



Ministry of External Affairs Annual Report 2011-2012





Annual Report 2011-2012

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Introduction and Synopsis

India's foreign policy is integrated with the national priority of sustained, rapid, and inclusive socio-economic development. Our extensive engagement with the globalized world is guided by our desire for garnering an appropriate role for India in the changing international environment; by the imperative to maintain an atmosphere of peace, security and stability in the extended neighbourhood, that is conducive for national growth and development and by the need to enhance India's economic and technological development by leveraging external linkages. Our foreign policy has demonstrated dynamism in responding to the shifting international strategic and political environment, and addressing the global challenges of terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, energy security, threats to space and cyber security, maritime security, reform of international organizations and global financial architecture, and environmental degradation, etc.

Given its location in an extremely complex neighbourhood, India considers, as its foremost priority, the promotion of a politically stable and economically secure periphery. Her relations with the neighbouring countries are anchored in this conviction. Our neighbourhood policy emphasizes the benefits of fostering networks of inter-connectivity, trade and investment, and sharing the dividends of India's rapid economic growth with her neighbours, to the benefit of the sub-Continent. We seek to promote an environment in our neighbourhood that enables us to work together to fulfill common objectives of regional economic development and social harmony.

India's active engagement with its neighbours was reflected through a steady exchange of high-level visits, close consultations, and a further expansion of her assistance programmes and capacity building initiatives in the neighbouring countries. India's steadfast support to Bhutan in its economic and social development and for the strengthening of its democratic institutions continued to underpin our bilateral relations. India is Bhutan's largest trade and development partner. India's special relationship with Nepal saw her working closely with the Government of Nepal and the political parties to help it march forward

on its trajectory to democracy and stability. The visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, leading a high-level delegation, to India in October 2011, consolidated the political momentum in the multi-dimensional relationship that exists between the two countries. The mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation between India and Bangladesh deepened further and entered a new phase with the visit of Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, to Bangladesh in September 2011. Two historic accords and eight other bilateral documents were signed, including the landmark Framework Agreement on Cooperation and Development between India and Bangladesh, widening the cooperative landscape between the two countries significantly. The reassurance received from Bangladesh that its soil will not be allowed to be used for any activity inimical to our security interests is reflective of our enhanced security cooperation. Relations with Sri Lanka were further cemented through bilateral exchanges at various levels and notable progress in the execution of our development assistance programmes for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, visited the Maldives in November 2011, leading the Indian delegation for the 17th SAARC Annual Summit, held in Addu Atoll.

India's multi-faceted strategic relationship with Afghanistan was demonstrated by the Strategic Partnership Agreement, signed during the visit of President Hamid Karzai to India in October 2011. The Agreement testifies to India's commitment to peace and stability in Afghanistan during the critical phase of security transition in that country. While President Karzai visited India twice in 2011, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, also visited Afghanistan in May 2011. Our strategic relations, hinged on historical and cultural linkages, continued to be strengthened by a significant Indian role in the reconstruction, development, and capacity-building in Afghanistan.

The President of Myanmar, U Thein Sein, and the Foreign Minister visited India in October 2011 and January 2012 respectively, and the visit of the External Affairs Minister, taking place in the aftermath of assumption of office by a civilian government in Myanmar last June, signalled the

two countries' common desire for cooperation to achieve economic development and common goals in the sub-regional, regional and international context.

India desires peaceful and cooperative relations with Pakistan and is committed to resolving all outstanding issues through dialogue, in an atmosphere free of terrorism and violence. India believes that a stable Pakistan, acting as a bulwark against terrorism and extremism, is in the interest of Pakistan, our region and beyond. In pursuance of the mandate given by the two Prime Ministers, following their meeting in Thimphu in April 2010, the bilateral dialogue was resumed. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan visited India from 26-28 July, 2011.

Alongside its bilateral initiatives to strengthen ties with its neighbours in the South Asia region, India continued to shoulder its major responsibility to lend vitality to SAARC and transform it into an effective mechanism of regional cooperation. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's announcement of a major initiative at the XVII SAARC Summit in Addu, Maldives last November, to eliminate drastically the tariff lines on India's Sensitive List for the benefit of the LDCs in the SAARC region, was widely welcomed.

India continued to promote relations with its largest neighbour, China, on the basis of the principles of mutual respect and sensitivity to each other's concerns. The year 2011, designated as the Year of India-China Exchanges, was marked by increased exchanges, especially at the state/provincial level. The commercial and economic ties expanded further and a Strategic Economic Dialogue was launched. India continues to invest in forging a stable and cooperative relationship with China that is mutually beneficial and also a source of regional stability and prosperity.

In its extended neighbourhood of Central Asia, India is consolidating its relations not only on the basis of historical and cultural linkages, but also through trade and commercial activities. The exchange of high-level visits included the visit of Prime Minister to Kazakhstan in April 2011, and the President of Uzbekistan's visit to India in May 2011.

India's relationship with the United States premised on the shared values of democracy, the rule of law, pluralism and secularism, has deepened considerably over the years. A high level of bilateral engagement during the year maintained the momentum in our relations. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, co-chaired the Second India-US Strategic Dialogue with the US Secretary of State,

Hillary Clinton in July 2011 in New Delhi. The two sides were engaged in close consultations on regional and global developments, including those pertaining to South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, and the Indian Ocean region.

In addition, as part of the expanding bilateral cooperation, the two sides launched a Homeland Security Dialogue in May 2011 in New Delhi; held the first Higher Education Summit in October 2011 in Washington DC; and, held a number of bilateral economic meetings, including Commercial Dialogue, Financial and Economic Partnership and the India-US CEO Forum.

The 'special and privileged' relationship with Russia constitutes an important dimension of India's foreign policy. It represents a strong national consensus on both sides that cuts across ideologies or political circumstances. This partnership was further consolidated with the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Russia in December 2011 for the 12th bilateral Annual Summit. PM's meeting with President Medvedev in Sanya (China) on the sidelines of the 3rd BRICS Summit and the regular exchange of visits by ministers and senior officials during the year added depth to the strategic relationship.

Relations with countries in Europe were characterized by high-level visits, parliamentary exchanges and civil society dialogues, etc. At the highest level, the major events that took place included: the first Indo-German Inter-governmental Consultation between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Delhi in May 2011, and the 12th India-EU Summit in Delhi in February 2012, at which the Indian side was led by Prime Minister, while the President of the European Council, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, and the President of the European Commission, Mr. Jose Manuel Baroso, represented the European Union. A meeting was also held between Prime Minister and UK Prime Minister David Cameron, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit at Cannes in November 2011.

India is as much a Southeast Asian nation as a South Asian nation, given the rich linguistic and ethnic mosaic of our Northeast, and the fact that we share land borders with a large ASEAN nation - Myanmar. Our Andaman and Nicobar islands chain are also in the very close vicinity of Southeast Asia. India's 'Look East' Policy, enunciated in the early nineties, has renewed India's civilizational ties with the Southeast and East Asian region on the strategic, political, economic and people to people level. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh's participated in the 9th

India-ASEAN Summit and the 6th East Asia Summit, held in Bali on 17-19th November, 2011

India-Japan relations, that span across political, security and high technology spheres, in addition to the traditional economic dimension, received a fillip with the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda to India in December 2011 for the bilateral Annual Summit. The 46-member Indian relief and rehabilitation team of the National Disaster Response Force sent to Japan, in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami last March, along with the relief material, was a gesture that resonated among the Japanese people.

During the past year, India continued to expand its relations with countries in the Gulf region. With the Gulf region being a major trading partner of India and playing a very significant role in India's energy security and hosting over 6 million Indian expatriates, we have vital interests there and a stake in its peace and stability.

The West Asia and North Africa region witnessed a spurt of activity during the year, both in respect of our bilateral relationship, and also on account of the 'Arab Spring'. In the wake of the political turbulence in Libya, an elaborate, multi-pronged evacuation - by air, sea and land routes - was undertaken to evacuate the 18,000-strong Indian community residing there. An exchange of high-level visits with the countries of the region served to strengthen India's relationship with the individual countries and the region as a whole.

India's historical relationship with Africa, underpinned by our political support, has been supplemented with a close economic cooperation, including economic assistance, soft loans and private sector investment. At the India-Africa Forum Summit, organized in Addis Ababa in May 2011, India offered Lines of Credit worth US\$ 5 billion, and an additional US\$ 700 million grant assistance for human resource development, transfer of technology and building new institutions. The Addis Ababa Declaration, and the Africa India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation, adopted at the Summit, provide a road map for India's comprehensive and enhanced engagement with Africa in the coming years.

India's engagement with Latin American and the Caribbean countries gained momentum with the increased exchange of visits and high level interactions. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Ms. Kamla Persad Bissessar visited India in January 2012, and was also the Chief Guest at the Parvasi Bharatiya Divas in Jaipur. Prime Minister Dr.

Manmohan Singh's interactions with Heads of Government and State of Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, on the sidelines of various international events, particularly in the context of G-20, IBSA and BRICS advanced our engagement with the region. India's trade with the countries in the region stood at US \$ 25.1 billion in 2011 and our investments were estimated at US\$ 15 billion. Indian Cultural Centers were established at Mexico city and Sao Paulo.

India's multilateral economic engagement with key multilateral economic for a, such as G-20, BRICS, IBSA and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) intensified further. Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the third BRICS Summit in Sanya, China in April 2011, the fifth IBSA Summit in Pretoria, South Africa in October 2011 and the sixth G-20 Summit in Cannes, France in November 2011. Having joined the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member on 1 January, 2011, India worked closely with other BRICS/IBSA partners, who were also present in the UNSC last year, to forge consensus on issues of mutual interests. With India taking over the Chair of BRICS at the upcoming Summit in New Delhi on 29 March, 2012, we seek to catalyse a vigorous role for the organisation.

Under its flagship assistance programmes for human resource development - the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) - the Ministry of External Affairs has continued to expand its global outreach. It allocated 7400 civilian training slots to 161 developing countries in a wide range of areas of interest to them. Additionally, under the Technical Cooperation Scheme, another 500 civilian training slots were given to 18 member countries of the Colombo Plan. Around 1100 defence personnel from several developing countries were imparted training in various defence institutions in India. The Ministry of External Affairs established a new Development Partnership Administration for an effective management of India's growing external economic assistance programmes in a cohesive manner.

As part of its membership of the Security Council, India has been appointed as Chair of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee (UNCTC), the Committee concerning Somalia and Eritrea, and the Working Group concerning threat to international peace and security by terrorist acts. Under India's stewardship, the UNCTC adopted an Outcome Document in September, 2011, that called for 'zero tolerance' of terrorism and of terrorist acts. India also played

an active role in the deliberations of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) dealing with the coordination of international counter-piracy efforts.

Neighbours

Afghanistan: India and Afghanistan signed a historic Agreement on Strategic Partnership during the visit of President Karzai in October 2011; the first such agreement signed by Afghanistan with any country. The Agreement reinforced the strong, vibrant and multi-faceted relations between the two countries and at the same time formalized a framework for cooperation in various areas between the two countries: political and security cooperation; trade and economic cooperation; capacity development and education; and social, cultural, civil society and people-to-people relations. This agreement is a strong signal of our abiding commitment to peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan during this critical period of security and governance transition.

India and Afghanistan have established a strategic relationship based on historical, cultural and civilisational linkages. The relationship is being further strengthened by India's role in the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan. The aim and objectives of the two countries coincide i.e. to bring peace and security in the region and to assist in sustainable development of all sectors in Afghanistan by building indigenous capacity and institutions. India's relations with Afghanistan have been deepened through regular dialogue at the highest levels, highlighted during Prime Minister's visit to Afghanistan in May 2011.

The momentum of bilateral relations was further consolidated through a steady stream of high-level visits and engagement in multiple areas, such as education, culture, trade and commerce, capacity building and human resources development.

Bangladesh: Bilateral cooperation between India and Bangladesh continued in all sectors of mutual interest and reached a peak with the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Bangladesh from 6-7 September, 2011. The progress of cooperation, through implementation of the Joint Communiqué issued in January 2010, was reviewed by both the Prime Ministers and the new impetus imparted by the Prime Minister's visit was reflected in the Joint Statement of 7 September, 2011. India facilitated 24-hour unfettered access to Bangladesh nationals through the Tin Bigha Area to Dahagram and Angorpota Enclaves, and permitted duty-free import of 46 textile items (subsequently expanded to

all items, except 25) in response to the request of Bangladesh.

The Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), Smt. Sonia Gandhi, visited Dhaka on 24-25 July, 2011, to receive the Bangladesh Freedom Award conferred on former Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, visited Tripura, India on 11-12 January, 2012, to receive an honorary D.Litt conferred on her by the Central Tripura University.

As an outcome of the friendly and dynamic bilateral cooperation between the two countries, two historic accords and eight other bilateral documents were signed during the visit of Prime Minister of India to Bangladesh. These include a landmark and a forward-looking Framework Agreement on Cooperation and Development that outlines the shared vision for durable and long-term cooperation to achieve mutual peace, prosperity and stability as well as a Protocol to the 1974 Agreement concerning demarcation of the Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh. The Protocol paves the way for the resolution of the three outstanding issues pertaining to the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement namely (i) un-demarcated land boundary segments; (ii) exchange of enclaves and (iii) settlement of adverse possessions.

Cultural interaction between the two countries was showcased through the concurrent joint celebrations of the 150th Birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in India and Bangladesh. The Vice President of India, Shri M Hamid Ansari, visited Dhaka on 5-6 May, 2011, for the inaugural ceremony of the joint celebrations. Exchange of artistes and cultural troupes between India and Bangladesh continued throughout the year.

Bhutan: India and Bhutan share uniquely warm and special relations based on mutual trust and understanding. India is providing assistance and support to Bhutan in its efforts towards social development, economic prosperity and strengthening of its democratic institutions. Regular high-level exchange of visits, close consultations and mutually beneficial cooperation underpin India's relations with Bhutan. Their Majesties, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, the King and Queen of Bhutan, respectively, visited India from 23-31 October, 2011, the first ever visit abroad by the royal couple after their wedding on 13 October, 2011. Other important high-level visits from Bhutan during the year were by the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Mr Lyonchen Jigmi Y Thinley; the Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk; the Chief Justice of Bhutan, Mr Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye, and the Speaker of the Bhutanese Parliament, Mr

Jigme Tshultrim. The Indian Home Minister, Shri P Chidambaram, attended the 4th SAARC Home/Interior Ministers' meeting in Bhutan. The Minister of State for Defence, Dr M M Pallam Raju, took part in Project Dantal's golden jubilee celebrations in Thimpu. Other important high-level visits to Bhutan from India included visits by the National Security Adviser, Shri Shiv Shankar Menon; the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar; the Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Tarun Gogoi; the Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai; the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Dr S Y Quraishi; Chairman, and by the Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri Charles Pyngrope.

India continues to be Bhutan's largest trade and development partner. During the India-Bhutan bilateral Trade Talks held in New Delhi in August 2011, India agreed to Bhutan's request for use of Dalu and Ghasupara land custom stations for Bhutanese cargo and notification of four additional entry/exit points. India is providing assistance for the implementation of 68 projects in key socioeconomic sectors, such as agriculture, information and communications technology (ICT), media, health, education, capacity-building, energy, culture and infrastructure. Under the Small Development Projects (SDPs), India is providing a grant to Bhutan for implementation of 1,900 projects in the country's 20 districts and 205 blocks. The construction of the Punatsangchhu-I Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) is in full swing and the implementation of Punatsangchhu-II and Mangdechhu HEPs are also progressing well, bringing both countries closer to the target of jointly developing nearly 10,000 MW of hydropower in Bhutan by 2020 for export to India.

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 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 represents India's 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. The year 2011 was designated as the Year of India-China Exchanges and it saw increased exchanges between the two countries, particularly at the state/provincial level. The two countries also maintained the momentum of regular high-level political contacts. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, met the Chinese

President, Mr Hu Jintao, in Sanya, China, in April 2011 on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. He also met the Chinese Premier, Mr Wen Jiabao, in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2011 on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit. The two sides also held mutual exchanges on important bilateral, regional and international issues under the extensive dialogue architecture. The trade and economic relationship between the two countries has also considerably expanded and a Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) has been launched to further deepen this relationship. The first meeting of SED took place in China in September 2011. Both sides are committed to resolving the outstanding issues, including the India-China Boundary Question, through peaceful negotiations and in a fair, reasonable, mutually acceptable and pro-active manner, and as a strategic objective. Both sides reiterated that pending the resolution of the Boundary Question, peace and tranquillity must be maintained in the border areas in accordance with relevant agreements signed in 1993, 1996 and 2005. The 15th round of Special Representatives talks on the India-China boundary question took place in New Delhi in January 2012. An agreement on the establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs was signed on the occasion.

Iran: India and Iran enjoy rich historical and civilisational ties that go back to millennia. The year 2011 witnessed further strengthening of relations between India and Iran through a series of high level interactions and exchanges. The Prime Minister's meeting with the President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, in September 2011, followed by the visit of the Speaker, Lok Sabha, were the high points of the bilateral exchanges between the two countries in 2011. Foreign Office Consultations at the level of Foreign Secretary and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister were held in July 2011 in Tehran. The period also saw continued bilateral exchanges in a number of areas such as energy, trade, banking issues, commerce and industry and culture etc. In the year that witnessed far reaching changes in the countries in the region and in the global economic arena, India and Iran continued to remain engaged. India held its Days of Culture in Tehran and Shiraz from May 10-17, 2011. Bilateral trade between India and Iran was also on a growth trajectory, registering a 2.07% growth in 2010-11 compared to the fiscal 2009-10.

Maldives: During 2011, bilateral relations with the Maldives continued to be close and friendly. India and the Maldives remained engaged in further strengthening this relationship through high-level exchanges and implementing various developmental projects in mutually

identified areas. In this context, the visit of the Prime Minister to the Maldives in November 2011 was a landmark one that opened up new vistas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Foreign Secretary Shri. Ranjan Mathai, visited the Maldives in February 2012, following the political developments in that country, and to extend India's good offices in arriving at a mutually agreed course of action.

Myanmar: India-Myanmar relations are rooted in shared historical, ethnic, cultural and religious ties. India and Myanmar share a long land border of over 1600 km and a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. A large population of Indian origin (according to some estimates about 2.5 million) lives in Myanmar.

India-Myanmar relations developed and diversified satisfactorily, and gained an increased momentum over the last year, which saw the State visit of the President of Myanmar to India in October 2011, the External Affairs Minister's visit to Myanmar in June 2011 and the visit of the Foreign Minister of Myanmar in January 2012.

The year 2011-2012 was marked by the transformation of the political structure in Myanmar, as it moved to a parliamentary democracy system. India-Myanmar relations continued to be reflective of the two countries' common desire to achieve sustained economic development, foster people-to-people interaction and work towards achieving common goals in the sub-regional, regional and international context. India has consistently supported Myanmar's endeavour to transform into a democracy in an inclusive and broad based manner.

Nepal: India continued to work closely with the Government of Nepal and the major political parties in the country with a view to support the country's transition to a democratic, stable, peaceful and prosperous State. Regular high-level visits of political leaders and meetings of bilateral institutional mechanisms at senior level helped invigorate the relationship and provided further impetus to bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. The Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr Baburam Bhattarai, accompanied by a high-level delegation, paid an official visit to India from 20-23 October, 2011. During the visit, India agreed to Nepal's request for supply of 200 MW of electricity to cope with the country's acute deficit, enhanced the annual number of ITEC training slots for Nepal from 100 to 200 and agreed to establish an Eminent Persons Group to look into the totality of India-Nepal relations and suggest measures to further expand and consolidate relations between the two countries. In the presence of

the two Prime Ministers, an India-Nepal Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA); an agreement for providing a credit line of US\$ 250 million between the Government of Nepal and Export-Import Bank of India, and a MOU regarding Indian assistance of Rs 1.875 crore for Nepal's goat control programme was signed. The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met the Prime Minister of Nepal on the sidelines of the 66th UN General Assembly in New York on 24 September, 2011, and on the sidelines of the 17th SAARC Summit in Addu City on 11 November, 2011. The Minister of External Affairs, Shri S M Krishna, visited Nepal from 20-22 April, 2011, and called on the President, Dr Ram Baran Yadav, and the then Prime Minister, Mr Jhulanath Khanal. He held delegation-level talks with the then Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Mr Bharat Mohan Adhikari, and met Nepalese leaders across the political spectrum. He assured all of them of India's strong commitment for a stable, prosperous and democratic Nepal, and India's support to the Constitution drafting process and strengthening of democratic institutions and creating an inclusive democratic process.

The Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, visited Nepal on 27 November, 2011. During the visit, he called on the President, Dr Ram Baran Yadav, and the Prime Minister, Dr Baburam Bhattarai. He held bilateral consultations with his counterpart, Mr Barsaman Pun, where they reviewed bilateral economic cooperation and discussed ways and means to expand the economic relations between the two countries. The Minister of Finance signed the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with his counterpart in the presence of the Prime Minister of Nepal. To enhance interaction between parliamentarians from India and Nepal, and foster better understanding and friendship, a group of six young parliamentarians from India visited Nepal on 26-29 March, 2011. A delegation comprising 15 women Constituent Assembly Members / parliamentarians from Nepal visited India from 7-13 August, 2011.

India is Nepal's largest assistance provider in terms of scope and extent of development assistance and the largest source of foreign investment and tourist arrivals. Over 400 projects were completed or are under various stages of implementation in almost all the 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 to facilitate development and connectivity.

Pakistan: India seeks a peaceful relationship with Pakistan. As a follow-up to the mandate given by the two Prime Ministers, who had held a meeting in Thimphu in April 2010, the Foreign Ministers of the two countries had met in Islamabad in July 2010 to review the bilateral relationship and discuss steps to promote trust and confidence. The two Foreign Secretaries held a meeting in Thimphu on February 6, 2011, and agreed to resume dialogue on all issues.

