	New Exploration Licensing Policy
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology	NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
ICC	International Criminal Court	NIC	National Information Centre
ILO	International Labour Organisation	NPT	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
ING	Inter-regional Negotiating Group	NSC	National Security Council
INS	Indian Navy Ship	NSG	Nuclear Suppliers Group
INSTC	International North-South Transport Corridor	OCI	Overseas Citizenship of India
INTOSAI	International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions		
IOM	International Organization on Migration		
IONS	Institute of Noetic Sciences		

Abbreviations

OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
ONGC	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation	STPI	Software Technology Parks of India
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	TEAM-9	Techno-Economic Approach for Africa India Movement
OVL	ONGC Videsh Limited	TEKES	Teknologian Kehittamiskeskus
PBF	Peace Building Fund	TERI	Tata Energy and Research Institute
PDIL	Projects and Developments India Ltd.	UN-COPUOS	UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
PFDD	Post Forum Dialogue	UNCTAD	United Nations Conferences on Trade and Development
PHARM-EXIL	Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
PIO	Persons of Indian Origin	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
RBI	Reserve Bank of India	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
REC	Regional Economic Communities	UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
RITES	Rail India Technical Economic Service	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
RTI	Right to Information	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
SADC	Southern African Development Community	UNMIN	United Nations Mission in Nepal
SAFTA	South Asia Free Trade Agreement	UNSC	United Nations Security Council
SAU	South Asian University	UPA	United Progressive Alliance
SBI	State Bank of India	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
SCAAP	Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme	VSNL	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation	WEF	World Economic Forum
SEBI	Securities and Exchange Board of India	WHO	World Health Organization
SEWA	Self Employed Women's Association	WIPO	World Intellectual Rights Organization
SEZ	Special Economic Zone	WTO	World Trade Organisation
SICA	Central American Integration System (Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana)		