Sri Lanka: India is Sri Lanka's closest neighbour. The relationship between the two countries is more than 2,500 years old and both sides have built upon a legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious and linguistic intercourse. The shared cultural and civilisational heritage of the two countries and the extensive people-to-people interaction of their citizens provides the foundation for a multi-faceted partnership.

Bilateral exchanges at various levels over the last year and significant progress in implementation of developmental assistance for the internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka has helped to further cement the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

Today, the India-Sri Lanka relationship is strong and poised for a quantum jump by building on the rich legacy of historical linkages and strong economic and development partnerships that have been forged in recent years.

South East Asia and Pacific

Recent years have witnessed significant transformation in India's relations with countries in the South East Asia and the Pacific region. These have become multifaceted and comprehensive. The ASEAN region is the central component of India's 'Look East' Policy, which was enunciated in the early nineties. The policy, originally conceived as an economic initiative, has gained political, strategic and regional dimensions.

Intensification of high-level visits, regular meetings of existing institutional mechanisms of cooperation contributed to strengthening of relations. The year witnessed four visits at the level of Heads of State/Government (Thailand's Prime Minister, April 2011; New Zealand Prime Minister, June 2011; Vietnam President, October 2011; Thailand Prime Minister January 2011) and two visits by India's Prime Minister to Indonesia and Singapore (November 2011). The Thailand Prime Minister, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, became the third consecutive leader from South East Asia to be the chief guest at India's Republic Day parade. Parliamentary Friendship Groups

were constituted in the respective Parliaments of Singapore and Thailand. Parliamentary chapters with Indonesia and Malaysia were also re-constituted.

Security and defence relations also improved following regular exchanges and dialogues at various levels. An MoU on defence cooperation was signed with Thailand in January 2012, making it the ninth country in the region with which India has such a formal arrangement.

Economic relations with South East Asian countries represent a major focus of our growing ties. Making the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement fully operational and discussions to include free trade in services and investments to make it a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement are at an advanced stage. Apart from the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with ASEAN, India has operationalised bilateral CECA with several ASEAN countries, (the latest being with Malaysia in July 2011) while it is negotiating similar agreements with Indonesia and Thailand. Bilateral trade with ASEAN in 2010-11 reached US\$ 57 billion, showing an increase of nearly 30 per cent over the previous year, with India's exports growing by over 50 per cent at over US\$ 27 billion. The target set by the Prime Minister for bilateral trade of US\$ 70 billion by 2012 should thus be successfully met.

India continued to provide project related developmental assistance to the countries of the ASEAN region in terms of grant-in-aid and line of credit. India is also putting up an e-network project for tele-medicine and tele-education for CLMV nations (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) on the lines of the highly successful Pan-Africa e-network project. India continued to extend assistance for human resource development and capacity building programmes through the ITEC programme and the Colombo Plans.

To further broaden relations and foster greater people-to-people contacts, apart from strengthening cultural, educational and tourism links with the region, India opened its Consulates at Perth in Australia and at Bali in Indonesia, and also decided to establish full diplomatic relations with the Pacific island country of Niue.

India and Australia held several high-level exchanges, and enhanced engagement and multifaceted cooperation covering areas of economy, trade and investment, energy, agriculture, S&T, culture, education, defence and people-to-people interaction. The two countries also launched negotiations on CECA, as Australia has emerged as a major source of natural resources for India. The Prime Minister of New Zealand visited India in June 2011 when the two

countries launched FTA negotiations. Relations between India and the Pacific island nations have been constantly strengthened due to India's dialogue partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) countries, including at the 23rd PostForum Dialogue Partners Meeting at Auckland.

East Asia

Japan: India-Japan relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift in recent years. The Government and the people of Japan were appreciative of India's sympathetic response to the earthquake and tsunami that struck the country on 11 March, 2011, and the ensuing nuclear crisis. Relief material comprising 25,000 blankets, 10,000 bottles of mineral water and 10 tonne of high-energy biscuits were sent to Japan. India also sent a 46-member relief and rehabilitation team from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yoshihiko Noda, came to India on a State visit on 27-28 December, 2011, for the Annual Summit between the two countries. A Joint Statement titled 'Vision for the Enhancement of India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership upon entering the year of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations' was signed by the two Prime Ministers during the Annual Summit. During the visit, the Japanese side renewed its commitment to flagship infrastructure projects, like, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project and the Dedicated Freight Corridor West Project, and expressed support for the new Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor Project.

The External Affairs Minister visited Tokyo for the 5th Strategic Dialogue, which was held on 29 October, 2011. The Defence Minister visited Japan from 1-3 November, 2011, for the annual Defence Ministers' meeting. The year 2011 also saw visits by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, S&T and Earth Sciences (January-February 2011), Minister of Commerce and Industry (February 2011), and Minister of State for Planning, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences (October 2011) to Japan. The Lok Sabha Speaker also visited Japan from 2-6 October, 2011, along with a Parliamentary delegation. In 2011, bilateral trade between the two countries reached \$17.7 billion. It is expected that this figure will increase further as a result of the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which came into force on 1 August, 2011. For the 8th consecutive year India in 2011 continued to be the largest recipient of Japanese ODA. During the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister Noda in December 2011, the Japanese side renewed its commitment to the implementation of flagship infrastructure projects, namely, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor project and the

Dedicated Freight Corridor West Project and expressed support for the new Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor project.

Mongolia: India and Mongolia traditionally enjoy strong and friendly relations based on a common cultural heritage and similarity of world views in the contemporary context. During the year, exchanges with Mongolia expanded and India welcomed Mongolia on assuming the Chair of the Community of Democracies. India has strong technical and economic cooperation ties with Mongolia in the fields of education, agriculture, information and communication technology and human resource development. The President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil's State Visit to Mongolia in July 2011 provided a strong fillip to the bilateral relations. Earlier, in May 2011, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, led an Indian delegation to Mongolia to participate in the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation. In September, India's Chief of Army Staff participated in the 100th Anniversary of the Ministry of Defence of Mongolia. The Head of Office of the President of Mongolia, Mr D Battulga, visited India in November 2011 to follow up on the decisions taken during the visit of the President of India to Mongolia. In December 2011, the Chairman of the Mongolian Civil Service Council, Mr Zumberellkham Dorjdamba, paid a visit to India to hold talks with the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission of India. In November 2011, a three-member delegation from the National Development and Innovation Committee of Mongolia visited India to interact with officials of the Planning Commission.

Republic of Korea (RoK): India-RoK relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift in recent years, propelled by successful and regular high-level visits. The momentum generated in the bilateral relations, with the landmark State visit of the President, Mr Lee Myung-bak, in January 2010 was further built upon with significant developments in 2011. Exchange of high-level visits, increasing economic and commercial linkages, growing two-way investment flows, enhanced functional exchanges and cooperation in international forums added momentum to the relationship during the period. Following implementation of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in January 2010, India's economic and commercial relations with RoK have continued to flourish, with the total bilateral trade growing by 22 per cent in the first 11 months of 2011.

The President of India visited RoK from 24-27 July, 2011, with the highlight of the visit being the signing of the Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear

Energy. Parliamentary contacts between India and RoK have added another important dimension to India's political ties with RoK. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt Meira Kumar, and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri K Rahman Khan, led an Indian delegation to RoK for attending the G-20 Speakers' Consultations in Seoul from 18-20 May, 2011. To bolster relations in science and technology, the Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, visited RoK on May 2-6, 2011, and took part in the 1st India-Korea Science & Technology Ministerial Steering Committee meeting. The Minister of Tourism, Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, participated in the 19th UN World Tourism Organisation General Assembly held in Gyeongju from 8-11 October, 2011. Defence has emerged as an important area of cooperation between the two countries during the year. India participated at the Seoul International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition 2011 (ADEX).

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK): India's relations with DPRK continued to be cordial, with the focus being on humanitarian and human resource development assistance. India and DPRK continued their cooperation at UN and other international organisations in 2011. Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), visited Pyongyang in September 2011 for regular foreign office consultations.

Eurasia

Russia: India's relations with Russia remain a major priority. While India remains Russia's largest buyer of defence equipment, the erstwhile 'buyer-seller framework' has been gradually transforming into a model of 'joint development and design' of defence systems. Russia has been a positive contributor to India's civilian nuclear programme. In the space sector, the collaboration in path-breaking joint projects, such as Human Spaceflight Programme and Chandrayaan-2, continued during the year. Despite renewed efforts, the level of engagement in the area of trade and investment was, however, below optimum levels and received attention at the highest levels. Both countries held high-level consultations on various global and regional issues, such as the situation in Afghanistan, the Middle East and North Africa, and on subjects like counter-terrorism and drug trafficking.

The momentum of high-level political contacts continued in 2011. In April 2011, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met the Russian President, Dmitry Medvedev, in Sanya (People's Republic of China) on the sidelines of the third BRICS Summit. The two leaders also attended the BRICS Heads of State meeting held on the sidelines of

the G-20 Meeting in Cannes in November 2011 prior to their Annual Summit in Moscow in December. These interactions provided an added opportunity to consult on emerging global issues, review the progress made on bilateral issues and lay the agenda for the future. Regular exchange of visits by Ministers and senior officials from key Ministries continued throughout the year and added depth to the strategic partnership.

Central Asia

Recognising the Central Asia region as its extended neighbourhood, India has been steadily developing friendly and cooperative relations with all five States in the region that are bound to us by historical and civilisational links. Three Central Asian countries - Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - share borders with Afghanistan and have common security concerns. Cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector formed an important facet of our relations with the countries in the region. Indian companies were in active discussion in Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for joint upstream, mid-stream and downstream activities in the hydrocarbon sector. India has been actively promoting the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline, which would be the first major energy link between Central Asia and South Asia.

India continued contributing to capacity building and human resources development in the region. Around 280 young professionals and scholars from Central Asia attended various short-term courses in India during the year. An IT Centre of Excellence was inaugurated in Ashgabat and this is in addition to those already running in Tashkent, Bishkek and Dushanbe. Another centre will be set up in Astana. India's focus in the region continued to be on capacity building, technology, training and development cooperation.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are India's declared strategic partners in the region. The Prime Minister visited Kazakhstan in April 2011 while the President of Uzbekistan visited India in May 2011. Several other Ministerial and official-level exchanges with Central Asia also took place during the year in different sectors of bilateral interest.

India welcomed the peaceful transition to parliamentary democracy in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2011, that saw Mr Almazbek Atambaev being elected as the new President.

Caucasus: Historical ties mark India's relations with the countries in the Caucasus region - Armenia, Azerbaijan

and Georgia. The trend of consolidation and gradual strengthening of bilateral relations with the Caucasus countries continued during the year. Ministerial and official-level visits were exchanged and India's development partnership programmes continued during the year. An India-Armenia Centre for Excellence in Information Technology was inaugurated in Yerevan, Armenia, in November 2011 by the Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology. The Fifth Session of the India-Armenia Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) and Foreign Office consultations were held in October-November 2011 in Yerevan. Foreign Office Consultations also took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in September 2011. An agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion was signed between India and Georgia in August 2011.

Ukraine and Belarus: High-level exchanges of visits with Ukraine and Belarus served to intensify bilateral relations. The Ukrainian Foreign Minister, Mr Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, accompanied by senior officials and a business delegation, visited India in November 2011. The Minister of Tourism, Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, visited Ukraine in September 2011 for promotion of Indian tourism. The Minister of Coal, Shri Sri Prakash Jaiswal, and the Minister of State for Defence, Shri M M Pallam Raju, visited Minsk, Belarus, to discuss intensification of economic ties and joint R&D projects.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO): India continued to play a constructive role in the SCO as an Observer and highlighted the role of the SCO in bringing security, stability and development to the entire region. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, participated in the Astana Heads of State Summit while the Minister of Power, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, attended the Council of Heads of Governments Summit in St. Petersburg in 2011.

India-Russia-China (IRC) Trilateral Cooperation: Meetings under the IRC framework were held in Russia during the year. Under the disaster management theme, a trilateral programme for exchange of information and expertise in flood and drought control was held in Hyderabad in May 2011. The IRC continued to play its role as a useful platform for three emerging global powers - India, Russia and China - to exchange views on key regional and global issues.

The Gulf, West Asia & North Africa

India's relations with the countries in the Gulf region continued to deepen and diversify, with the momentum

of relations being maintained through several high-level visits. The Gulf region continues to be a major trading partner of India, with bilateral trade exceeding US\$ 130 billion during 2010-11. The region plays a significant role in India's energy security and it hosts over 6 million Indian expatriates. Accordingly, India has a vital stake in the peace and stability, and continued progress and prosperity of the Gulf countries.

Mr Sayyid Badr Bin Saud Bin Hareb Al-Busaidi, the Minister Responsible for Defence Affairs of Sultanate of Oman, visited India on 26-28 December, 2011, at the invitation of Shri A K Antony, Minister of Defence. During the visit, the India-Oman MoU on Military Cooperation was renewed.

Dr Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, Minister of Commerce & Industry of Saudi Arabia, visited India to co-chair the 9th India-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting on 4-5 January, 2012 with our Finance Minister. During the visit, Dr Tawfiq Al-Rabiah called on the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister, the Commerce and Industry Minister and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Shri A K Antony, Minister of Defence, is scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia on 13-15 February, 2012.

Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, Minister of Foreign Trade of UAE, visited Hyderabad on 12-13 January, 2012, to attend the CII Partnership Summit and met Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Sheikh Hamad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and Head of the Diwan of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, visited India on 15-20 January, 2012, at the invitation of Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister. During his visit, he met the External Affairs Minister, the Finance Minister, Rural Development Minister, the Urban Development Minister and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

The 2nd India-United Arab Emirates Political Consultations were held in New Delhi on 8 February, 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), and the UAE delegation was led by Dr Tariq Ahmad Al Hidan, Assistant Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The West Asia and North Africa region saw hectic activity during the year, both in respect of our bilateral relationship as also because of the 'Arab Spring' that was triggered off by the fleeing away of the then Tunisian President, Mr Ben Ali, in early January, 2011. The developments in Libya necessitated evacuation of the large Indian community,

numbering about 18,000. As the situation deteriorated, a multi-pronged evacuation - by air, sea and land routes - of Indian nationals was started under Operation 'Safe Homecoming' from 26 February, 2011. Around 16,200 Indians were safely evacuated from Libya by 13 March, 2011.

India was one of the first countries to accord recognition to the new country of South Sudan. The Vice President, Shri Mohamed Hamid Ansari, represented India at the formal Independence Day ceremony held in Juba, South Sudan, on 9 July, 2011.

A stream of high-level visits during this period further contributed to the strengthening of India's relations with the countries of West Asia and North Africa region, both individually and with the region as a whole.

Africa

India shares cordial relations with almost all the countries in the region. In the context of India's growing engagement with Africa, there has been intensification of bilateral and regional cooperation with West African countries in capacity building efforts, human resources development and infrastructure building, mainly through granting training slots and scholarships, setting up institutions and extending aid projects and credit lines in accordance with the decisions taken under the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-2008) and IAFS-II (2011).

Our historical relationship with Africa has been revitalised keeping in view the functional cooperation needed in the 21st century. Our political support for Africa has been augmented by closer economic cooperation, including economic assistance, functional cooperation, soft loans and private sector investment.

Following the first India-Africa Forum Summit in 2008, nearly US\$ 6 billion in new funds were committed for economic engagement with Africa, of which a significant proportion was committed to capacity building and human resource development. These commitments include the establishment of four Pan-African institutions, viz. India Africa Institute of Foreign Trade, India Africa Diamond Institute, India Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, and India Africa Institute of Information Technology. Other institutions to be established are 10 vocational training centres, five human settlement institutes to support low-cost housing technologies and two coal institutions. A large number of scholarships and fellowships were introduced. An important aspect of the capacity building programmes is the offer of 300 scholarships in the field of agricultural education and research over four years. One of the most

significant contributions that India made was the Pan-African e-Network Project which 47 African countries have agreed to implement. The network already covers 42-countries and the remaining are being progressively brought within its scope. This visionary project creates networks among African countries and provides linkages in tele-medicine and tele-education with Indian hospitals and universities. This project complements the close relationship that India has always had with Africa for human resource development and capacity building.

In May 2011, the second Africa India Forum Summit (AIFS-II) was organised in Addis Ababa. This summit built upon the foundations of the historical relationship that exists between India and Africa, and contributed to the designing of a structure for enhanced engagement between India and its African partners in the 21st century. Two documents, the Addis Ababa Declaration and the Africa India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation, adopted at the end of the Summit, will guide our systematic enhanced engagement with Africa in the coming years.

The Addis Ababa Declaration is a political document that covers issues of bilateral, regional and international interest to India and Africa, including our common position on UN reforms, climate change, WTO, international terrorism, etc. The Africa India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation spells out the agreed areas of cooperation, including human resources and institutional capacity building, education, science and technology, agricultural productivity and food security, industrial growth, including small and medium enterprises, minerals, development of the health sector, development of infrastructure, ICT and the establishment of judicial systems, with police and defence establishments under civilian control.

There was an extremely positive response to AIFS-II and 9 Heads of States/Governments of the 15 African countries invited to the Summit were present. Equatorial Guinea as co-Chair of the Summit, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania and Senegal were represented by their Heads of State. Swaziland was represented by the King. Namibia was represented by its Prime Minister, South Africa by its Deputy President and Nigeria by its Vice-President. Algeria was represented by the Personal Representative of its President. Egypt and Libya were represented by a Ministerial delegation. Deliberations at the Summit and the Retreat were fulsome, candid and manifested the close abiding and deep relationship between India and Africa.

At the Summit, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, announced many new initiatives to further

strengthen our cooperation with Africa. He made several announcements for the next three years, including the availability of Line of Credit of US\$5 billion; a line of credit of US\$300 million for the new Ethio-Djibouti railway line; more than 22,000 scholarships; and establishment of more than 80 capacity building institutions in Africa. The proposed institutions include India-Africa Food Processing Cluster, India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster, India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development, 32 regional-level institutions, English-language Training Institutes, Information Technology institutes, Centre for Rural Development and Vocational Training Centres. The Prime Minister also announced a support of US\$2 million for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Plan of Action of the Framework for Enhanced Cooperation of the second Africa India Forum Summit will be launched within the next six months in consultation with the African Union and its member states.

The Ministry of External Affairs intends to undertake these critical projects focusing on human resource development and capacity-building by suitably enhancing its 'Aid to Africa' Budget. These projects will be initiated at the bilateral, regional and the African Union (AU) levels. We would be setting up the five Pan-African Institutions in Africa, through the African Union, the 32 regional institutions through Regional Economic Communities and others bilaterally. We will continue working with the African Union on Special Agriculture Scholarships and will add training positions offered in the maritime sector. It is hoped that our African partners will utilise these training positions to achieve their developmental endeavour. We intend to organise a conference to create awareness about our lines of credit for our African partners in the near future.

The next India Africa Forum Summit is slated for 2014 and our endeavour will be to implement as many decisions of the two Summits as far as possible and take India-Africa cooperation to new heights by adopting a mutually beneficial agenda.

Europe

India's relations with countries of Western Europe continued to deepen and diversify during the year. India shares common values of democracy, rule of law, and civil liberties with these countries. There is a growing acknowledgement of India emerging as one of the world's

fastest growing economies, which offers opportunities of an expanding market as well as an attractive destination-cum-source of investment.

At the highest level, three major events took place during the year. The first Indo-German Inter-governmental Consultations between the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and the German Chancellor, Ms Angela Merkel, were held in New Delhi in May 2011. The 12th India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi in February 2012. The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, led the Indian side to the Summit while the President of the European Council, Mr Herman Van Rompuy, and the President of the European Commission, Mr Jose Manuel Barroso, represented the European Union. This was the first Summit in India following the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. A meeting between the Prime Minister and the UK Prime Minister, Mr David Cameron, was also held on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit at Cannes in November 2011.

Apart from frequent high-level exchanges at the Government level, the year also witnessed high-level Parliamentary exchanges. The Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt Meira Kumar, led a delegation of Speakers from the State Legislative Assemblies of India for the 57th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Meeting in London in July 2011 and transited through France in October 2011. The Speaker of the UK House of Commons, Mr John Bercow, visited India in August 2011 while the President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Representatives, Mr Laurent Mosar, is scheduled to visit New Delhi in February-March 2012.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, visited Italy and the United Kingdom in June 2011. Incoming visits at the Foreign Minister level were by the French Foreign Minister, Mr Alain Juppe, in October 2011 and by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Catherine Ashton, in January 2012. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur, visited Italy in July 2011 and Ireland in October 2011. The UK Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Jeremy Browne, visited India in July 2011 and again in February 2012. The UK Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lord David Howell, visited India in August 2011. The German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms Cornelia Peiper, visited India in September 2011 to officially inaugurate the Year of Germany in India.

Foreign Office Consultations at the Secretary level were held with France in May 2011 and with the UK in June 2011. The first-ever Foreign Policy Consultations were held with the EU in November 2011 in New Delhi.

Additionally, there were several Ministerial and Secretary-level exchanges with these countries. Meetings of Joint Economic Commissions, exchanges of business delegations and mutual participation in business fairs and exhibitions promoted the steady growth of commercial and economic ties with the region. The EU, comprising 27 countries, continued to be India's largest trade partner and the largest source of FDI during the year.

The sovereign and banking sector debt crisis continues to be a major issue within the European Union, particularly the Eurozone, and EU leaders have adopted far-reaching measures to contain the crisis. India, as part of the G-20 and BRICS, has committed to ensure that the International Monetary Fund has adequate resources to meet potential financing needs of all its members.

Indian Missions in the region organised a number of activities to project the richness and diversity Indian culture. In particular, many programmes were arranged to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Central Europe

India's friendly relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Nordic countries continued to deepen and diversify. There is a history of interest in India and Indology in many of these countries, which has created strong people-to-people affinities. This strong foundation has been reinforced by shared values of democracy, rule of law and free market economy, resulting in good mutual understanding on most political issues, bilaterally as well multilaterally. The recognition of India as one of the world's fastest growing economies, which offers manifold opportunities of an expanding market as well as an attractive destination-cum-source of investment, has led to a focus on the economic dimension of bilateral ties among the countries in this region.

In a sign of the growing engagement between India and the Baltic countries, Estonia decided to establish a resident mission in India in the first quarter of 2012, making it the second Baltic State to do so after Lithuania.

Broad-based engagement, which reinforces existing bonds, with regular political, cultural and scientific exchanges while strengthening and diversifying economic cooperation through exploring synergies and complementarities, continue to be India's policy towards the region.

Important outgoing bilateral visits to the Central European region, during the year included the visits of the President to Austria (4-7 October), and Switzerland (30 September -

4 October), and of the Vice President to Turkey (10-15 October). Further, the External Affairs Minister, who visited Hungary (from 5-7 June, 2011) and Turkey (10-14 May and 2 November), and Minister of State for External Affairs, who visited Lithuania (30 June-2 July) and Serbia (5-6 September) for multilateral conferences, had bilateral meetings with high-level dignitaries on the sidelines of these events. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur, also visited Latvia (31 March- 2 April) as part of her tour of the three Baltic States.

Noteworthy incoming visits were the State visit of the Prime Minister of Slovenia (6-8 September, 2011) and the visit of the President of the Czech Senate (8-13 May) at the invitation of the Vice President. Further, the President of Finland visited India during the period 1-3 February, 2012, to participate in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS), and had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. The visits of the Foreign Ministers of Cyprus (17-19 April), Iceland (25 April- 3 May 2011), Poland (11-12 July, 2012) and Sweden (18-22 October, 2011) helped maintain high-level dialogue with these countries. Besides, many other Ministerial visits were exchanged with the Central European countries.

Regular dialogue between the Foreign Ministries of these countries, and the Ministry of External Affairs was maintained. Foreign Office consultations were held with Bosnia & Herzegovina (5 April, 2011), Croatia (6 May, 2011), Lithuania (19 May, 2011), the Czech Republic (6 June, 2011) and Hungary (23 January, 2012).

Apart from frequent high-level exchanges between Governments, the year also witnessed active Parliamentary exchanges, which imparted special vigour to the relationship with these democracies, promoting active interaction between their elected representatives.

During the year agreements that were concluded or are under negotiations in diverse areas with many of these countries related to defence, culture, infrastructure (including the railway network), investment, double taxation avoidance, financial dialogue, health, science and technology, cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, standardisation and education. 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.

Most countries in the region expressed support for a permanent seat for India in an expanded and reformed UN Security Council, and many formally supported the G-4 Resolution on this matter. They also supported a

number of candidatures presented by India in different UN bodies.

Missions in the countries of the region organised a number of activities to project the richness and diversity of Indian culture. In particular, many programmes were arranged to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Meetings of Joint Economic Commissions, exchanges of business delegations and mutual participation in business fairs and exhibitions, promoted the steady growth of commercial and economic ties with the region.

The Americas

USA: India and the United States continued to deepen their global strategic partnership in accordance with the vision outlined by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and the US President, Mr Barack Obama, in November 2010 in New Delhi. The two sides maintained a high level of bilateral engagement, launched several new initiatives and advanced their cooperation across a broad spectrum of areas, including political and strategic consultations; defence; intelligence, counter-terrorism and homeland security; investment and trade; energy; space; science and technology; innovation; and higher education and empowerment. Prime Minister Singh and President Obama met on the margins of the East Asia Summit in Bali in November 2011. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, co-chaired the Second India-US Strategic Dialogue with the US Secretary of State, Ms Hillary Clinton, on 19 July, 2011, in New Delhi. The two sides maintained close consultations on regional and global developments, including those related to South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, and the Indian Ocean region. Commercial ties with India's largest trading partner, in terms of both goods and services, and people-to-people contacts continued to grow during the year.

Canada: India-Canada relations acquired greater momentum during the year, particularly after the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Stephen Harper, returned to office following the Conservative Party's victory in May 2011 general elections. Prime Minister Harper has conveyed his Government's strong priority for developing closer relations with India. The year 2011 was celebrated as the 'Year of India in Canada', with events held throughout the year in all major cities. The year saw strong bilateral engagement, especially in the areas of commerce, higher education and mining. There was progress on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, the Social Security

Agreement and the institutional framework of cooperation in the mining sector with Canada's Federal and Provincial Governments.

Latin America & Caribbean:

Relations between India and Latin America and the Caribbean region further strengthened and deepened during the year, with frequent exchanges of visits and high-level interactions. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms Kamla Persad-Bissessar, paid a State visit to India from 5-14 January, 2012. She was also the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Jaipur in January. During the year, the Indian Prime Minister interacted with Heads of Government of Brazil, Mexico and Argentina on the margins of various international events, especially in the context of G-20, IBSA and BRICS meetings. The External Affairs Minister held the India-Rio Group Ministerial dialogue in the extended troika format under the Presidency of Chile on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September. The Minister of State (External Affairs), Shri E Ahamed, visited Guatemala, Ecuador and Panama from 29 April-5 May, 2011, while the Secretary (West), Shri Vivek Katju, visited Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Guyana in July 2011. Amongst the important incoming Foreign Ministerial visits during the year were those from El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Mexico and Colombia. The Lok Sabha Speaker visited Mexico from 11-14 April, 2011, and Trinidad and Tobago, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay from 7-19 January, 2012.

India's total trade with Latin America and the Caribbean region for the calendar year 2011 was US\$ 25.1 billion while the cumulative investments were estimated at US\$ 15 billion. Our historical and cultural ties with the Caribbean countries, given the substantial presence of the Indian diaspora, continued to be strengthened with people-to-people and cultural exchanges. India cultural centres were opened in Mexico City and Sao Paulo during the year.

United Nations and International Organisations

A firm belief in the importance of an effective multilateral system, centred on a strong United Nations, continued to guide India's participation at the UN and other international fora during the year.

Articulating India's commitment to multilateralism, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, in his address at the general debate of the General Assembly on 24 September, 2011, called for putting the development agenda

firmly back on the centrestage of the United Nations' priorities. The Prime Minister also said the observance of the rule of law was as important in international affairs as it was within countries; societies cannot be reordered from outside through military force and people in all countries have the right to choose their own destiny and decide their future. The Prime Minister added that the global community needed to pay particular attention to Africa and recalled India's offer of enhanced support for Africa as announced at the 2nd India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in May 2011. He also urged enhanced cooperation in South Asia, assuring that India was willing to play its part in making the region peaceful.

On 1 January, 2011, India started its two-year term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. As part of its membership of the Council, India was appointed as chair of two Committees and a Working Group. These were the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Committee concerning Somalia and Eritrea, and the Working Group concerning threat to international peace and security by terrorist acts.

During 2011, the Security Council was called upon to deal with new situations like election-related violence in Cote d'Ivoire, anti-government protests in Libya and Syria, instability in Yemen, etc., in addition to issues relating to Afghanistan, Cyprus, Iraq, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and subjects like non-proliferation. Taking part in the decision-making process at the Security Council, India underscored its commitment to promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts by diplomatic means, including by supporting regional efforts. India also underscored the need for enhancing international cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism, counter-piracy, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors and the strengthening of UN peacekeeping and peace-building efforts.

Under India's leadership, the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee adopted an outcome document on 28 September, 2011, that called for 'zero tolerance' of terrorism and of terrorist actions. In view of the serious threat posed to international maritime trade and security by piracy off the coast of Somalia, India stressed the need for concerted international cooperation. At India's initiative, the Security Council mandated international cooperation for release of hostages taken by pirates as well as for prosecution of those taking hostages and those aiding and abetting the acts of hostage-taking. India also participated actively in the deliberations of the Contact Group on Piracy off the

Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) dealing with coordination of international counter-piracy efforts.

India also maintained its leadership role in UN peacekeeping operations, including through substantial contribution of personnel and force enablers. India was the third largest troop contributor, with over 8,000 troops deployed across the world in 10 peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Golan Heights, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, East Timor, Haiti, Abyei and South Sudan. During its presidency of the Security Council in August 2011, India organised a thematic debate on UN peacekeeping that highlighted the critical importance of consulting troop contributing countries in decisions related to mandates of peacekeeping missions.

India notched significant successes in the elections held in the UN during 2011. These included elections for the membership of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Human Rights Council, the United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In addition, India's candidates were elected to the International Law Commission, the Joint Inspection Unit and were re-elected to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

India, in collaboration with its G-4 partners, namely, Brazil, Japan and Germany, along with other like-minded countries continued its efforts for an early and meaningful reform of the UN Security Council. Recognising that there was widespread support to take the reform process towards a concrete outcome, the G-4 Foreign Ministers decided in February 2011 to press ahead with all necessary steps to achieve an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the Security Council and an improvement in its working methods. The initiative garnered cross-regional support of a wide coalition of member-States. Accordingly, the Foreign Ministers of the G-4 countries decided at a meeting on the margins of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2011 that this initiative should be considered as the basis for further discussions in the on-going inter-governmental negotiations on reform of the Security Council to create the needed momentum for progress.

India maintained its strong support for the Palestinian people in pursuit of their legitimate goals and for a resolution of the Middle East issue. India actively supported Palestine's membership of UNESCO and its application

for full membership of the UN, which is under consideration of the Security Council.

As a leading member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), India participated in the XVI Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Bali, Indonesia, from 25-27 May, 2011. It also participated in the Commemorative Meeting held at Belgrade from 5-6 September, 2011, to observe the 50th anniversary of the historic meeting between the founding fathers of NAM.

In the Commonwealth, India took forward its extensive contribution over the years to the organisation's budgets and programmes, and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. The Vice-President, Shri M Hamid Ansari, led the official Indian delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Perth, Australia, from 28-30 October, 2011. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, participated in the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting that preceded CHOGM on 26-27 October.

Maintaining its support for democracy-related initiatives, India participated at the VIth Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 1 July, 2011, and contributed additional funds to the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IIDEA).

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

India continued to play a pivotal role in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) during the year under review, with the objective of enabling it to become a more effective and result-oriented organisation that can meet the expectations of the South Asian people. India continued to discharge its responsibilities and assume commitments to deepen and intensify regional cooperation in an asymmetric and non-reciprocal manner; this was made particularly evident at the XVII Summit of SAARC in the Maldives in November 2011 at which the Prime Minister led the Indian delegation.

During the year, significant progress was recorded in the implementation of flagship projects promoted by India, such as the South Asian University (SAU), SAARC Development Fund (SDF) and the organisation of a South Asian Forum (SAF), whose first meeting was held in New Delhi in September 2011. India's contributions have helped

enhance the process of moulding SAARC into a more project-based, result-oriented organisation. SAARC has served as a useful vehicle for India to intensify its close bilateral ties with its South Asian neighbours using a plurilateral platform, to enhance the transformation of the South Asian region by creating new projects and proposals for cooperation and in facilitating initiatives for sub-regional cooperation in areas such as trade facilitation and transport, and also cooperation in the energy sector.

Disarmament and International Security Affairs

India continued its support for the goal of global, non-discriminatory, and verifiable nuclear disarmament. Addressing the 66th session of the UN General Assembly, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, drew attention to the Action Plan put forward by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and non-violent world, that provided a concrete road-map for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. He also noted that nuclear proliferation continued to remain a threat to international security. During the year, India participated and contributed to the deliberations of the Conference on Disarmament, UNGA's First Committee, UN Disarmament Commission, Seventh Review Conference of the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention, 16th Annual Conference of States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Fourth Review Conference and other meetings under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. As part of the Nuclear Security Summit process, India hosted a meeting of the Sherpas of the Summit leaders in New Delhi on 16-17 January, 2012. India presented its perspectives at the High-Level meeting on nuclear safety and security, convened by the UN Secretary General in New York on 22 September, 2011, as well as other meetings on nuclear safety issues in the International Atomic Energy Agency. India also participated and presented its views in the meetings of the ASEAN Regional Forum, the Conference on Interactions and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, and working-level meetings under ASEAN Defence Ministers-plus process during the year.

Multilateral Economic Relations

During the year 2011, multilateral fora continued to grapple to find solutions to the challenges posed by the global economy, Eurozone sovereign debt crisis, spiralling energy and food prices as well as social and political developments

in different parts of the world. India further consolidated its engagement with key multilateral economic fora, such as G-20, BRICS, IBSA and Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).

The Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the third BRICS Summit in Sanya, China, in April 2011; the fifth IBSA Summit in Pretoria, South Africa, in October 2011; and the sixth G-20 Summit in Cannes, France, in November 2011. Given the importance of the Indian Ocean Region from India's standpoint, hosting of the 11th meeting of the Council of Ministers, the Apex Body of IOR-ARC, in Bengaluru in November 2011 and assuming the Chair of the Association for the next two years was another significant development in our multilateral engagement during the year. Since India joined the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member on 1 January, 2011, it has afforded us with many opportunities for close interaction with other BRICS/IBSA partners who were also present in the UNSC in 2011 to coordinate positions on issues of mutual interest.

IBSA countries' coordination in UN Security Council and joint demarche with the Government of Syria for a peaceful resolution of its political problems was viewed with great keenness. Similarly, abstention of IBSA countries on the UN Resolution on Syria in October 2011 demonstrated IBSA's cohesion in the UNSC. India also coordinated positions on issues of mutual interest under the BRICS format. While India is poised to take over the Chairmanship of BRICS at the forthcoming Summit in New Delhi on 29 March, 2012, this Grouping has caught the attention of the whole world - developed and developing countries alike.

India actively participated in various G-20 meetings throughout the year. The Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the sixth G-20 Summit held on 3-4 November, 2011, at Cannes, France, under the theme, 'New world, New ideas'. India is proactively and constructively engaged with the G-20 Sherpas' process and the G-20 Finance Ministers' channel. India continues to work with the G-20 to pursue implementation of its decisions, including the Framework for strong, sustainable growth, reforms of international financial institutions, financial regulatory reforms and the G-20 development agenda.

Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

The India's 'Look East' Policy is one of the cornerstones of its foreign policy and is anchored in its relationship with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN),

East Asia Summit (EAS), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC). India also actively participates in the Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

The year 2011 witnessed an intensification and expansion of India's engagement with the members of these regional groupings, with an exchange of high-level visits and meetings, including at Summit-level, across a range of sectors. These exchanges facilitated the objective of further intensification of India's engagement with these regional groups and their respective member countries.

The sixth East Asia Summit was reflective of the economic and political processes underway in the East Asia region. Leaders discussed the new trans-national challenges in the region. Prime Minister, who attended the ninth India-ASEAN Summit and the sixth East Asia Summit in Bali from 17-19th November, 2011, announced India's intention to host an EAS Workshop on Disaster Management & Relief in the case of an earthquake scenario. India has been supportive of a regional architecture which is open, inclusive and transparent and which facilitates further consolidation of effort in the five core areas of cooperation amongst EAS members in the areas of finance, education, energy, disaster management and pandemics as well as the two areas of Connectivity and CEPEA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia).

India and ASEAN are marking 2012 as a Commemorative Year of 20 years of dialogue relations and 10 years of Summit Partnership. India will be hosting the Commemorative Summit in December 2012 in New Delhi on the theme 'India and ASEAN: Partners in Progress and Prosperity'. As the first of the commemorative events, the Ministry of External Affairs, in partnership with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Institute of South East Asia Studies (ISEAS, Singapore), Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA, Indonesia) and the SAEA Research Group (Singapore), hosted the Delhi Dialogue-IV, from 13-14 February, 2012, in New Delhi on the theme 'India and ASEAN: Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability'.

Technical and 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 aimed at capacity building, skills development, transfer of technology and sharing of experiences, form an integral part of India's development partnership and cooperation with the developing world. These programmes have gained enormous popularity, resulting in a steady increase in the number of participants over the years. These programmes serve as major tools of development partnership assistance by India under the South-South Cooperation framework.

During 2011-12, 7,400 civilian training slots under ITEC/SCAAP were allotted to 161 developing countries in areas of interest and advantage to them. Under TCS, around 500 civilian training slots were allotted to 18 member countries of Colombo Plan. About 1,100 defence personnel from several ITEC partner countries were imparted training in various defence institutions in India. Experts from the defence services as well as from the civilian side were deputed to countries like Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritius, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda, etc. A number of bilateral projects were undertaken mainly in the fields of archaeological conservation, information and computer technology, and small and medium enterprises in countries like Cambodia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Grenada, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Syria, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. Under aid for disaster relief, assistance in the form of cash donations was provided to Bangladesh, Bolivia, DPRK, El-Salvador, Nicaragua, Libya, Myanmar, Namibia, Senegal, St. Vincent and Grenadines, and Turkey.

Development Partnership Administration

In January 2012, a Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was set up in the MEA with the principal responsibility of ensuring speedy and efficient implementation of India's external economic assistance programme in close cooperation with developing countries for capacity-building. The DPA will also be responsible for projects being executed under Indian grant assistance or lines of credit through the stages of concept, launch, execution and completion.

Investment and Technology Promotion

For many years now, the main thrust of India's foreign policy has been economic diplomacy. Funds to the tune of Rs 8.50 crore were allocated to Missions/Posts to enable them to respond more effectively to the growing demands of Indian industry and take advantage of trade and investment opportunities by undertaking market expansion activities, including surveys, seminars, workshops, buyer-seller meets, industry interactions, etc.

During the financial year 2011-12, 16 lines of credit amounting to US\$ 614.2 million have been approved to 14 countries-12 in Africa and two in Latin America ~ to undertake projects for infrastructure development and capacity building. Besides, a line of credit of US\$ 250 million has been approved by the Ministry for the Government of Nepal. In view of the fact that the lines of credit offered to developing countries in Africa have become increasingly important, given the serious quantitative commitments made at the highest level of the Government, the ITP Division organised a two-day conference on 'Indian Lines of Credit: An instrument to Enhance India-Africa Partnership' was organised during November 22-23, 2011 for officials from the African countries to sensitise them about the processes and specific requirements involved in processing, approval and implementation of these lines of credit.

The Ministry also worked closely with other Government departments on policy matters concerning reforms and liberalisation, and investment and trade. Information on Indian economy was widely disseminated through the Ministry's website www.indiainbusiness.nic.in.

Energy Security

The rise in consumption and demand of energy by the rapidly growing Indian economy, and increasing dependence on imports has made energy security an important element of India's external engagement. Keeping this in view, a full-fledged Energy Security (ES) Division was established in the Ministry in 2009. The year 2011 saw the Division grow in terms of its responsibilities. As the nodal point in MEA for all energy security matters, the ES Division maintained close coordination with all energy-line Ministries, and supported their international engagements. The ES Division continued its representation at the IPEEC Policy Committee Meetings, IEF and IRENA. India was elected to the IRENA Council for a two-year term. Similarly, India and Australia held the first Resources and Energy Security (RES) Dialogue in Australia in May 2011. The ES Division continued to take part in the Technical Working Group and Steering Committee Meetings of the proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline project. The Division supported the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in holding the 3rd India Africa Hydrocarbon Conference held in New Delhi on 9-10 December, 2011. Food security has also been brought into the mandate of the Division. The Division now handles all matters relating to fertiliser cooperation and is the nodal point in the MEA for all initiatives by the Government of India and Central Public

Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) for acquisition of fertiliser assets and raw material assets abroad.

Consular, Passports and Visa Services

Indian passports are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs through a network of 37 passport offices, CPV Division (for only Diplomatic and Official passports), and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. For Indians living abroad, passport, consular and other miscellaneous services are rendered by 178 Indian Missions/Posts. Between January and December 2011, the 37 passport offices, headquarters and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands issued 58.69 lakh passports (inclusive of 2,840 Diplomatic passports, and 28,067 official passports), and rendered 4.68 lakh passport-related services. The 178 Indian Missions/Posts issued 10.27 lakh passports. Thus, the Ministry, in total, rendered 73.65 lakh passport services. The number of passport applications received during the same period was 60.73 lakh, the highest number ever received in a year. The total revenue generated from all passport offices in 2011 was Rs 728.99 crore as against a revenue of Rs 679.11 crore in 2010. An amount of Rs 380.41 crore was allocated to the Central Passport Organisation in the financial year 2011-12.

The Ministry made considerable progress in the comprehensive overhaul of the passport delivery system through the Passport Seva Project. The pilot project was launched at four Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in Karnataka in May 2010. Subsequently, three more pilot PSKs were launched in Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Ambala in August 2010. Following requisite certification by the third party audit agency, Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification (STQC), an organisation under the Department of Information Technology, in January 2011, a rollout plan was firmed up jointly by the Ministry, and the service providers -Tata Consultancy Services. The project achieved yet another major milestone in June 2011, with the commencement of the nation-wide rollout of Passport Seva Kendras. Out of the 77 PSKs, 50 PSKs had been operationalised as on 4 February, 2012, in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Gujarat, Kerala, UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Delhi. The remaining 27 PSKs are expected to be functional by March 2012.

Some of the other 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, centralised printing of passports for non-computerised Missions

abroad, strengthening of the public grievance redressal system, facilitation counters and help desks, Passport Adalats held every month to address grievances and the implementation of the RTI Act. An Action Plan to bring down the pendency of passports was actively implemented in the year 2011.

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued approximately 5 million visas during the period. The procedure for grant of visas by Missions/Posts has been further simplified and this includes computerisation of the issuance system and outsourcing of visa services. On November 25, an agreement was signed with Ukraine on visa free travel for diplomatic passport holders.

During the year, a total number of 2,78,210 personal and educational documents, and 3,83,757 commercial documents were attested. Similarly, 1,66,886 documents were apostilled for use abroad in the Apostille Convention member countries.

Coordination Division

The Coordination Division serves as a focal point of the the Ministry of External Affairs for work pertaining to Parliament, and the interaction between the Ministry and other Government of India Ministries/Departments, State Governments/Union Territories, and also autonomous bodies and private institutions, including NGOs.

Administration & Establishment

During the year, three new Consulates General of India were established at Atlanta (US), Bali (Indonesia), and Perth (Australia). With this, there are now 179 Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The Indian Mission in Lilongwe (Malawi) is also scheduled to re-open shortly. In keeping with the Administration Division's core task of creating and managing the human resource capacity for optimally meeting diverse functional needs, the Ministry has successfully implemented the fourth tranche of the IFS Expansion Plan, which was initiated in 2008. The Ministry has also successfully carried out the IFS (B) cadre review exercise, which would in addition to addressing the career aspirations of officers also cater to the expanding requirements for enabling better and faster service delivery. The Ministry also continued with its emphasis on capacity building at various levels, focusing on mid-career training programmes. The process of simplification of various rules and procedures for improving general efficiency was also continued during the year.

The Ministry's offices, located in Akbar Bhawan, were moved into the newly-built Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan.

Some additional facilities were also provided for the convenience of the residents at the Ministry's hostels and housing complexes. Keeping in view several requests received from Indian Missions/Posts abroad, for pre-mature replacement of furniture and equipment, the prescribed life-span of these items was reviewed. For purchase of vehicles abroad, arrangements were finalised with Daimler Chrysler of Germany to get 25 per cent diplomatic discount on purchases by Indian Missions/Posts. Some additional options were given for payment of emoluments to employees working in hard currency countries to ease hardships caused by currency fluctuations.

Projects Division

Completion of new chancery-cum-residence complex in Beijing, construction of new chancery building in Kathmandu and shifting of offices of MEA from Akbar Bhawan to Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan were the highlights of the Projects Division's achievements during the year. The Division continued to construct and acquire properties abroad for use as its chancery/residences. Falling property prices across the world presented many opportunities to acquire built-up properties in Helsinki, Houston, Perth, Port of Spain, Rabat, Santiago, etc.. Through concerted efforts, the Division was able to commence construction on Government of India-owned plots in Brazil and Abuja (Nigeria) where construction activity had earlier been delayed.

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

The Ministry of External Affairs carried out its active programme of promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad. During the period of the report, three regional Hindi conferences were organized in Birmingham (UK), Tokyo (Japan) and at the University of Valladolid (Spain). The Hindi version of the monthly magazine India perspective (Bharat Sandarsh) brought out by the Ministry, won the second prize. A large number of Missions/Posts abroad and the Ministry of External Affairs organized a series of functions to mark the World Hindi Day on 10 January, 2012.

Public Diplomacy

In 2011-12, the Public Diplomacy Division took special initiatives to reach out to the youth through digital diplomacy efforts. Twitter and Facebook pages of the Division became popular with more than 20,000 and 30,000 followers respectively. Outreach activities undertaken by the Division included invitations to select groups of influential persons and opinion makers from

UK, Nepal, Australia, Saudi Arabia, African countries, etc; supporting seminars and conferences on foreign policy topics; continuing partnerships with prominent think-tanks; and organizing lectures by retired Ambassadors in Universities under the Distinguished Lecture Series. Dissemination of information through publications and audio-visual medium continued. The Division commissioned documentaries on topics of contemporary interest about India from well known film makers.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), implements a wide range of programmes pertaining to India's existing cultural relations with a view to deepening India's cultural ties with other countries. The ICCR maintains 37 Cultural Centres abroad; has 91 chairs abroad, out of which 17 were established during the year; oversaw the activities of its 16 regional offices; conducted fellowship programmes; organised 4 Buddhist Conferences, and implemented various scholarship schemes for foreign students studying in India.

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

The ICWA organized more than forty events during the year including lectures, seminars and book launches. The notable events, inter-alia, include organization of an Academic Conference in Addis Ababa on "India Africa Academic Forum: Partnership for Enhancing Development and Growth"; another international conference on "Reinvigorating Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)"; and an Address by the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Yoshihiko Noda. The ICWA was one of the partners in organizing the Delhi-Dialogue IV in February 2012. It also hosted several foreign dignitaries in the year.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

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

During the period, RIS provided inputs to the Government of India on issues related to India-Africa, IOR-ARC, Rules of Origin, SAARC, India-Myanmar, etc. RIS is continuing

its efforts to remain active in the Track II process of several regional initiatives. RIS has been vigorously engaged in the regional network of think-tanks in which the organisation has been nominated as India's focal point. The institute organised a number of policy dialogues, conferences, and workshops during the year, including the International Conference on ASEAN-India Connectivity, workshops on South Asian Regional Cooperation, International Conference on Mekong-India Cooperation, workshop on India-Norway Relations and Potential for Partnership, International Conference on Equity and Access to Medicine, the third Workshop on Rules of Origin, a brainstorming session on Development Cooperation among Emerging Economies, etc. RIS also organised capacity building programmes in collaboration with the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs.

External Publicity

The External Publicity Division continued to articulate the position of the Government of India on various foreign policy issues in the international and domestic media, through press conferences, regular press briefings, backgrounders, dissemination of statements, effective use of the MEA website and electronic communications. Special attempts were made by the XP Division for dissemination of information on India's relations with its immediate neighbours as also with key countries of the world.

External Publicity Division also continued to run its wide-ranging familiarisation programme for international journalists. The Division processed requests for documentary films in India and facilitated members of the ever-increasing foreign press corps based in India. The Division made all media-related arrangements for the incoming and the outgoing visits at the levels of Heads of State, Heads of Government and Foreign Minister levels.

The Division also took initiatives for developing an integrated MEA portal, which will have a common template (frontpage) for all MEA websites, including those of Missions and Posts abroad.

The present MEA website, which is widely accessed in India and abroad is also updated and maintained in Hindi. Arrangements have now been made for translations of press releases and statements into Urdu and Arabic as well.

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, and officers from other Ministries/ Departments as well as for foreign diplomats.

To commemorate the 25th year of the foundation of FSI, 'the External Affairs Minister's Gold Medal for The Best Probationer of the Batch' was instituted, and a commemorative volume was published by the FSI. A silver jubilee cultural evening was also organised to mark the event.

The third mandatory MCTP for JS-level officers and an e-mail based MCTP for director-level officers' of the 1993 batch was completed. The FSI also conducted refresher courses for Section Officers, a workshop on RTI and conducted various training programmes on subjects like office procedures, protocol, cyber security, etc.

The FSI also conducted training programmes for diplomatic correspondents, and took part in the 12th conference of Central Training Institutions, held at LBSNAA in October 2011.

The 6th special course for ASEAN diplomats was organised during the year. A special course for diplomats from IOR-ARC countries was also organised in February 2012. Similarly, two professional courses for foreign diplomats were successfully organised. A trilateral MoU on Mutual Cooperation among Diplomatic Academies was signed during the IBSA Summit. Several foreign delegations from countries like Iraq, the Kyrgyz Republic and South Africa visited the FSI and exchanged ideas. A Vietnamese delegation from the Ho Chi Minh National Institute of Administration explored the possibility of bilateral cooperation in its discussions with the FSI in November 2011.

Legal and Treaties Division

The Legal and Treaties Division advises the Ministry of External Affairs and other Ministries on all issues of international law and treaties, vets bilateral and multilateral documents and texts. It advises on implementation of India's obligations under international conventions, including enactment of legislations and offers advice on a wide range of international legal issues, covering subjects like intellectual property rights, environment, human rights, international humanitarian law, energy security, atomic energy, cyberspace, disarmament, international terrorism, maritime piracy, international trade law, bilateral investment protection agreements, outer space, law of the sea, maritime law, civil aviation, extradition and mutual legal assistance, etc. The objective is to ensure compliance with applicable domestic laws related to foreign affairs as well as international legal obligations of India.

The Division also participates in bilateral and multilateral negotiations, in particular negotiations for conclusion of international conventions on various international law issues. During the current year, the Division participated actively in discussions in the United Nations General Assembly (Sixth Committee) and its various Sub-Committees, the United Nations Commission on International Trade (UNCITRAL), the Ad-hoc Committee on International Terrorism, the United Nations Charter Committee, the International Institute for Unification of Law (UNIDROIT), the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the Human Rights Council, the meeting of State parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Seabed Authority, meetings of the Contact Group on Piracy as well as on disarmament issues. The Division also participated in the annual sessions of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation and in bilateral negotiations with various countries on free trade agreements, investment protection agreements and agreements on extradition and mutual legal assistance.

At the last United Nations General Assembly session, Shri Narinder Singh, Additional Secretary and Head of the Division, was re-elected as a member of the International Law Commission for a five-year term beginning January 2012.

The L&T Division is also currently engaged in handling India's responses to the arbitration proceedings initiated by Bangladesh for delimitation of the maritime boundary. The Division is also assisting the Ministry of Water Resources in the arbitration proceedings initiated by Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty in respect of its objections to the Kishenganga Hydroelectric Project.

Electronic Governance and Information Technology

The Ministry of External Affairs further expanded its training and awareness programmes for officers to deal with growing incidence of cyber-security threats. The Integrated Mission Accounting System, on-line visa component of immigration, visa, and foreigners' registration and tracking project, outsourcing of visa, passport, and consular services, and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Training Management Information System were extended, to cover additional Missions and Posts.

A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the area of cyber- security was signed, between the Indian Computer Emergency Response team and the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team on 19 July, 2011.

Parliament & VIP Division

A new Division - Parliament and VIP - was established, in January 2011. The Parliament Section of the Division has been tasked to look after the Parliament work of the Ministry, which includes coordination of replies to Parliamentary Questions, implementation of assurances given by the Ministers in Parliament, and organisation of meetings of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry, etc. The VIP Section has been tasked to attend promptly to requests/representations received from Members of Parliament, and other VIPs. As of date, the division has received 816 requests/representations from MPs and other VIPs on issues pertaining to passports, visas, OCI/PIO cards, bringing back of mortal remains of Indians who die abroad, death compensation matters pending with foreign companies/entities, release of Indians from foreign jails and their repatriation to India, whereabouts of Indians in foreign countries, evacuation of Indians in emergency situations from foreign countries, Haj related matters, etc.



Afghanistan

India and Afghanistan have established a strategic relationship based on historical, cultural and civilisational linkages. The relationship is being further strengthened by India's role in the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan. The aim and objectives of the two countries coincide, i.e. to bring peace and security in the region and to assist in the sustainable development of all sectors in Afghanistan by building indigenous capacity and institutions.

Most of India's development projects in Afghanistan can be broadly divided into four categories: large infrastructure projects; humanitarian assistance; capacity building initiatives; and small development projects.

(a) Government of India has undertaken a number of medium and large infrastructure projects in Afghanistan under its assistance programme. Some of these are: construction of a 218 km highway from Zaranj to Delaram for facilitating the movement of goods and services to the Iranian border (the project has been completed and handed over to Government of Afghanistan); construction of 220kV DC transmission line from Pule-Khumri to Kabul and a 220/110/20 kV sub-station at Chimtala to bring power from the northern border countries to Kabul (completed and handed over); reconstruction of Salma Dam power-cum-irrigation project in Herat province (ongoing); construction of Afghan Parliament (ongoing); construction of two electric sub-stations in Doshi and Charikar (construction to commence shortly); setting up of five toilet-cum-public sanitation complexes in Kabul (completed and handed over); upgradation of telephone exchanges in 11 provinces (completed and handed over); and expansion of national TV network by providing an uplink from Kabul and downlinks in all 34 provincial capitals for greater integration of the country (completed and handed over). The above list is not exhaustive.

(b) India's humanitarian assistance initiatives include provision of free medical services and medicines through five Indian Medical Missions located in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Herat and Kandahar (each medical mission includes a small team of doctors and paramedic staff); provision of food assistance of 1 million tonnes of wheat in

the form of high protein biscuits, distributed daily, to about 1.5 million school children daily under a 'School Feeding Programme' administered by the World Food Programme; reconstruction and renovation of Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (in Kabul) in various phases. Ten ambulances have also been gifted.

(c) The sector of education and capacity development has been a significant area of attention in India's assistance portfolio. Some Indian activities in this sector include: reconstruction and renovation of the Habibia School in Kabul; award of 500 Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) long-term university scholarships (for undergraduate and post-graduate degrees) and 500 short-term Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) vocational training slots for Afghan nationals annually from 2006-07 onwards (three years back, both ICCR and ITEC slots were increased to 675 annually); deputation of 30 Indian civil servants under the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Capacity for Afghan Public Administration (CAP) programme; ongoing Indian contribution to UNDP's 'National Institution Building Programme' which aims at attachment of Indian civil servants as Capacity Development Advisors in Afghan institutions and signing of 'twinning agreements' between related Indian and Afghan Ministries; setting up of an India-Afghan Vocational Training Centre for training 3,000 Afghans in carpentry, plumbing, welding, masonry and tailoring; as well as a similar project by Indian NGO, SEWA, for setting up a Women's Vocational Training Centre in Baghe-Zanana for training in garment making, nursery plantation, food processing and marketing.

(d) A significant addition to India's development portfolio in Afghanistan was a special programme to foster community-based, small development projects in vulnerable border areas, in the fields of agriculture, rural development, education, health, vocational training, etc., that would have direct and visible impact on community life, and with focus on local ownership and management. Under the first two phases of this programme, over a 100 projects have been taken on board, about a third of which have been successfully completed. The implementation of the projects is done entirely by the Afghan government agencies (with advisory inputs from the Indian Embassy), which helps in building local capacity in project management.

The future contours of the Indian assistance programme in Afghanistan were illuminated during the visit of the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, from May 12-13, 2011. As a rare honour, Prime Minister addressed the joint session of the Afghan Parliament. He announced a further increase in India's aid commitment to Afghanistan by US\$ 500 million, thus raising the cumulative Indian commitment to US\$ 2 billion. He also announced a number of new schemes that India would undertake in Afghanistan to fulfil the new financial commitment. These included:

- (i) A fresh commitment of US\$ 100 million for the third phase of India's programme of Small Development Projects, over and above the previous pledge of US\$ 20 mmillion.
- (ii) Donation of 1,000 buses for Kabul and other municipalities with provision for maintenance support, training and infrastructure.
- (iii) A medical package consisting of the treatment of Afghan in Indian hospitals over the next three years to be implemented through the Afghan Ministry of Public Health; the rehabilitation and professional upgradation of the National Malaria and Leishmaniasis Centre of Afghanistan; and the upgradation of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, including the neo-natal and maternal care unit.
- (iv) Upgradation of the agricultural department at the Kabul University to an agricultural university and providing scholarships for the study of agricultural sciences.
- (v) Donation of 500 tractors for Afghan farmers; Provision of seeds and other assistance for the agricultural sector.
- (vi) The early finalisation of a US\$ 50 million Buyers Credit Line to promote exports and attract Indian business to Afghanistan.
- (vii) A grant of US\$ 10 million for preservation and revival of Afghanistan's archaeological and cultural heritage and cultural exchanges.
- (viii) A grant of US\$ 4 million to the Government of Afghanistan for the restoration of the historic Stor Palace in Kabul.
- (ix) Assistance in setting up an Afghan Institute of Mining.
- (x) An enhancement of ICCR scholarships for students from 675 to 1,000 with a special focus on encouraging women students to avail of the additional slots.
- (xi) Assistance in setting up of a computer laboratory at Habibia School.

- (xii) Supporting the Second Phase of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Skills Development Programme for providing vocational training to Afghan nationals.
- (xiii) Establishment of a Jawaharlal Nehru Chair of Indian Studies at Kabul University.
- (xiv) Reiterating the commitment to donate 250,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan to meet its requirements this year.

President Hamid Karzai visited India from 4-5 October, 2011, for the second time during the year. The first visit was from 2-3 February, 2011. He held detailed discussions with the Prime Minister on bilateral and regional issues. The two leaders signed a historic Agreement on Strategic Partnership between Afghanistan and India; the first such agreement signed by Afghanistan with any country. The agreement reinforced the strong, vibrant and multi-faceted relations between the two countries and at the same time formalised a framework for cooperation in various areas between the two countries: political and security cooperation; trade and economic cooperation; capacity development and education; and social, cultural, civil society and people-to-people relations. This agreement is a strong signal of India's abiding commitment to peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan during this critical period of security and governance transition. India and Afghanistan also signed an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Hydrocarbons and Mineral Resources Development.

The Government of India reiterated its commitment to support the development of Afghanistan, both through government-to-government support, as well as by facilitating private trade and investment, at the Conferences on Afghanistan held in Istanbul (2 November, 2011) and Bonn (5 December, 2011).

Agreements/MoUs between India and Afghanistan are in place in the fields of diplomacy, media and information, civil aviation, agricultural research and education, health care and medicinal science, tourism, education, standardisation, rural development, public administration, electoral management and administration, small development projects and local governance. A series of fresh MoUs are being signed between Afghan Ministries and their Indian counterpart Ministries, under the aegis of UNDP's 'National Institution Building Programme' to which India is a major financial contributor.

In spite of persistent threats of terrorist attacks, India has reiterated its commitment to assist the Government and people of Afghanistan as they build a peaceful, democratic, pluralistic and prosperous country.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, with the President of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai, in New Delhi on 4 October, 2011.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Mrs. Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 6 September, 2011.

Bangladesh

Throughout the year, there were regular and close contacts between the two countries at various levels. The institutional mechanisms of cooperation were active in promoting the bilateral relationship between the two countries. The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, paid a State Visit to Bangladesh from 6-7 September, 2011. He was accompanied by the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, and the Chief Ministers of the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. During the visit, the Prime Minister met his Bangladesh counterpart, Mrs Sheikh Hasina, and held delegation-level talks. The two sides signed the following Agreements/MoUs:

- Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development;
- Protocol to the Agreement Concerning the Demarcation of the Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh, and Related Matters;
- Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bangladesh to Facilitate Overland Transit Traffic between Bangladesh and Nepal;
- MoU on Renewable Energy Cooperation;
- MoU on Conservation of the Sunderban;
- Protocol on Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban;
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Fisheries;
- MoU on Mutual Broadcast of Television Programmes;
- MoU between Jawaharlal Nehru University and Dhaka University; and
- MoU on Academic Cooperation between National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), India, and BGMEA Institute of Fashion and Technology (BIFT), Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met his Bangladeshi counterpart, Mrs Sheikh Hasina, on the sidelines of the 17th SAARC Summit at Addu City, Maldives, on 10 November, 2011, where both leaders discussed matters of bilateral interest. The Bangladesh Prime Minister visited the Tin Bigha Area on 19 October, 2011, following the operationalisation of 24-hour unfettered access to Dahagram and Angarpola through Tin Bigha. Mrs Sheikh Hasina visited Agartala from 11-12 January, 2012, to receive an honorary D.Lit conferred on her by the Central Tripura University.

The Vice-President of India, Shri M Hamid Ansari, accompanied by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur, visited Dhaka from 5-6 May, 2011 for the inaugural ceremony of the joint celebrations of the 150th

Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. During his visit, he also called on the Bangladesh President, Mr Zillur Rahman, and met the Prime Minister, Mrs Sheikh Hasina.

Smt Sonia Gandhi, President, Indian National Congress, and Chairman, UPA, visited Dhaka from 24-25 July, 2011, to receive the Bangladesh Freedom Honour conferred on Smt Indira Gandhi for her unique role and contribution to the Liberation War and birth of Bangladesh. She also attended the inaugural session of an International Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities as Chief Guest on 25 July, 2011.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, paid an official visit to Dhaka from 6-7 July, 2011, and held bilateral talks with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Dr Dipu Moni. Protocols of Exchange on the Instruments of Ratification of the bilateral agreement on the protection and promotion of investments between India and Bangladesh and document relating to Standard Operating Procedure for monitoring of entry/exit of Bhutanese vehicles between Indian Land Customs Stations (LCS') and Bangladesh LCS' were signed during the visit. The External Affairs Minister also held bilateral discussions with his counterpart from Bangladesh on the sidelines of the IOR-ARC meeting held in Bengaluru on 15 November, 2011.

The Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, along with the Finance Minister of Bangladesh, Mr A M A Muhith, jointly inaugurated the Standard Operating Procedure to facilitate movement of trucks 200 metres inside each other's territory on 21 January, 2012, at Petrapole/Benapole Integrated Check Post.

The Home Minister, Shri P Chidambaram, visited Dhaka from 29-30 July, 2011, for delegation-level talks with his counterpart, Advocate Shahara Khatun, and reviewed bilateral security cooperation, border management and other issues. He called on the Prime Minister, Mrs Sheikh Hasina, during the visit. A Coordinated Border Management Plan was signed between India and Bangladesh during the visit of the Home Minister. The Home Minister also visited Petrapole/Benapole to jointly inaugurate the Integrated Check Post with his counterpart on 27 August, 2011.

The Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma visited Dhaka from 22-23 April, 2011, and held meetings with his counterpart, Mr Faruk Khan. An increase in the annual duty-free export quota of garments from Bangladesh to India from 8 million to 10 million pieces was announced during the visit. Further, a Border Haat was inaugurated at Kalaichar/Baliamari on the India (Meghalaya)-Bangladesh border on 23 July, 2011, by the Commerce Minister and his

Bangladesh counterpart to permit local residents of both countries to trade essential commodities.

Foreign Office Consultations were held at the level of Foreign Secretaries from 6-7 June, 2011, in Dhaka. As per the mandate of the Joint Boundary Working Group to settle outstanding land boundary issues, a joint survey was conducted in the Adversely Possessed Lands of India and Bangladesh during the first half of 2011. A joint headcount was conducted in the enclaves of India and Bangladesh by combined teams from 15-16 June, 2011. The signing of India-Bangladesh boundary strip maps by the plenipotentiaries of both countries commenced on 20 August, 2011. The 12th meeting of the Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh was held from 19-21 November, 2011, in New Delhi.

Defence cooperation between the two countries was strengthened through the visits of the Chiefs of the Indian Navy and Army to Bangladesh from 3-7 April, 2011, and from 19-23 June, 2011, respectively. The Chief of the Bangladesh Army, General Mohammed Abdul Mubeen, visited India on 29 November, 2011, as the Chief Guest at the 121st passing out parade of the National Defence Academy. The first batch of Sidr core shelters built by India were handed over to Bangladesh at Sharonkhola, Bagerhat, on 9 July, 2011, thus facilitating rehabilitation of over 1,600 families. A number of projects in road transport and railways designed for the infrastructure development of Bangladesh are under implementation under the US\$ 1 billion Line of Credit.

Economic and commercial cooperation between the countries reached new levels. In 2011-12, India's exports to Bangladesh increased to US\$ 4,586.8 million (up 43 per cent over the previous year) while imports increased to US\$ 512.5 million (up 68 per cent over the previous year). There was a spurt in investments and joint ventures during the year. A joint venture agreement for the setting up of a power plant of 1320 MW was concluded between NTPC and BPDB in Khulna, Bangladesh.

Bhutan

India and Bhutan enjoy a special, close and friendly relationship founded on trust, understanding and mutual benefit. These relations were further strengthened over the course of the year, with many high-level visits taking place from both sides. India's bilateral interaction today encompasses almost all areas of importance - hydropower, transport, communications, infrastructure, health, culture, education, IT, industry, medicine, and agriculture. The year witnessed a significant increase in the momentum and thrust of our long-standing relations.

During the year, their Majesties, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, the King and Queen of Bhutan, visited India from 23-31 October, 2011. This was their first visit abroad after the Royal Wedding on 13 October, 2011, and it was the fourth visit of the King to India since his coronation in November 2008. Other high-level visits from Bhutan were by the Prime Minister, Lyonchen Jigmi Y Thinley; the Minister of Information and Communications, Lyonpo Nandlal Rai; the Minister of Health, Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa; the Minister of Economic Affairs, Lyonpo Khandu Wanghuk; the Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs, Lyonpo Minjur Dorji; the Minister of Finance, Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu; the Chief Justice, Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye; and the Speaker of the Bhutanese Parliament, Mr Jigme Tshultim.

Visits from India included that of the Home Minister, Shri P Chidambaram, for the 4th SAARC Home/Interior Ministers' meeting; the Minister of State for Defence, Dr M M Pallam Raju, for Project Dantak's Golden Jubilee celebrations; the National Security Adviser, Shri Shiv Shankar Menon; the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar; the Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Tarun Gogoi; the General Secretary, Congress Party, Shri Digvijay Singh; the Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. A S Lamba; the Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai; the Chief Election Commissioner, Dr S Y Quraishi; the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission, Prof. D P Agarwal; and the Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri Charles Pyngrope.

India continues to be Bhutan's largest trade and development partner. Apart from the highly successful and mutually beneficial cooperation in the hydropower sector, the Government of India has committed assistance worth Rs 3,400 crore for Bhutan's 10th Five-Year Plan. This includes project-tied assistance of Rs 2,000 crore for 68 projects in key socio-economic sectors, such as agriculture, ICT, media, health, education, capacity-building, energy, culture, and infrastructure.

The 1,900 small development projects in all 20 districts and 205 blocks in Bhutan for which India is providing a grant of Rs 700 crore, are playing a crucial role in poverty alleviation and rural development in the country. Of these 1,900 SDPs, 1,250 projects are under implementation, with work on another 500 projects expected to commence in 2012. The Government of India is also providing a programme grant of Rs 700 crore to the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) during its 10th Five-Year Plan as development subsidy, in quarterly tranches of Rs 35 crore.

The Government of India (GoI) has also committed assistance of Rs 25 crore for the Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences

(BIMS), which is being set up in Thimphu. The 1st anniversary of the GoI-assisted IT project 'Chipen Rigphel - Enabling a Society, Empowering a Nation' or the 'total solutions project' was celebrated in Thimphu on 8 September, 2011. The 7th India-Bhutan Annual Plan Talks were held from 3-4 November, 2011, in Thimphu during the which the progress of GoI-assisted projects for RGoB's 10th Five-Year Plan were reviewed, and on the request of RGoB, the costs of some projects were re-prioritised. The Government of India has released its entire commitment of Rs 300 crore to the RGoB for setting up the one-million tonne Dungsum cement plant at Nganglam. The project has been slightly delayed and is expected to be operational by early 2012.

The construction of the Punatsangchhu-I Hydro-Electric Project is in full swing while work on Punatsangchhu-II and Mangdechhu HEPs is also progressing well, bringing both countries closer to the target of jointly developing 10,000 MW hydropower by 2020 for export by Bhutan to India. Detailed project reports for seven more HEPs, identified by both Governments to achieve this target, are in advance stages of finalisation. The 6th and 7th meetings of the India-Bhutan Empowered Joint Group on Cooperation in the Hydropower Sector were held in Thimphu in June 2011 and in New Delhi in September 2011, respectively.

During 2010, exports from India to Bhutan stood at Rs 2,930 crore, and constituted around 75 per cent of Bhutan's total imports. Bhutan's exports to India in 2010 amounted to Rs 2,600 crore, and constituted around 89 per cent of its exports. India-Bhutan Bilateral Trade Talks were held in New Delhi in August 2011, during which India agreed to RGoB's requests for the use of Dalu and Ghasupara Land Custom Stations (both in Meghalaya) for Bhutanese cargo and notified four additional entry/exit points. It also agreed to a time-bound exemption for Bhutan from India's export bans on essential food grains and allowed Bhutanese travellers to purchase duty-free merchandise at Indian airports.

There is close bilateral cooperation in the educational and cultural fields between India and Bhutan, with India providing technical expertise and services of specialists in various fields. The Government of India's scholarships are granted annually to 50 Bhutanese students at undergraduate and post-graduate levels in Indian institutes of higher learning. Under Bhutan's 10th Five-Year Plan, the undergraduate slots have been increased to 85 per year, and that of post-graduates to 77. Besides these, 80 training slots are provided to Bhutan annually under the ITEC/TCS of the Colombo Plan. Also, Ambassador's scholarships are given to meritorious Bhutanese students to study in India and 10 Bhutanese students are admitted to Sainik schools in India at the Government of India's expenditure. The Nehru-Wangchuck

scholarship scheme was instituted in 2008 to encourage students from Bhutan to study in leading Indian universities and institutions, and seven post-graduate scholarships have been allotted in financial year 2010-11 under this scheme.

Besides, a large number of Bhutanese students study in Indian schools and colleges on a private basis. To facilitate this, Education Consultants of India Ltd hold seminar-cum-counselling sessions in Bhutan. Also, Bhutan's Sherubtse College, which is affiliated to Delhi University, has about 30 India-based lecturers under the TCS of the Colombo Plan. Her Majesty, the Queen Mother, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, and the Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Shri Pavan K Varma, jointly released a Postal Stamp and Souvenir Sheet on 15 August, 2011, commemorating the historic visit of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Bhutan in 1958.

The second series of the literary festival 'Mountain Echoes' was held in Bhutan in May 2011, under the sponsorship of the India-Bhutan Foundation, in which about 60 leading authors, publishers, poets and film and media personalities from India and Bhutan participated. Her Majesty, the Queen Mother, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the Chief Royal Patron of the Literary Festival, the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, and the Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Shri Pavan K Varma, inaugurated the festival.

As a forerunner to the Royal Wedding and in honour of the King of Bhutan and the royal consort, a cultural evening was organised at India House Estate on 10 October, 2011. Sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, the evening was well attended by Bhutanese dignitaries, including prominent members of the government and those from the fields of business and media.

The Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centre, which was inaugurated in September 2010, commenced its activities this year, and organised painting exhibitions; the release of the SAARC Directory 2010; cultural and musical programmes to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore; programmes on meditation and yoga; and a special exhibition on 'Buddhism in Russia'.

At RGoB's request, three sacred Buddhist relics were sent to Bhutan from Bodhgaya in October 2011 for a nation-wide exhibition. This was extremely well-received by the people of Bhutan.

China

The year 2011 was observed as the 'Year of India China Exchange'. The year saw a number of exchanges between the two countries, especially at the provincial/state level. The



The King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and the Bhutan Queen, Her Majesty Jetsun Pema Wangchuck meeting the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, at Rashtrapati Bhawan, in New Delhi on October 24, 2011.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Hu Jintao, in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of BRICS Summit, at Sanya in China on 13 April, 2011.

two countries also maintained the momentum of frequent interaction at the leadership level. There were regular high-level interactions on the sidelines of regional and international gatherings and sustained exchanges in various fields. The two countries have also been furthering cooperation in regional and multilateral fora, such as BRICS, G-20 and the Durban Conference of Parties, on various global issues, such as climate change and global financial situation.

The leaders of the two countries also had fruitful exchange of views during their meetings on the sidelines of several multilateral events. The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met the Chinese President, Mr Hu Jintao, at Sanya, China, on 13 April, 2011, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. The Prime Minister and his Chinese counterpart, Mr Wen Jiabao, had a meeting at Bali on 18 November, 2011, on the margins of the East Asia/ASEAN Summit. During the meeting, both leaders expressed satisfaction on the development of bilateral relations.

The 15th Round of the Special Representative Talks was held in New Delhi from 16-17 January, 2012. The two Special Representatives continued discussions 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 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. Peace and tranquillity in the border areas continued to be maintained in accordance with the relevant agreements signed in 1993, 1996 and 2005, thereby creating an enabling environment for making progress on the boundary settlement. During the visit of the Chinese Special Representative, an agreement was signed between the two countries for the establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.

China is India's largest trading partner in merchandise. In 2010, bilateral trade between the two countries reached US\$ 61.74 billion, with a trade deficit of US\$ 20.02 billion. In 2011, bilateral trade between the two countries stood at US\$ 73.9 billion, an increase of 19.71 per cent over the previous year, with the trade deficit being US\$ 27.08 billion. During the visit of the Chinese Premier to India from 15-17 December, 2010, the two sides set a new trade target of US\$ 100 billion by the year 2015. The increase in the trade deficit with China is a matter of concern for the Government, and this issue was raised by both the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister during their meetings with the Chinese leadership. The Chinese side has conveyed that they

would like to make joint efforts with India to address the issue. India and China have decided to establish an India-China CEOs Forum. The 1st India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED), established during the Chinese Premier, Mr Wen Jiabao's visit to India in December 2010, was held in Beijing from 26-27 September, 2011. The Indian side was led by Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, and the Chinese side was led by Mr Zhang Ping, Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission. The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on the world economic situation, respective domestic macro-economic situations, the goals and implementation of the mid and long-term economic and social development plans of the two countries as well as their respective industrial, fiscal and monetary policies, and agreed to enhance pragmatic cooperation in economic sectors. Three Working Groups on energy efficiency, investment policy with special focus on infrastructure, and water use efficiency, including water pricing, were established. The two sides agreed that the 2nd SED will be convened in India in 2012.

The various dialogue mechanisms between India and China also showed a steady progress. 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 Beijing from 19-22 April, 2011. During the meeting, the two sides also signed the implementation plan on the provision of hydrological information on Brahmaputra river by China to India. The fifth Financial Dialogue between India and China was held in November 2011 in New Delhi, where the two sides issued a Joint Statement. India and China also held the Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism in July 2011.

India-China military-to-military cooperation also continued. The fourth India-China Annual Defence Dialogue was held on 9 December, 2011. The Indian side was led by the Defence Secretary, Shri Shashi Kant Sharma, and the Chinese side by Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese PLA, Gen. Ma Xiaotian. Both sides shared regional and global security perceptions. They agreed that enhancement of defence exchanges between the armed forces of India and China would contribute to better understanding and mutual trust. Both sides also discussed the programme of defence exchanges during 2012. The Chinese delegation also called on the Defence Minister, Shri A K Antony, and the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Nirmal Verma.

To commemorate the 2011 as the 'Year of Exchange', various visits were organised. The Governor of Sichuan Province of China, Mr Jiang Jufeng, visited India to inaugurate the 'Sichuan Week' in India. The Vice President of the All China Women Federation, Ms Song Xiuyan, visited India from 20-

23 September, 2011, under the India-China Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP). She called on the Minister of State for Women and Child Development and also met the Chief Ministers of Delhi and Tamil Nadu. The Governor of Xinjiang, Mr Nur Bekri, visited India from 3-6 November, 2011, under the India-China DVP. He went to Agra and Mumbai apart from New Delhi. There is also an Exchange Programme between India's Ministry of External Affairs and China's International Department of Communist Party, under which the Chief Ministers of Bihar and Gujarat visited China in June and November 2011, respectively. Under the same programme, the Gansu Party Secretary visited India from 2-5 November, 2011, during which he also visited places of Buddhist significance in Bihar.

India and China also have an annual youth exchange programme, which has been running successfully for the last five years. During the visit of Chinese Premier Wen to India in December 2010, it was decided to extend the programme for another five years. In 2011, the number of youth under this programme was increased from 100 to 500. By September 2011, 500 Indian youth had visited China. During their Beijing leg of the visit, the Indian youth were addressed by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. On their part, 500 Chinese youth are expected to visit India in early 2012. The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, across Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, also proceeded smoothly from June to September 2011.

Both countries have also interacted constructively on regional and international issues. India and China held consultations on the United Nations Security Council in March 2011 in Beijing. 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. The Minister of State for Environment and Forests 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

The year 2011-12 witnessed a series of high-level visits between the two countries. The Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, visited Maldives from 11-12 November, 2011, on the invitation of the President of the Republic of Maldives. During the visit, six Agreements/MoUs were signed, including the Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development; MOUs on Combating Terrorism, Drug Trafficking, Disaster Management and Coastal Security;

Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons; Stand-by Credit Facility of US\$ 100 million; MoU on Renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH); and a Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture for the period 2012-2015.

The Prime Minister addressed the People's Majlis (Parliament) of Maldives on 12 November, 2011, becoming the first foreign Head of State or Government to do so in the 78-year history of the People's Majlis. Prior to the bilateral visit, the Prime Minister had attended the 17th SAARC Summit from 10-11 November, 2011, in Addu City, Maldives.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, paid an official visit to the Maldives from 28-29 July, 2011. He called on the President of Maldives and met a number of Maldivian Ministers.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, visited Maldives from 12-13 June, 2011, to attend the fifth meeting of the SAFTA Ministerial Council. During his visit, he called on the President of Maldives. The Chief of Naval Staff visited Maldives from 10-14 January, 2012.

The Foreign Minister of Maldives, Mr. Ahmed Naseem, paid a three-day official visit to India soon after taking office in April 2011; in May 2011, the Home Minister of Maldives, Mr. Hassan Afeef, made an official visit to India; the Speaker of the People's Majlis, Mr Abdulla Shahid, visited India in July 2011 for the SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians Conference in New Delhi; Mr. Tholhath Ibrahim, Minister of Defence and National Security, paid a two-day official visit to India in September 2011; and the National Security Advisor, Mr Ameen Faisal, visited New Delhi in December 2011.

India is committed to assisting Maldives with its development cooperation across diverse sectors. During the year, India agreed to provide a Stand-by Credit Facility of US\$100 million to Maldives. India has also agreed to extend a Line of Credit of US\$ 40 million to Maldives for the construction of 500 housing units. During his visit to Maldives in November 2011, the Prime Minister announced support for major renovation and repair of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Male and the establishment of a National Police Academy.

Myanmar

The Myanmar President, Mr Thein Sein, paid a State Visit to India from 12-15 October, 2011. He was accompanied by the Chief of General Staff and the Ministers for Border Affairs and Myanmar Industrial Development, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Irrigation, Religious Affairs, Industry, Electric Power, National Planning and Economic Development, and Livestock and Fisheries, Transport,

Energy, Science and Technology, Commerce and the Deputy Minister for Health. During the visit, the two sides signed an MoU for the upgradation of the Yangon Children's Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital; and a Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology for the period of 2012-2015. India announced the extension of a US\$ 500 million Line of Credit to Myanmar. India also undertook to set up an Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education in Yezin, a Rice Bio Park in the Integrated Demonstration Farm at Nay Pyi Taw and an Information Technology Institute in Mandalay.

At the invitation of the Government of Myanmar, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri S M Krishna, paid an official visit to Myanmar from 20-22 June, 2011. This visit marked the first high-level bilateral interaction between India and Myanmar after the swearing in of a civilian Government in Myanmar in March 2011. During the visit, an MoU on setting up of the India-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre at Myingyan was signed. Documents pertaining to the construction of ten 500-tonne rice silos with Indian assistance of US\$ 2 million in Yangon and the Ayeyarwaddy Division were handed over. Shri Krishna also handed over a cheque for US\$ 750,000 as part of Government of India's contribution towards earthquake relief operations in the Shan State.

The Foreign Minister of Myanmar, U Wunna Maung Lwin, paid an official visit to India from 22-26 January, 2012. Besides holding delegation-level talks with the Minister of External Affairs, he called on the Prime Minister. Both sides positively assessed the development in bilateral relations after the landmark State Visit of the President of Myanmar and discussed measures to enhance cooperation in the areas of trade and commerce, security, agriculture, health, culture, science and technology, human resource development and capacity building.

Official-level meetings held during the year included the Sectoral Level Meeting of the Ministry of Home Affairs from 13-14 July, 2011; Heads of Survey Department from 28-30 November, 2011; and, the 17th National-Level Meeting at Home Secretary level from 19-20 January, 2012.

The Chief of Army Staff of India visited Myanmar from 5-9 January, 2012. Earlier, a five-member delegation led by the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff visited Myanmar from 24-26 August, 2011.

Commercial relations between the two countries have strengthened and bilateral trade for the year 2010-11 stood at US\$ 1.07 billion. The 4th India-Myanmar Joint Trade Committee meeting (at the level of the Commerce Ministers)

was held on 27 September, 2011, in New Delhi. During the meeting, the bilateral trade and investment figures were reviewed and a decision was taken to set a bilateral trade target of US\$ 3 billion by 2015. Other important decisions included the setting up of Border Haats and an India-Myanmar Joint Trade and Investment Forum. The two sides also discussed ways to improve connectivity between the two countries, setting up of a Border Trade Committee and improving banking arrangements to facilitate bilateral trade and commerce.

The 'Enterprise India Show-2011', an exclusive exhibition of Indian products and services, took place in Yangon from 10-13 November, 2011. Over 60 companies participated in the exhibition. Coinciding with the Enterprise India Show-2011 was the visit of a high profile industry delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry, led by Shri Sanjay C Kirloskar, Chairman CII-ASEAN/ANZ Regional Committee, which visited Myanmar from 7-10 November, 2011. The CII, in collaboration with UMFCCL, organised a seminar on: 'Opportunities for Strengthening Myanmar-India Trade and Economic Cooperation' on 9 November, 2011.

India is strongly committed to meeting Myanmar's developmental needs through development projects, including training, provision of expertise, Lines of Credit and/or grants-in-aid. A number of projects, including training centres have been completed and several new projects are under implementation.

A team of high-level agricultural scientists, led by Dr M S Swaminathan, MP, visited Myanmar from 23-27 July, 2011, to explore the setting up of an Agricultural Centre for Advanced Research and Education.

India has extended considerable support to build up Myanmar's human resource capacity under the ITEC, TCS and ICCR scholarship schemes. In 2011-12, Myanmar was given 185 ITEC slots, 75 TCS slots and over 10 ICCR scholarships.

India and Myanmar share close cultural ties. India's Buddhist heritage binds the people of the two countries. A number of events were also organised in Yangon with the support of ICCR to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore during the year.

Nepal

India and Nepal enjoy very close and friendly relations, which continued to grow and strengthen during the year. India attaches the highest priority to further strengthening the existing understanding and co-operation with Nepal. In this spirit, India continued close consultations with the



The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, with the President of Myanmar, Mr. U Thein Sein, in New Delhi on 14 October, 2011.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, with the Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, in New Delhi on 21 October, 2011.

Government of Nepal and the major political parties with a view to support Nepal's transition to a democratic, peaceful and prosperous State. Regular high-level visits of political leaders and meetings of bilateral institutional mechanisms at senior official-level helped invigorate the relationship and provided an impetus to bilateral cooperation in diverse fields and raise political understanding. India welcomed the election of Dr Baburam Bhattarai as Nepal's Prime Minister and reaffirmed its support to the efforts to develop consensus among the political actors in Nepal to complete the remaining tasks of the peace process and the drafting of a new democratic Constitution.

The Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr Baburam Bhattarai, paid an official visit to India, from 20-23 October, 2011. He was accompanied by his spouse, seven Cabinet Ministers, including the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and Ministers of Information and Communications, Physical Planning and Works, Health and Population, Finance, Irrigation and Industry, the Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission, three Members of the Constituent Assembly and senior officials of the Government of Nepal. The Prime Minister of Nepal called on the President and the Vice-President, and had a meeting with the Prime Minister, followed by delegation-level talks. The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, hosted a dinner in honour of the Prime Minister of Nepal. The Ministers of External Affairs, Finance, Home Affairs and Defence, and the Leader of the Opposition as also other Indian dignitaries called on the Nepalese Prime Minister. The Prime Minister of Nepal addressed a business luncheon meeting, jointly organised by ASSOCHAM, CII, and FICCI, and attended a programme at Jawaharlal Nehru University of which he is a distinguished alumnus. He also visited Dehradun, and the State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand (in Haridwar).

During the visit, it was agreed that all the bilateral institutional mechanisms will be revitalised and convened regularly. It was decided to revive the Foreign Minister-level Joint Commission to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations and consider fresh development projects in various sectors as requested by Nepal. The Prime Minister of Nepal requested for an increase in the quantum of electricity export from India, to 200 MW to cope with the acute deficit and it was agreed to explore the options available for enhancing electricity trade between India and Nepal. The annual number of ITEC slots for Nepal was increased from 100 to 200. In presence of the two Prime Ministers, the India-Nepal Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA); Agreement for dollar credit line of US\$ 250 million between the Government of Nepal and the Export-Import Bank of India; and an MoU regarding Indian grant assistance of Rs 1.875 crore for the goat control

programme in Nepal were signed. It was also agreed to establish an Eminent Persons Group to look into the totality of India-Nepal relations and suggest measures to further expand and consolidate relations between the two countries.

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met the Prime Minister of Nepal on the sidelines of the 66th UN General Assembly in New York, on 24 September, 2011, as also on the sidelines of the 17th SAARC Summit in Addu City on 11 November, 2011.

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri S M Krishna, visited Nepal from 20-22 April, 2011. He called on the President, Dr Ram Baran Yadav, and the then Prime Minister, Mr Jhulanath Khanal. He held delegation-level talks with the then Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Mr Bharat Mohan Adhikari. He also met Nepalese leaders across the political spectrum, including the former Prime Minister and Chairman of UCPN (Maoists), Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', former Prime Minister and senior UML leader, Mr Madhav Kumar Nepal, and the President of Nepali Congress, Mr Sushil Koirala. He also met senior leaders of the Madhesi parties. He assured all the leaders of India's strong commitment for a stable, prosperous, and democratic Nepal of India's support to the Constitution drafting process, and the strengthening of democratic institutions and an inclusive democratic process. The Minister also met representatives of Indian joint ventures in Nepal and the Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce.

The Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, visited Nepal on 27 November, 2011. During the visit, he called on the President, Dr Ram Baran Yadav, and the Prime Minister, Dr Baburam Bhattarai. He held bilateral consultations with his counterpart, Mr Barsaman Pun, where they reviewed bilateral economic cooperation and discussed ways and means to expand the economic relations between the two countries. The Minister of Finance briefed the Prime Minister of Nepal on the progress made on implementation of the rich and vast agenda agreed during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India, in October 2011. The Minister of Finance signed the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with his counterpart in the presence of the Prime Minister of Nepal. The Minister of Finance also held discussions with leaders from a wide cross-section of political parties and conveyed that Government of India welcomes the Seven Point Agreement reached among them. He congratulated the people and the political parties in Nepal for their commitment to peacefully resolve outstanding issues in a spirit of consensus and for displaying enlightened leadership. He assured the leaders of Nepal of India's strong commitment of support to Nepal in its transition to a democratic, prosperous, peaceful, and stable state.

To enhance the interaction between parliamentarians from India and Nepal, and to foster better understanding and friendship, a group of six young parliamentarians from India visited Nepal from 26-29 March, 2011. A delegation comprising 15 women Constituent Assembly Members / parliamentarians from Nepal visited India from 7-13 August, 2011.

Bilateral trade during the period April-December 2011 increased by 18.6 per cent over the same period last year. India is Nepal's largest trade partner, with trade with India accounting for nearly 66.4 per cent of Nepal's total trade in goods and 30 per cent of its trade in services. India is also Nepal's largest source of foreign investment, accounting for 47.5 per cent of total foreign investment commitments in Nepal.

India and Nepal continued their cooperation for management of shared water resources. The field investigations for the preparation of the Detailed Project Report for the Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project were resumed in June 2010. As part of bilateral assistance for prevention of floods, India provided assistance worth Rs 236.9 crore for river training works on Bagmati, Kamala, Lalbakeya and Gagan in Nepal, during the period April-December 2011. The Government of Nepal issued licences to 28 Indian companies for development of hydro-power projects totalling 8249 MW.

India is Nepal's largest assistance provider in terms of scope and extent of development assistance. During the period, the 'Aid to Nepal' budget amounted to Rs 150 crore. India continued to provide assistance at the grassroots level under the Small Development Projects (SDPs) programme, which focuses on the critical sectors of health, education and community development. So far, over 400 projects have been completed or are under various stages of implementation in almost all the districts of Nepal, with a total outlay of over Rs 400 crore. The MoU for the implementation of Small Development Projects was renewed for a further period of three years on 6 August, 2011. MoUs for 15 new SDP projects worth Rs 23.65 crore were signed between April and November 2011.

The India-Nepal bilateral consultative mechanisms, including those on security, as well as the coordination mechanisms at the level of district functionaries of the bordering districts of India and Nepal, were held regularly. The Government of Nepal assured at the highest level that it would not allow Nepalese territory to be used for activities directed against India. The security forces of Nepal extended cooperation to Indian security authorities and conducted seizures of fake Indian currency notes being smuggled into India through

Nepal. India provided assistance to the security apparatus in Nepal for development of infrastructure, capacity building, equipment, and training of human resources. The pension payments made for the more than 1.23 lakh ex-servicemen residing in Nepal during the period of reporting amounted to over Rs1,100 crore.

As part of India's continued assistance to Nepal for developing its human resources, the Government of India provided more than 1,700 scholarships to students for pursuing a variety of courses in India and Nepal.

Pakistan

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, in November 2011 on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit in Maldives and had extensive exchange of views on the entire gamut of India-Pakistan bilateral relations. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan visited India from 26-28 July, 2011 and held discussions with the External Affairs Minister in New Delhi on 27 July, 2011. The Ministerial-level talks were preceded by a meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan on July 26, 2011. The Ministers reviewed the status of bilateral relations, expressed satisfaction on the holding of various secretary level meetings and affirmed the importance of carrying forward the dialogue process with a view to resolving peacefully all outstanding issues through constructive and result oriented engagement. The Ministers agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations. Both sides agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism, including among relevant departments as well as agencies to bring those responsible for terror crimes to justice. The Ministers attached importance to promoting peace and security, including Confidence Building Measures, such as Cross-LoC trade and travel facilitation for Jammu & Kashmir. The Ministers agreed to the continuation of the dialogue process and it was decided that the Secretaries level talks would be completed before Foreign Ministers meet again in Islamabad in the first half of 2012 to review progress in the dialogue process.

Between March-June 2011, the first round of negotiations under the resumed dialogue was completed with meetings held at the level of Home/Interior Secretaries on Counter-terrorism (including progress in the Mumbai trial) and Humanitarian issues; at the level of Commerce Secretaries on economic issues; between Water Resources' Secretaries on Tulbul Navigation Project; between the Surveyor-General/Additional Secretary on Sir Creek; between the Defence Secretaries on Siachen; and between the Foreign

Secretaries on peace and security, including Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), Jammu & Kashmir, and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges. The second round of the resumed dialogue commenced with the meeting between the Commerce Secretaries in India on 14-15 November, 2011. The dates of other Secretary-level talks would be decided through diplomatic channels.

Pursuant to the agreement between the two Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on 27 July, 2011, the Fifth Round of Expert Level Talks on Conventional Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and the Sixth Round of Expert Level Talks on Nuclear CBMs between India and Pakistan were held in Islamabad from 26-27, December, 2011. The fifth meeting of India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners was held in India from 23-27 January, 2012.

A Pakistani parliamentary delegation led by the National Assembly Speaker, Ms Fehmida Mirza, visited India in July 2011 to participate in the Fifth Summit Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians. The Commerce Minister of Pakistan, Mr Makhdoom Amin Fahim, visited India at the invitation of the Commerce and Industry Minister from 26 September-3 October, 2011. The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources of Pakistan, Dr Asim Hussain, visited India on January 25, 2012.

The Commerce, Industry and Textile Minister, Shri Anand Sharma, visited Pakistan from 13-16 February, 2012, for bilateral talks and SAFTA Ministerial Council Meeting. The Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt Meira Kumar, along with a delegation of Members of Parliament, visited Pakistan from 21-25 February 2012, at the invitation of her Pakistani counterpart, Dr Fehmida Mirza.

Regarding the ongoing trial and investigation in Pakistan of the Mumbai terrorist attacks much more needs to be done by Pakistan for its speedy and meaningful conclusion. The Government has reiterated at the highest level that Pakistan must fulfil its stated commitment to bring all perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks to justice and unravel the larger conspiracy behind these attacks. In this context, Pakistan has proposed to send a Judicial Commission to India to take forward the trial relating to the Mumbai attacks; the dates for its visit will be finalised through diplomatic channels. The Government has constantly emphasised 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 also be a reflection of Pakistan's commitment to combat terrorism comprehensively.

The Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, during their meeting Addu Atoll, Addu Atoll, Maldives, on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit in November 2011, agreed that

people are at the heart of the relationship between two countries and that people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges should be promoted. In this context, they also decided that the liberalised visa regime, which has been negotiated, should be put in place at the earliest.

Pakistan was severely affected by the massive floods that caused widespread damage to life and property. As a gesture of solidarity with the victims of the floods in Pakistan for the second consecutive year, the Government concurred with World Food Programme's proposal to transfer 161 tonnes of high energy biscuits bought by WFP out of the amount paid by India for flood relief in 2010 to the victims of the 2011 floods in Sindh.

The Federal Cabinet of Pakistan has mandated its Commerce Ministry for working towards complete normalisation of trade relations with India. The move to full normalisation will be sequenced; in the first stage, Pakistan will make the transition from current 'Positive List' to a 'Negative List' of imports from India by February 2012. In the second stage, the Negative List will be phased out and it is expected that this would be completed before end of 2012. Both sides have agreed to move towards enhancing preferential trading arrangements under SAFTA. On the issue of non tariff barriers, during the visit of the Commerce Minister of Pakistan in September 2011 a special panel discussion "Nuts and bolts of trade facilitation" was organized by FICCI. Detailed responses were provided by concerned Indian officials on issues raised by Pakistan. It has been agreed that the 'Joint Working Group on Economic and Commercial Cooperation and Trade Promotion' would continue to interact to clearly address identified sector-specific barriers to trade. An Indian delegation consisting of officials from Indian Regulatory Authorities visited Pakistan from 26-27 January 2012 to brief Pakistani exporters about Indian trade regulations, standards and labelling requirements. The two sides have decided that new initiatives on trade in electricity and petroleum products, and cooperation in imports of Bt cotton seed and in the IT sector would be further discussed and taken forward. During the visit of the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles to Pakistan from 13th to 16th February 2012, three agreements i.e., Customs Cooperation Agreement, Mutual Recognition Agreement and Redressal of Trade Grievances Agreement were initialed.

Sri Lanka

India-Sri Lanka relations over the last year were marked by close contacts at the highest political levels, growing trade and investment, cooperation in the fields of development,



The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, with Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, in New Delhi on 27 July, 2011.



The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, at the bilateral meeting, on the sidelines of the 17th SAARC Summit, at Addu Atoll in the Maldives on November 10, 2011.

education, culture and defence as well as a broad understanding on major issues of international interest.

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri S M Krishna, visited Sri Lanka from 16-19 January, 2012. During his visit, he called on the President, Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, and the Prime Minister, Mr D M Jayaratne, and held meetings with his counterpart, the Minister of External Affairs, Prof G L Peiris, to review the comprehensive agenda of the bilateral relationship. He also had meetings with the Leader of the Opposition in the Sri Lankan Parliament, Mr Ranil Wickremasinghe, representatives of the Tamil National Alliance and other Sri Lankan parties. Shri Krishna visited Kilinochchi and Jaffna in Northern Sri Lanka in connection with Government of India-assisted projects in the health, education and housing sectors. He handed over the first lot of housing units constructed under India's assistance to the beneficiaries at Ariyalai, Jaffna. He also visited Galle in southern Sri Lanka, where he inaugurated a segment of the Southern Railway Project being implemented under the Line of Credit extended by India.

Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, visited Sri Lanka from 20-24 January, 2012, to launch the 'National Plan for a Trilingual Sri Lanka' on the invitation of the President of Sri Lanka.

The Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt Meira Kumar, visited Sri Lanka from 11-16 March, 2011, to participate as the Guest of Honour in the Third CPA Asia Regional Conference. The Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament, Mr Chamal Rajapaksa, led a Parliamentary delegation to India from 1-4 August, 2011, at the invitation of the Lok Sabha Speaker. He also took part in the Fifth Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians from 9-12 July, 2011. The then Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, visited Sri Lanka from 4-7 April, 2011, to participate in the 4th South Asian Conference on Sanitation. The Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka, Prof G L Peiris, visited India from 15-17 May, 2011. The Lankan Minister of Health, Mr Maithripala Sirisena, visited India from 31 July to 3 August, 2011 while the Minister of Environment, Mr Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, visited India on 24-25 May, 2011.

The Foreign Secretary visited Sri Lanka in July 2011 and in October 2011. The fourth meeting of the Joint Working Group on Fisheries was held in Colombo from 13-14 January, 2012. Both sides reiterated the highest priority accorded by their respective Governments to the well-being, safety and security of fishermen from the two countries.

The visits at various levels have helped to exchange views on various issues of mutual interest. The need for national

reconciliation through a political settlement of the ethnic issue has been reiterated by India at the highest levels. India's consistent position is in favour of a negotiated political settlement, which is acceptable to all communities within the framework of a united Sri Lanka and which is consistent with democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights. The Government of Sri Lanka has conveyed its assurance that political proposals building on the 13th Amendment to the Constitution will be discussed with the Tamil leadership.

India also consistently advocated the need for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to be resettled in their original habitations as early as possible. In order to assist in this process, India has committed sufficient resources in the areas of housing, agriculture, health, education, culture, etc., in northern Sri Lanka. The pilot phase of the project for 1,000 houses covering all the five districts of the Northern Province is in an advanced stage of completion. The first lot of houses was handed over to beneficiaries during the visit of the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, in Jaffna on 18 January, 2012. An MoU with the Government of Sri Lanka on the modalities of implementation of the next phase of the project for remaining 49,000 houses was also signed during this visit. This phase, which is expected to be launched soon, will cover the Northern, Eastern, Central and Uva Provinces of Sri Lanka.

Since agriculture is the primary means of livelihood in the areas affected by the conflict, the Government of India has focused its attention on supporting this sector with a view to jumpstart the revival of the local economy through a wide-ranging programme for agricultural renewal. The proposals that were taken up for urgent implementation include supply of seeds and supply of tractors and other machinery to farmer organisations and to agrarian service centres in the Northern Province. To cater to the transportation needs of persons being resettled and to aid revival of their livelihoods, India has supplied 10,000 bicycles to returnees in the Northern Province.

Sri Lanka is one of the major recipients of development credit extended by the Government of India. A Line of Credit of US\$ 167.4 million for the repair and upgradation of the tsunami-damaged Colombo-Matara rail link is already operational. The upgraded coastal railway track between Galle-Matara was inaugurated on 16 February, 2011. During his visit to Sri Lanka in January 2012, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri S M Krishna, handed over the Galle-Hikkeduwala segment. An agreement for a Line of Credit of US\$ 382.37 million for track laying on the Pallai-Kankesanthurai railway line, setting up of signalling and telecommunications systems for the northern railway line and other projects as may be mutually agreed between the two Governments was signed during the visit of the External Affairs Minister in January 2012.

India is also involved in projects for the renovation of the Kankesanthurai Harbour, construction of a Cultural Centre in Jaffna, interconnection of electricity grids between the two countries, construction of a 150-bed hospital in Dickoya and setting up a coal power plant in Sampur as a joint venture between the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB). Work on wreckage removal for rehabilitation of the Kankesanthurai Harbour was completed in January 2012.

India continues to assist a large number of smaller development projects in areas like education, health, transport connectivity, small and medium enterprise development and training in many parts of the country through its grant funding. In this context, projects for providing fishing equipment to cooperatives in the East, supply of equipment to Jaffna Teaching Hospital, renovation of Duraippah Stadium, reactivation of Achuvely Industrial Zone, assistance in repair of schools in Northern Province, supply of fishing equipment to old IDPs in Mannar district and supply of equipment to Kilinochchi and Mulaattivu General Hospitals have already been completed or are in various stages of implementation.

Bilateral economic and commercial ties continued to expand during the year. India is now Sri Lanka's largest trading

partner in South Asia. Last year, India emerged as the largest source country as far as Foreign Direct Investment and tourist arrivals were concerned. Bilateral trade in the first 11 months (January-November 2011) amounting to US\$ 4.46 billion, up 71.94 per cent increase over the corresponding period of the previous year.

Sri Lanka has long been a priority destination for direct investments and India is today among the four largest investors in Sri Lanka, with cumulative investments over US\$ 600 million.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 7 January, 2011, between India and Sri Lanka on Passenger Transportation by Sea. The MoU envisages putting in place ferry services to Tuticorin, Talaimannar and Rameswaram from Colombo. Resumption of these services signals an important step in the restoration of the traditional links between the two countries. The ferry service between Colombo and Tuticorin resumed operations on 13 June, 2011.

Bilateral cooperation in the field of education was enhanced with the announcement of a nearly three-fold increase in scholarship support to Sri Lankan students during the visit of the Minister of External Affairs, Mr S M Krishna, in January 2012. The expanded scholarship programme will also provide opportunities for higher research.



Australia

India's relations with Australia continued to expand significantly in 2011-12. The Australian Labor Party (ALP) voted at its National Conference on 4 December, 2011, to reverse its four-decade-old policy of selling uranium only to NPT signatories and endorsed the Prime Minister, Ms Julia Gillard's decision to seek a change in the Party policy on the issue, paving the way for negotiations for a bilateral agreement.

Australia was India's eighth biggest trading partner in the year under review. Trade in goods and services between India and Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics) amounted to A\$ 21.01 billion (US\$ 21.22 billion) in 2010-11. India's exports to Australia were A\$ 2.77 billion (US\$ 2.79 billion) while India's imports from Australia were A\$ 18.24 billion (US\$ 18.42 billion). India ranked fourth among Australia's export destinations and was its fifth largest trade partner.

The 13th Session of India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission (May 2011) was held in Canberra between the Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma, and the Australian Trade Minister, Dr Craig Emerson. It was agreed to launch negotiations on the India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and a CEO Forum, with Shri Navin Jindal as co-Chair on the Indian side and Mr Lindsay Fox as co-Chair on the Australian side. Two rounds of negotiations have already been held on the CECA.

The External Affairs Minister visited Perth (October 2011) for the pre-CHOGM Foreign Ministers meeting and opened the Consulate General of India in Perth, the second Consulate to be opened in Australia in the past five years. The Vice-President, Shri M Hamid Ansari, visited Perth for CHOGM (October 2011).

The then Australian Foreign Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd, visited Bengaluru for the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers meeting in November 2011.

The students' issue, which has dogged bilateral relationship over the past two years, settled down during the year with the Australian authorities taking measures to deal with the situation, increased policing and surveillance, conducting an extensive review of the international education system and overhauling the migration system and tightening student visa regulations.

The 3rd Annual India-Australia Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation took place in New Delhi between the Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Kapil Sibal, and the Australian Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Jobs, Mr Christopher Evans. The inaugural meeting of the Australia-India Education Council-AIEC also took place in August 2011.

The Australian Minister of Defence, Mr Stephen Smith, visited India in December 2011 and held discussions with the Indian Defence Minister on how to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, especially in the maritime sphere. The two sides decided to convene a Track 1.5 Defence Strategic Dialogue in 2012.

A Track 1.5 Dialogue with Australia, coordinated by the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs with the Lowy Institute, Sydney, one of Australia's eminent think-tanks, took place in September 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Ms Vijaya Latha Reddy, Deputy National Security Advisor.

An Energy Security Dialogue between India-Australia was held in Canberra in May 2011 at the Joint Secretary level. Similarly, an India-Australia Dialogue on East Asia and the Pacific at the Joint Secretary level was held in New Delhi in November 2011.

During the year, meetings of the following Joint Working Groups (JWG) were held:

- India Australia JWG on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi (April 2011);
- India Australia JWG on Education and Training in Canberra (April 2011);
- India Australia JWG on Energy and Minerals in Sydney (May 2011); and
- India Australia JWG on Consular, Passport and Visa matters in New Delhi (June 2011).

Other high-level visits from India and Australia, which took place during the year, are as follows:

From India: Shri P K Misra, Secretary, Ministry of Steel (April 2011); Dr A Didar Singh, Secretary, MOIA (May 2011); Shri S Vijay Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Mines (May 2011); Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India (May 2011); Dr D. Subbarao, Governor, Reserve Bank of India (June 2011); Shri Suresh K Goel, Director General,

ICCR (July 2011); Ambassador Lalit Mansingh, former Foreign Secretary (August 2011); Shri Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Finance (September 2011); Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture (October 2011); and Dr T Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology (November 2011).

From Australia: Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr (July 2011); Minister for Resources and Energy and Tourism, Mr Martin Ferguson (November 2011); Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation, Mr Bill Shorten (December 2011); and Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for Senior Officials Meeting and Strategic Dialogue, Mr Dennis Richardson (December 2011).

Brunei Darussalam

Close and cordial ties with Brunei were consolidated during the year through the exchange of visits and meetings of bilateral institutional mechanisms between the two countries.

Shri E Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Brunei from 24-26 September, 2011. He met the Sultan of Brunei and as also with Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms Hajah Masna, and the Minister of Education and Minister of Communications. Shri R P N Singh, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, led a five-member Indian delegation to the 29th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) from 19-21 September 2011. He held a bilateral meeting with his Bruneian counterpart on the sidelines. Brunei participated in the India-ASEAN Business Fair from 2-6 March, 2011, in New Delhi. Mr Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam, attended the Special India-ASEAN Trade Ministers' Meet held concurrently. An Indian IT expert was seconded to Brunei to work on competitive policies in the country's telecom sector. Bilateral arrangements for putting in place India's FTA with ASEAN were completed with Brunei during the year.

INS Ranvir and INS Jyoti visited Brunei from 10-13 May, 2011, on a goodwill visit. Indian Coast Guard ship, Sagar visited Brunei from 27-30 June, 2011, to interact with Maritime Law Enforcement Agency of Brunei while INS Airavat visited from 4-9 July, 2011, to participate in the first-ever Brunei International Fleet Review to mark the 50th anniversary of Royal Brunei Armed Forces. Lt Gen Prakash Menon, Military Adviser to NSCS, attended the 3rd Brunei International Defence Exhibition and Conference 2011 (BRIDEX 2011) held from 6-9 July, 2011.

The year was capped by holding the Sixth Joint Committee Meeting (Foreign Office Consultations) in Brunei on 3

December, 2011, after a gap of six years. Fresh areas of bilateral cooperation, apart from arrangements for cooperation when Brunei takes over as Coordinator for India at ASEAN, in July 2012, as well as events for the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit, were discussed during the meeting.

Cambodia

Bilateral relations between India and Cambodia remained cordial and friendly. Both countries demonstrated keenness to further expand and deepen their bilateral relationship through exchange of high-level political and business delegations. Human resource development and capacity building activities continued to be focus of bilateral cooperation. Currently, Cambodia is the country coordinator for India in ASEAN.

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, had a bilateral meeting with the Cambodian Prime Minister, Mr Hun Sen, on 18 November, 2011, on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN and EAS Summits in Bali (Indonesia). The first round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Cambodia was held on 29 November, 2011, at Phnom Penh. The meeting was co-Chaired by Mr Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), and Mr Long Visalo, Secretary of State in the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Dr Karan Singh, Member of Parliament and President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), visited Cambodia from 2-5 July, 2011, on the invitation of Mr Min Khin, Cambodian Minister of Cults and Religions. An MoU was signed between ICCR and Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University for the establishment of a Chair of Buddhist and Sanskrit Studies for a four-year period beginning the 2011 academic session. Shri Ninong Ering, MP, visited Cambodia in September 2011 to attend the 32nd session of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA-32) Summit.

Under defence cooperation, a seven-member Indian Army Engineers' Team conducted advanced de-mining training capsule for a group of 30 officers and servicemen of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in September 2011. The Indian Naval Ship, INS Airavat, visited Cambodia (Sihanoukville Port) on a goodwill visit from 12-16 July, 2011.

Total bilateral trade during the year 2010-11 was US\$ 71.92 million, with Indian exports standing at US\$ 63.91 million and imports at US\$ 8.01 million. To explore trade and investment opportunities, and enhance people-to-people contacts, a number of Indian business and trade promotion, tourism and cultural delegations visited Cambodia. They included a Ministry of Tourism-led delegation, comprising

of officials from the Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (ICRTC) and Indian tour operators in May 2011. The delegation held an 'Incredible India' Road Show in Phnom Penh and had a luncheon meeting with the Cambodian Tourism Minister, Dr Thong Khon, in Siem Reap. An 11-member cultural delegation from Cambodia visited India in November 2011 to participate in the Buddhist Arts and Culture Festival held in Delhi.

Bilateral developmental cooperation has been progressing satisfactorily on projects, such as the construction of a transmission line under the Government of India's (GOI) concessional LoCs of US\$ 30 million, the on-going restoration work of Ta Prohm Temple undertaken by ASI under GOI's grants-in-aid scheme, the construction of the 'MGC Asian Traditional Textiles Museum' at Siem Reap, with a GOI grant of US\$ 1.77 million under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) initiative, and the project for development of additional infrastructure and enhanced capacity for the Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health with US\$ 1 million financial assistance under the IBSA Trust Fund. In addition, construction has begun on the Stung Tasal Water Development Project under GOI lines of credit of US\$ 30 million. An MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Cambodian Ministry of Rural Development concerning supply and installation of 1,500 hand pumps in two provinces of Cambodia under GoI grants-in-aid was signed in September 2011. A multi-disciplinary delegation coordinated by TCIL visited Cambodia in July 2011 to undertake a feasibility study for establishing an ASEAN e-network project for tele-education and tele-medicine under the IAI programme funded by India. As for cooperation in human resource development, every year Cambodia has been allocated 90 training slots under ITEC and 15 educational scholarships. Also, 924 Cambodian nationals have been trained in various disciplines since 1981.

A grant of US\$ 13,700 amounting to 10 per cent of the total construction cost of a separate building for Cambodia-India Centre for English Language Training was provided in August. Funds were provided to WAPCOS Ltd for installation of 1,500 hand pumps in Cambodia in December, 2011.

The first meeting of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG), in which where one eminent person from each of the 10 ASEAN countries and four from India took part was held in Phnom Penh on 3 August, 2011, to exchange experience and explore ways to develop economic and trade cooperation. The second meeting of AIEPG was held in New Delhi on 21 October, 2011. Cambodia's Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary of State in the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, co-Chaired the AIEPG meetings along with Ambassador Shyam Saran.

The Foreign Minister of Cambodia visited India in February 2012 for the 'Delhi Dialogue IV'.

Fiji

India's traditional and friendly relations with Fiji were further strengthened during the year with the visit of the Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur, in September 2011. She called on the President, Mr Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, the Prime Minister, Commodore J V Bainimarama, and the Acting Foreign Minister and Education Minister, Mr Filip Bole, during her visit. She announced a contribution of US\$ 200,000 for the renovation and upgradation of facilities at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva; invited a delegation from Fiji to visit India to study products being made from coconut, and offered training to officials from Fiji at the Election Commission of India to familiarise them with the election process in India and gifted electronic voting machines to Fiji. Financial assistance of US\$ 200,000 was provided to Fiji's Health Ministry in January, 2011, for renovation and upgradation of facilities to conduct surgeries at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva.

The Fijian Minister for Works, Transport and Utilities, Mr Timoci Natuva, visited India for medical treatment in August.

In October, India and Fiji concluded the negotiations on the text of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement.

CAPEXIL took an 11-member delegation representing the Indian books, publications and printing industry to Suva for a Buyer-Seller Meet in July 2011. Sahayadri Hospital of Pune reached an agreement with the Ministry of Health for provision of tertiary care and also provided training to medical staff.

A year-long festival to mark 40 years of the Indian Cultural Centre in Fiji was launched on August 14, with the performance by an Odissi dance group. Following this, a Ramleela/Raasleela group 'Charkula', visited Fiji in November and performed in Suva, Lautoka, Suva, Nasauri, Labasa, Nadi and Ba. Their performances were widely viewed.

The first regional Pacific Heads of Missions meeting was held in Suva in July.

Fiji utilised all the slots (25) offered for various training programmes under the ITEC programme and seven out of the 10 slots under TCS Colombo Plan during the year.

Indonesia

The India-Indonesia strategic partnership, based on the solid foundation of age-old cultural and commercial linkages, was further strengthened in 2011. The year was marked by high-

level exchanges and further enhancement in trade, investment, energy, defence, space, tourism and cultural linkages. Both countries celebrated six decades of establishment of diplomatic relations in 2011.

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, visited Bali from 17-19 November, 2011 to attend the 9th India-ASEAN Summit and the 6th East Asia Summit. He met the President of Indonesia, Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, on the sidelines of the Summits.

A number of Ministerial-level visits took place in 2011. Shri R P N Singh, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, visited Indonesia from 3-6 April, 2011, to study the kerosene to LPG conversion programme under the bilateral MoU on cooperation in oil and gas. The Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Ajay Maken, visited Indonesia from 3-7 May, 2011 to discuss exchanges on Cooperation in Youth Affairs and Sports. The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, attended the 16th Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Bali from 25-27 May, 2011. The Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Dr D Purandeswari, visited Bali from 16-19 July, 2011 to attend the first EAS Education Ministers' Meeting and held bilateral discussions with the Indonesian Minister of National Education. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, visited Bali to attend the India-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, the East Asia Summit Ministerial Consultations and the ARF Ministerial meeting from 21-23 July, 2011. The Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister, Shri Anand Sharma, visited Manado, Indonesia, to attend the EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting on 12-13 August, 2011. He again visited Jakarta to attend the first India-Indonesia Biennial Trade Ministers' Forum on 3-4 October, 2011. The Agriculture Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar, visited Jakarta to attend the India-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture on 8-9 October, 2011. Regular Parliamentary exchanges between the two countries also continued during the year.

The second meeting of the Joint Committee on Space was held in New Delhi in June. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Education was held in New Delhi in September. The Third Joint Working Group meeting on Tourism took place in Surabaya, Indonesia, in September. The Joint Working Group on Oil and Gas met in New Delhi in October. The Joint Working Group on Coal met in New Delhi in November. The second India-Indonesia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in Semarang, Indonesia, on 13-14 December.

Indonesia is India's second largest trading partner in the ASEAN. Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 14.8 billion in 2010-

11 (US\$ 11.7 billion in 2009-10). Indian exports to Indonesia stood at US\$ 5.7 billion and imports stood at US\$ 9.1 billion. India has substantial investments in Indonesia in the textiles, steel, automotive, banking and resources sectors. India and Indonesia held two rounds of pre-negotiation meetings related to the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in 2011.

Defence cooperation continued with regular defence exchanges, including visits of delegations, ship visits and joint coordinated patrols. INS Kesari participated in the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (Direx) held at Manado from 14-18 March, 2011. The inaugural Army-to-Army talks were conducted in Jakarta on 25-29 April, 2011. Three Indian Navy warships ~ INS Ranvijay, INS Ranvir and INS Jyoti ~ visited Jakarta on 17-20 May, 2011.

The Government of India built and handed over an IT Laboratory at the Indonesian Armed Forces Military Academy to the Indonesian side in March. The India-Indonesia Vocational Training Centre for Construction Sector (VTCCS) in Banda Aceh, built with Indian assistance worth US\$ 1.2 million, was inaugurated in July 2011.

We have active cultural exchanges between the two countries. As part of the events to commemorate six decades of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Indonesia, a collaborative dance drama 'Sri Kandi' was staged on 17 May with Javanese dance group of Didik Nini Thowok of Yogyakarta, with three Kathak dancers and two Chhau dancers from India. A joint India-Indonesia Ramayana ballet performance was held at the Prambanan Temple Complex in Jogjakarta on 9 November.

East Timor

India continued to enjoy warm relations with East Timor in 2011 and supported East Timor's developmental efforts towards nation-building. India provided US\$ 100,000 to East Timor in 2011 for the purchase of equipment and material for socio-economic development of the country. India offered five ITEC slots and ten GCSS scholarships to East Timor in 2011. The Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme offered by India was accepted by the East Timor Government in 2011.

Lao PDR

Relations with Lao PDR continued to grow satisfactorily. Laos continued to look at India as a source of assistance for its IT sector, human resource development and capacity building programmes.

Shri Dhruv Vijai Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, visited Laos from April 22-25, 2011, as part of

events commemorating the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Lao PDR. Along with Prof Bountiem Phissamay, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, President of the National Authority for Science and Technology and President of the Lao-India Friendship Association, Shri Singh visited the Government of India-aided Nam Song hydropower project. A TCIL coordinated delegation visited on July 28-30, 2011, to discuss the implementation of the ASEAN e-network project for CLMV countries for establishing tele-medicine and tele-education centres.

An Indian Army delegation visited Lao PDR from November 14-16, 2011, to discuss and review all aspects related to the Indian training team deployed in Kaysone Phomvihane Academy for National Defence, Vientiane. A delegation from Tata Steel met Thongmy Phomvisay, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Planning and Investment, on 22 April, 2011, to discuss the company's mining proposals.

A Lao delegation, including Dr Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, and Mr Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Chairman of the Lao National Tourism Administration, visited India to attend the Laos-North-East India Business Forum held at Guwahati on July 2, 2011. Another Lao delegation led by Dr Kikeo Chanthaboury, Permanent Secretary in the Lao Ministry of Planning and Investment, attended the second Lao-North-East India Business Forum held on November 29, 2011, in Guwahati and Kohima.

Malaysia

Bilateral relations with Malaysia, marked by traditional friendship and cordiality, were further strengthened during the year in all major areas following the back-to-back visits by our Prime Ministers.

From India, the External Affairs Minister visited Malaysia and co-Chaired the Fifth Joint Commission meeting held in Kuala Lumpur in May 2011. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, visited Malaysia in September 2011 to attend the first International Green Tech and Eco Products Exhibition and Conference. Smt. Panabaaka Lakshmi, Minister of State for Textiles, visited Malaysia in November 2011 to participate in the India-Malaysia Trade and Investment Forum and to attend the INTExPO (Indian Textile Exhibition). From Malaysia's side, Mr Richard Riot Jaem, Deputy Foreign Minister, participated in the Council of Ministers'(CoM) meeting of the IOR-ARC in Bangalore from 11-16 November, 2011, while Dato' Haji Ahmad Husni bin Mohamad Hanadziah, Minister of Finance II, participated in the Eminent Persons' Forum in New Delhi on 16-17 October, 2011. The Malaysian Ministers of International Trade and Industry, Health, Works and

Science, Technology and Innovation also visited India in the first half of 2011.

In the area of defence cooperation, the year 2011 witnessed multiple port calls to Malaysia by Indian Navy and Coast Guard ships. The Staff talks were conducted successfully between the three Services. There was participation of delegations from both sides in exhibitions hosted by respective countries this year, including LIMA 2011 in Malaysia.

Economic and commercial relations are emerging as the mainstay of the bilateral relationship between India and Malaysia, and the bilateral economic engagement is expected to get a further fillip with the coming into force of the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) on 1 July, 2011. The 3rd meeting of the India-Malaysia CEOs Forum was held in Kuala Lumpur in November 2011.

The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Higher Education, co-Chaired by Ms Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, was held in Kuala Lumpur on 30 September, 2011. The first meetings of the Joint Working Group on Information and Communication Technology Talent Development Consultative Committee (JITDC) and JWG Meeting on IT and Services were held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2011. The 2nd meeting of the Joint Committee on Science and Technology was held in Kuala Lumpur in July 2011 and was co-Chaired by Dr T Ramasami, Secretary, DS&T. An MoU was signed between the Malaysian Innovation Foundation (YIM) and the National Innovation Foundation of India (NIF) after the meeting.

New Zealand

The India-New Zealand bilateral relationship continued to be friendly and supportive. Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, visited New Zealand on 8-10 May, 2011, at the invitation of Mr Tim Groser, New Zealand Minister of Trade. During the visit, the two Ministers jointly addressed the Joint Business Council (JBC) at Auckland on May 9; visited the Fonterra Cooperative Dairy Plant and the SAIL Dairy Laboratory at Te Rapa on May 9; and called on the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr John Key, on May 10.

A 16-member National Defence College delegation visited New Zealand on 22-27 May 2011 as part of a foreign country study tour.

Dr Wayne Mapp, Minister of Defence and Science and Innovation, visited India on April 27-28, 2011. During the visit, Dr Mapp held discussions with the Minister of Defence, Shri A K Antony, and the Minister of Science and Technology, Shri P K Bansal.



The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. John Key, in New Delhi on 28 June, 2011.



The Chief Guest of Republic Day, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra and the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, on the 63rd Republic Day celebrations, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on January 26, 2012.

The Prime Minister, Mr John Key, accompanied by his wife, Bronagh Key, paid a State Visit to India from June 26-30, 2011. Mr Tim Groser, Trade Minister, Mr Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Member of Parliament, senior officials and a large business and media contingent accompanied the Prime Minister. Mr Key visited the Taj Mahal on 27 June and on 28 June, he called on the President and the Vice-President. The New Zealand Prime Minister also held delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and met the External Affairs Minister, the Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance and the Leader of Opposition. Mr Key also addressed a business luncheon jointly organised by industry associations CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM.

An Agreement on Audio-visual Cooperation and a Protocol for Cooperation on Science and Innovation were signed during the visit. The New Zealand Prime Minister also attended a banquet hosted by the Indian Prime Minister. On June 29, he visited Mumbai where he witnessed the shooting of a Bollywood film, attended a business lunch for tourism operators, visited the Naval dockyard to see the indigenously built Fast Attack Craft equipped with water jet propulsion units made in Hamilton, New Zealand, called on the Governor and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and attended a banquet hosted by the Governor.

The 3rd India-New Zealand Economic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 1 November, 2011. The 7th Round of Negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and New Zealand was held in Wellington from 23-27 January 2012

Papua New Guinea

India and Papua New Guinea enjoy warm relations. The Indian Council for Research and Development in Community Education (ICRDCE), Chennai, has so far imparted training to 75 trainers from community colleges in Papua New Guinea to establish vocational training colleges for underprivileged sections/dropouts from regular schooling.

Some Indian companies have secured sub-contracts in mega gas projects in Papua New Guinea. Participation in other projects was also under consideration.

Under the ongoing ITEC programme, the training slots for Papua New Guinea were increased from 25 to 30 for the year 2011-12. Similarly, another four training slots were allotted under TCS of the Colombo Plan

In January 2012, a grant-in-aid was provided to the Papua New Guinea Government for procurement of one portable sawmill and accessories for timber management in its forests.

The Philippines

The relations between India and the Philippines remain warm and cordial, and are characterised by the convergence of views on major international issues. This was signified by the fact that one of the first visits undertaken by the Philippines Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Albert del Rosario, was to India in March 2011, for the First Ministerial-level Meeting of the Joint Commission on Business Cooperation (JCBC). The Philippines supported the G4 Short Resolution on UNSC reforms and India's candidature for various UN bodies.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, had a meeting with Mr Gregory L Domingo, Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, of the Philippines, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Economic Minister's Conference in Indonesia in August, 2011 and discussed matters of mutual interest, including ongoing negotiations over India-ASEAN FTA in Services and Investment.

Mr Cesar V Purisima, Secretary, Department of Finance, of the Philippines, visited India from 16-17 October, 2011, to participate in the Eminent Persons' Forum in New Delhi. He also met his Indian counterpart, Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to discuss bilateral issues of common interest.

A delegation led by Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Urban Development, visited Manila to participate in the Urban Policy Roundtable and Asian Urban Forum from 12-13 November, 2011. On the sidelines of the Forum, he met Mr Haruhiko Kuroda, President of ADB, and Mr Jesse M Robredo, Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government of the Philippines.

During the year, Indian Naval and Coast Guard ships and a National Defence College delegation visited the Philippines.

With the notification by both India and the Philippines on reduction of tariff duties on imports and exports in a staggered manner with effect from 1 June, 2011, both countries operationalised the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on Trade in Goods signed in Bangkok on 13 August, 2009. According to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade figures, India's bilateral trade for 2010-11 with the Philippines stood at US\$ 1312.13 million. India's exports were worth US\$ 882.74 million, a growth of 17.89 per cent over the previous year while imports were US\$ 429.39 million. During the year, Jet Airways obtained permission to operate a direct flight between Mumbai and Manila.

Under ITEC and Colombo Plan Programmes for 2011-12, the Philippines was allocated 35 and 25 slots, respectively. The 6th Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats conducted by the Foreign Service Institute in November, 2011 was

attended by three Philippines diplomats. Eight students visited India in September 2011 as part of the familiarisation programme for ASEAN youth. A seven-member Odissi dance group of Padamshri Ranjana Gauhar visited the Philippines from 16-19 July, 2011, and gave two cultural performances.

Singapore

India-Singapore bilateral relations are characterised by intensive interaction encompassing all aspects of bilateral relations. Singapore is India's largest trading partner among ASEAN countries and it is a major source of FDI inflows into India. Bilateral trade has expanded significantly since the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in 2005 and it amounted to US\$ 17.44 billion in 2010-11. Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India from Singapore amounted to US\$ 14.675 billion during the period April 2000 to July 2011, making it the second largest investor in India, accounting for 10 per cent of total FDI.

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, paid an official visit to Singapore from 19-20 November, 2011. He called on the President, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, and held talks with his counterpart, Mr Lee Hsien Loong. Both leaders affirmed their strong bilateral ties and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in fields such as trade, investment, skills development, education and infrastructure development. The Prime Minister also met the former Prime Ministers of Singapore, Mr Lee Kuan Yew and Mr Goh Chok Tong. The Prime Minister and Mr Goh Chok Tong unveiled a 'marker and bust' of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at the Asian Civilisation Museum Greens. The marker commemorates Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's contribution to India as well as to India-Singapore relations. On 5 May, 2011, as part of the celebrations to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri S M Krishna, presented a bust of the Nobel Laureate to the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) and the Indian Heritage Centre, Singapore. Preceding the Prime Minister's visit, two MoUs were signed between the two countries. These were on an Executive Programme on cooperation in the field of arts, heritage, archives and library for the period 2011-14 between the Ministry of Culture and Singapore's Ministry of Information, Communication and Arts and on Cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration between the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Singapore's Public Service Division.

The Chief Minister of Delhi, Smt Sheila Dikshit, led a Delhi Government delegation to study the skills development

training institutes in Singapore from 3-5 October, 2011. Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister for Water Resources, attended the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) 2011, held from 4-8 July, 2011. Smt Sushma Swaraj, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, visited Singapore from 13-16 September, 2011 to deliver a public lecture titled 'Building Bridges for Peace and Regional Cooperation: India and its East Asian neighbours' at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS). The Minister of Urban Development, Shri Kamal Nath, visited Singapore from 27-29 April, 2011 as the Chief Guest at the National Convention of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI). Shri Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State (Finance and Banking), visited Singapore from 9-12 June, 2011, to participate in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Singapore branch of the Indian Overseas Bank. Shri Nawang Rigzin Jora, Minister for Tourism, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, participated in a roadshow on 8 July, 2011, that sought to promote tourism in the state.

From the Singapore side, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Masagos Zulkifli, led a delegation to the 11th Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation Council of Ministers Meeting from 14-15 November, 2011.

The Indian High Commission in Singapore organised a number of events during the year to further economic links and FDI inflows from Singapore, especially in the infrastructure sector, including a Roundtable on the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) on 14 July, 2011, which was attended by the Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP); a seminar on disinvestment on 26 April, 2011, attended by Prof Kaushik Basu, Chief Economic Advisor and Secretary, Department of Disinvestment; and an interaction with Singapore-based financial institutions, which was attended by the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, from 20-21 October, 2011.

The Second Protocol amending the India-Singapore Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), providing for more effective exchange of information, was signed in New Delhi on 24 June, 2011, and it came into effect from 1 September, 2011.

India-Singapore defence cooperation is marked by robust interactions, which include policy dialogues, joint exercises and training activities. Shri Pallam Raju, Minister of State for Defence, led the Indian delegation to the 10th Shangri-La Dialogue from 2-5 June, 2011, and addressed the plenary session on 'New Military Doctrines and Capabilities in Asia'. The Seventh India-Singapore Defence Technology Steering Committee (IS-DTSC) Meeting between India's Defence

Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) was held from 11-14 October, 2011, in New Delhi. A 17-member National Defence College (NDC) team visited Singapore from 2-6 October, 2011. The Vice Chief of Naval Staff led the Indian Navy delegation for IMDEX (International Maritime Defence Exhibition & Conference) Asia 2011 held from 18-20 May, 2011. Two Indian Naval ships, INS Delhi and INS Kirch, participated in the event. Three ships from the Training Squadron of the Indian Navy, INS Tir, INS Krishna and ICGS Veera, visited Singapore from 29 August-1 September, 2011.

Thailand

A regular exchange of high-level visits sustained the momentum in the process of further strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Thailand. The Thai Prime Minister, Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, visited India as the Chief Guest on the Republic Day celebrations in January 2012. She was accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister, six ministers and a large business delegation. Six Pacts were signed during her visit, during which she called on the President, the Vice-President and the External Affairs Minister. The two Prime Ministers held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues, including defence and security, trade and investments, cultural, education, and people-to-people contacts.

The then Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva, paid a State Visit to India on 5 April, 2011. He was accompanied by an official delegation including several ministers. During the visit, it was decided to conclude a Comprehensive Agreement on Trade in Goods, Services and Investments at an early date, set a target of doubling current bilateral trade of US\$ 6.7 billion by 2014, set up a high-level defence dialogue, further facilitate bilateral tourist flows, conclude pending legal instruments, and strengthen cooperation in regional mechanisms, such as ASEAN-India, BIMSTEC and MGC.

Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn visited India on 25-28 October, 2011, under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations' Distinguished Visitors Programme and participated in an international conference on Vetiver in Lucknow. Princess Bajrakittiyabha visited Bodhgaya and other Buddhist pilgrimage places on a private visit in November 2011.

In an expression of solidarity with the Government and people of Thailand on loss of lives and destruction of property due to unprecedented floods in central Thailand, the Government of India provided an assistance of US\$ 200,000 (approx. six million Baht) to enhance the Thai

Government's capacity to respond to disaster and provide relief and rehabilitation to the affected people. India also offered to send a relief team to assist with the rescue work.

As part of continuing bilateral cooperation in defence and security fields, the 6th meeting of Thailand-India Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 25-26 May, 2011. The Indian Army and the Royal Thai army held the 5th edition of combined exercise 'Maitree' in Thailand in August 2011. The Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy held the 12th and 13th cycle of Thailand India Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) in May and November 2011, respectively. Indian Naval ships, INS Tir, INS Krishna and ICGS Veera, visited Phuket in August 2011.

As agreed during the April visit of the Thai Prime Minister and to further facilitate bilateral trade and economic links, negotiations on a bilateral Comprehensive Agreement on Trade in Goods, Services and Investments have recommenced, with the 20th and 21st rounds of negotiations being held from 28-30 April, 2011, in Bangkok and from 7-9 September, 2011, in Delhi, respectively. The Second Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement for Establishing Free Trade Area between Thailand and India concluded in 2003 was also finalised during the year.

To mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian Embassy, in collaboration with ICCR and local institutions, organised an international conference titled 'Tagore's Vision for Asia: Human Solidarity beyond Nationalism' at Chulalongkorn University on 16-17 June, 2011. An exhibition of digital reprints of Tagore's paintings and a photo exhibition 'Tagore and the Romance of Travel' were also organised on the occasion.

Vietnam

India's Strategic Partnership with Vietnam was further cemented through a series of high-level visits and exchanges between the leaderships of the two countries.

Mr Truong Tan Sang, President of Vietnam, paid a State visit to India from 11-13 October, 2011. It is notable that President Sang chose India for his first official visit to a non-ASEAN country after assuming office. President Sang was accompanied by a delegation comprising the Deputy Prime Minister and several Ministers, besides a large number of business leaders. During the visit, President Sang called on the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, and held talks with the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt Meira Kumar, the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, the Defence Minister, Shri A K Antony, and the Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sushma Swaraj. The delegation-level talks focused extensively on

political exchanges, trade and investment, credit and banking, defence and security, energy, oil and gas, agriculture, science and technology, information and communications technology, connectivity and human resource development. Several agreements and MoUs were signed during the visit. These included an Extradition Treaty, MoU on India-Vietnam Friendship Year 2012, Agreement on Cooperation between Petrovietnam and ONGC Videsh Limited, Work Plan for the years 2011-2013 in the fields of agricultural and fishery research and education, Cultural Exchange Programme 2011-14 and Protocol of Cultural Activities in 'India-Vietnam Friendship Year 2012'. A Joint Statement was issued at the end of the visit. Vietnam Airlines and Jet Airways also signed a MoU for comprehensive cooperation, including commencing direct flights in the near future.

The Fifth Foreign Office Consultations and the Second Strategic Dialogue at the level of Vice-Minister (co-Chaired by India's Secretary, East) were held in Hanoi from 8-9 August, 2011. This was followed by the 14th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, co-Chaired by Shri S M Krishna, External Affairs Minister, and Mr Pham Binh Minh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, in Hanoi on 15-16 September, 2011. The External Affairs Minister also called on the Vietnam Prime Minister, Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, and the President, Mr Truong Tan Sang. The Vietnam-India Advanced Resource Centre in Information and Communications Technology (ARC-ICT), set up in Hanoi with a grant of US\$ 2 million by India was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister during the visit.

The Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt Meira Kumar, led a delegation of Parliamentarians on an official visit to Vietnam in May 2011. She held discussions with Mr Nguyen Phu Trong, Chairman, National Assembly, Mr Nguyen Minh Triet, President, and Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister, visited Hanoi for the 44th Board of Governors Meeting of the Asian Development Bank in May 2011 during which he also paid courtesy calls on the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Prime Minister. From the Vietnamese side, Mr Hoang Binh Quan, Chairman, External Relations Commission, Communist Party of Vietnam, Mr Huynh Ngoc Son, Vice-Chairman, National Assembly, and Mr Ho Xuan Son, Deputy Minister and Chairman, National Border Affairs Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited India.

Trade and investment ties between the countries continued to grow rapidly. Bilateral trade increased to US\$ 2.7 billion during January-September 2011, with exports from India accounting for US\$ 1.67 billion and imports from Vietnam being US\$ 1.03 billion. The two sides agreed to set a bilateral

trade target of US\$ 7 billion by 2015. The launch of the India-Vietnam Business Forum during the visit of the President of Vietnam to India is expected to boost trade.

Vietnam continued to be an attractive investment destination for Indian companies. Indian companies have 76 projects in Vietnam, with total investment of nearly US\$ 750 million, including investments registered in third countries. India has offered an amount of up to US\$ 100 million as buyer's credit under the National Export Insurance Account (BC-NEIA) for use by Vietnam. India has also agreed to extend new Lines of Credit to Vietnam for infrastructure projects.

The Sixth Annual Security Dialogue yielded significant results in terms of consolidation of existing cooperation and initiating new proposals in core areas of strategic cooperation. Defence cooperation has emerged as a significant pillar of our strategic partnership with Vietnam. New initiatives were taken in defence industry, research and development, and 'think-tanks' related areas.

Ties with Vietnam in other areas, including education, culture, science and technology, continued to flourish. In July 2011, financial assistance (US\$ 57,500) was provided to Yen Bai Province, Vietnam for the development of two infrastructure projects. A grant of US\$ 20,000 was provided to the Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies in Vietnam (in January) during the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs to Ho Chi Minh City. As part of our commitment to continue to assist Vietnam in human resource development, the number of ITEC slots was increased from 75 to 150 and that for GCSS from 6 to 16 with effect from 2012.

A seminar on the 'Life and Legacy of Tagore' was organised in Hanoi to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of the Nobel Laureate and a bust of the poet was installed at the Museum of Literature in Hanoi.

Pacific Islands

The relations between India and the Pacific Island nations are constantly growing apace following India's dialogue partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum countries in August 2003. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Auckland, New Zealand, from 8-10 September, 2011, as the leader of the Indian delegation to the 23rd Post Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting on 9 September, 2011, after the 42nd Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Summit meeting. During the visit, the Minister announced that those countries which did not utilise the grant-in-aid of US\$ 1,25,000 in the previous years could avail of the same along with the offer made in 2011. On the sidelines of the Post Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting, the Minister had meetings with the New Zealand

Foreign Minister, Mr Murray McCully, the President of Palau, Mr Johnson Toribiong, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Mr Emanuel Mori, and other delegation leaders. The Minister also interacted with the Indian community based in Auckland.

The President of Kiribati, Mr Anote Tong, accompanied by four officials, visited India to attend the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organised by TERI.

The Ministry of External Affairs on 7 February, 2011, approved the establishment of diplomatic relations with Niue. The concurrent accreditation of Kiribati was transferred to Suva in October 2011.

Cash assistance (in November 2011) was provided by the Indian Government to Tuvalu for procurement of two chainsaws while US\$ 100,000 was given as cash grant to tackle the water shortage in the country in February 2012. In November 2011, a grant was provided to the Government of Vanuatu for purchase of computers, photocopier machine

and other related materials (US\$ 184,000). During the current year, funds amounting to US\$ 100,000 have been paid to Palau for improving the IT infrastructure for the office of the President and upgradation of IT infrastructure of the country's Embassies, Missions and Consulates.

Cook Islands utilised three slots out of the five slots for training programmes under ITEC during the year. Kiribati utilised one ITEC training slot, while Nauru utilised two ITEC slots for short-term training programmes. During the year, two slots were allocated to Palau, three to the Federated States of Micronesia and five to the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The 20 slots, provided to Samoa, were utilised fully by the Samoan Government. Samoa supports India's rightful claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council. In the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the number of ITEC training slots was increased from 10 to 15 during the year, Tonga utilised four out of five slots allocated for short-term training programmes and seven of the 10 for defence training programmes. Tuvalu utilised one ITEC slot during the year.



Japan

India-Japan relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift in recent years, propelled by the visit of the Prime Minister to Japan in December 2006, October 2008, and October 2010, and the successful return visits of by Prime Ministers Shinzō Abe, Yukio Hatoyama, and Yoshihiko Noda to India in August 2007, December 2009, and December 2011, respectively. The Joint Statement signed during the Prime Minister's visit in 2006 established an India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership. There was steady progress in India-Japan relations in 2011. It may be said that our relations enjoy high degree of mutual trust and confidence, and are characterised by an unprecedented level of exchanges, as the two countries reach the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

The year 2011 saw the pre-occupation of Japan with relief and reconstruction efforts in the earthquake and tsunami-affected regions, and a focus on nuclear safety issues. The Government and the people of Japan were appreciative of India's sympathetic response to the disaster. In the aftermath of the disaster, the Indian Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister sent letters of condolence and sympathy to their counterparts in Japan. The Prime Minister also visited the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi to sign the condolence book for the victims of the disaster. The Prime Minister made a statement in Parliament, on 14 March, 2011 expressing 'full solidarity' with the people of Japan. Sympathy resolutions were passed by both Houses of Parliament. Relief material comprising 25,000 blankets, 10,000 bottles of mineral water, and 10 tonnes of high-energy biscuits were sent to Japan. A 46-member relief and rehabilitation team from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was sent, to carry out relief operations in the coastal town of Onagawa, one of the worst-affected areas. During the 10-day mission, the team helped clear debris, search for the missing, retrieve bodies and recover belongings. The work of the team has been much appreciated, by the Japanese authorities and the media.

Bilateral relations between India and Japan were characterised by a series of high-level exchanges during the year. The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yoshihiko Noda, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York on 23 September, 2011. Prime Minister Noda's State visit to India from 27-28 December, 2011 for the Annual

Summit imparted continuity and added momentum to the strategic and global partnership. A Joint Statement titled 'Vision for the Enhancement of India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership upon entering the year of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations' was released on the occasion. The two leaders agreed to deepen cooperation in political, security and defence, economic, cultural, regional and global affairs. The Japanese Prime Minister expressed continued interest in infrastructure development in India with respect to existing flagship projects like the Dedicated Freight Corridor - West, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, and Delhi Metro Phase III, as well as a new plan for the development of infrastructure in the area between Chennai and Bengaluru.

There were regular visits of Ministers, Parliamentarians and senior officials in both directions. A Strategic Dialogue between the External Affairs Minister and the Japanese Foreign Minister has been held annually since 2007. The 5th round of the Strategic Dialogue was held in Tokyo on 29 October, 2011. The External Affairs Minister had wide-ranging talks with his Japanese counterpart, Mr Koichiro Gemba. During the Strategic Dialogue, the two sides agreed to hold the first Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue in the first half of 2012 to give strategic and long-term policy orientation to their bilateral economic engagement and to coordinate economic issues of a cross-cutting nature.

The Indian Defence Minister, Shri A K Antony, visited Tokyo from 1-3 November, 2011. He took part in the annual meeting of the Defence Ministers alongside his Japanese counterpart, Mr Yasuo Ichikawa. The two sides agreed to further enhance security cooperation through bilateral naval exercises.

Apart from the regular Ministerial dialogue mechanisms, the following Ministers visited Japan in 2011: Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences (January-February), Minister of Commerce and Industry (February), and Minister of State for Planning, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences (October). Besides, the Speaker of Lok Sabha visited Japan from 2-6 October, 2011, along with a Parliamentary delegation.

India and Japan have a comprehensive mechanism of official-level dialogues. The dialogues, which were scheduled to take place in Japan in 2011, were mostly deferred in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami. The Foreign Office Consultations and Foreign Secretary-Vice Foreign Minister

level Dialogue took place in Tokyo from 8-9 April, 2011, within a month of the occurrence of the disaster. The Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue/Policy Planning Dialogue was held, in New Delhi on 22 March, 2011. On the defence and security side, the Comprehensive Security Dialogue and the military-to-military talks took place in New Delhi on 20 May, 2011. A high-level Strategic Dialogue on Economic Issues between Finance Secretary and Deputy Foreign Minister of Japan has been established in order to develop an overarching mechanism on all economic issues. The 5th meeting of this dialogue was held in New Delhi on 6 June, 2011. The Fifth Bilateral High-level Policy Consultations on Economic Development also took place, in New Delhi on 20 June 2011. The annual bilateral dialogue on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament was held in Tokyo on 4 July, 2011. The Third Round of the India-Japan Dialogue on Africa was also held in Tokyo on 24-25 November, 2011. The First India-Japan-US Trilateral Dialogue was held in Washington DC on 19 December, 2011.

India-Japan bilateral trade has witnessed significant growth and diversification in recent years. Between January-October 2011, bilateral trade reached US\$ 14.61 billion, an increase of 21.7 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year. India's exports reached US\$ 5.56 billion, an increase of 16.5 per cent, as against its imports at US\$ 9.05 billion, which increased by 25.1 per cent. There was a trade deficit of US\$ 3.49 billion in 2011. The India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which was signed on 16 February, 2011, between India's Commerce and Industry Minister and the Japanese Foreign Minister and came into force on 1 August, 2011, has the potential to raise this figure further. Negotiations began on a Social Security Agreement, between India and Japan in 2011 and two rounds were held in July and October 2011.

India has been the largest recipient nation of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan since 2003-04. Cumulative commitment of Japanese ODA loans to India reached Yen 3320.37 billion on commitment basis for 215 individual loan agreements till March 2011. As on 3 October, 2011, 59 projects were under implementation, with Japanese loan assistance. Additional cutbacks are expected as the Japanese Government decided in April 2011 to reduce ODA allocation for FY2011-12 to fund the extra budget required for reconstruction and relief measures. However, as per indications, the ODA amount for India will not be reduced and may, in fact, be increased. During the Annual Summit, Prime Minister Noda pledged loans totalling Yen 134.288 billion for two new projects~ Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Phase III and West Bengal Forest and Bio-diversity Conservation.

The Special Economic Partnership Initiative (SEPI) was one of the important outcomes of the historic visit of the Prime Minister to Japan in December 2006. The main elements of SEPI include Dedicated Freight Corridor - West (DFC-W) project, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project, setting up of multi-product special economic zones/cluster, free trade and warehousing zones at select locations, and encouraging investment by Japanese companies in India, including through assistance in development of infrastructure relating to SEZs and industrial estates, etc.

The Dedicated Freight Corridor-West Project, which has Japanese involvement in the form of ODA assistance through the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) scheme to the extent of about 80 per cent of total project cost, has been moving forward. The main loan agreement for Phase-I from Rewari to Vadodara was signed in March 2010. The timeline for signing the loan agreement for Phase II, which was expected in March 2012, may be delayed. However, it has been decided that the timeline of December 2016 for the completion of DFC will be adhered to (except the 290-km Iqbalgarh-Vadodara section that will be commissioned by March 2017), despite some delays due to land acquisition and financing.

The DMIC is proposed to be developed on either side of the 1,483-km-long Dedicated Freight Corridor - West, between Dadri in Uttar Pradesh and JNPT in Mumbai. The Planning Commission has allocated Rs 330 crore for the DMIC Project under the 11th Five Year Plan as Indian contribution. An equivalent amount (US\$ 75 million) in the form of a commercial loan from JBIC is expected to be the Japanese contribution to the DMIC-Project Development Fund (PDF). On 15 September, 2011, the Cabinet approved an infusion of Rs 17,500 crore into the project as India's contribution. During the Annual Summit, Prime Minister Noda announced Japanese public and private financing totalling US\$ 4.5 billion in the next five years. A consortium of Japanese companies is developing smart communities and eco-friendly townships along the DMIC zone. There has also been progress of individual 'Early Bird Projects' like the seawater desalination unit at Dahej, a micro-grid system using large-scale photovoltaic power generation at Neemrana, among others.

Republic of Korea (RoK)

India and the Republic of Korea share a strategic partnership. The momentum generated in bilateral relations, with the landmark State visit of the President, Mr Lee Myung-bak, in January 2010 was further built upon, with significant developments in 2011. Exchange of high-level visits, increasing economic and commercial linkages, growing two-way investment flows, enhanced functional exchanges and



The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Yoshihiko Noda, in New Delhi on December 28, 2011.



President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, meeting with the President of Korea, Mr. Lee Myung-bak, at Seoul in Korea on 25 July, 2011.

cooperation in international forums have added momentum to the relationship during the period.

The President visited the RoK for a bilateral State Visit from 24-27 July, 2011. The main highlight of the visit was the signing of the Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Besides, an agreement on Administrative Arrangement for Social Security and a Memorandum of Understanding on Media Exchanges were also signed during the visit. The Social Security Agreement came into force on 1 November, 2011. The President's visit helped to advance as well as consolidate development of India's relations with Republic of Korea in various sectors.

The qualitative transformation in bilateral relations in recent years has been underpinned by strong economic and commercial ties. Following the implementation of CEPA in January 2010, India's economic and commercial relations with Republic of Korea have continued to flourish. In the first 11 months of 2011, the total bilateral trade has grown by 22 per cent to reach US\$ 18.95 billion. During the first 11 months, exports to Republic of Korea grew by 42 per cent to reach US\$ 7.32 billion while imports grew by 12 per cent to reach US \$ 11.63 billion.

The Indian Cultural Centre, inaugurated by Dr Karan Singh, President, ICCR, has started functioning since April 2011, with regular classes, exhibitions and performances being held in its premises. Dr. Karan Singh inaugurated the 'Festival of India in Korea' on June 30, 2011, in Seoul. ICCR sponsored many performing artistes and troupes during the Festival, including Mallika Sarabhai, Peenaz Masani, Daksha Seth, Ranjana Gauhar, Rage Theatre, Rajasthani dance troupe. The National Gallery of Modern Art organised Tagore's painting exhibition 'The Last Harvest' in the National Museum of Korea. A bust of Gurudev Tagore was unveiled by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt Meira Kumar, at a prominent place in Seoul in May 2011. The finale of the 'Year of Korea in India' was held on 14 December, 2011, in a befitting manner. The Secretary (Culture) was the chief guest for the function.

Parliamentary contacts between India and the Republic of Korea have added an important dimension to India's political ties. These ties have been marked by exchanges of visits between the Parliamentarians of both countries. Smt. Meira Kumar, Lok Sabha Speaker, and Shri K Rahman Khan, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, led an Indian delegation to the Republic of Korea for attending the G-20 Speakers' Consultations in Seoul from 18-20 May, 2011.

To give further impetus to the existing cooperation in the field of science and technology, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Parliamentary Affairs, visited RoK from May 2-6, 2011, to

participate in the 1st India-Korea Science & Technology Ministerial Steering Committee meeting. An MoU was signed between the Korean Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) and India's Department of Science and Technology (DST). The two sides agreed to develop mega research programmes in mutually identified technology areas of importance such as low grade coal-based energy, biomass, nano science and technology, information technology, etc.

The Minister of Tourism, Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, participated in the 19th UN World Tourism Organisation General Assembly held in Gyeongju from 8-11 October, 2011. India was elected as Chair of the South Asia Commission of the UNWTO. Other important visits include those by the former President, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, as a member of the 'Eminent Persons' Group', which was constituted by the Republic of Korea to advise President Lee on various aspects of the Nuclear Security Summit, including the drafting of the joint statement for peace and security in the Korean peninsula.

Defence has emerged as an important area of cooperation between the two countries. During the year, India participated in the Seoul International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition 2011 (ADEX). Secretary (Defence Production) attended the exhibition, where Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited and the Ordnance Factory Board had set up stalls.

Mongolia

Mongolia and India traditionally enjoy close, friendly and cooperative ties. In the context of bilateral relations, 2011 was a remarkably successful year, with the State Visit of the President of India to Mongolia, the first in 23 years, in July 2011. This high-level visit provided vital content and impetus to the 'Comprehensive Partnership' between the two countries. During the visit, three bilateral agreements were signed - Agreement on Co-operation in Defence Matters, MoU on Media Exchanges between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia, and, MoU for Co-operation between the Planning Commission of India and the National Development Innovation Committee of Mongolia. India increased the number of slots available to Mongolia under the ITEC Programme to 150 and that of ICCR scholarships to 50 slots, per year. Also, India allocated 10 slots to Mongolia for training in defence institutions under ITEC/SCAAP 2011-2012.

India maintained the tempo of its political interactions, with the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, to Mongolia in May 2011. Shri Ahamed led the Indian delegation to participate in the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation, where a number of concrete

proposals for cooperation between the two countries were outlined, which included cooperation in the fields of mining, agriculture, culture and education. Supporting the cooperation in the field of mineral resources and mining, the two sides agreed on exploring the possibilities of implementing joint projects, including setting up of a steel mill in Mongolia and training Mongolian specialists working in the field of mining and geology.

India continued to provide all possible developmental assistance to Mongolia. An agreement on a Line of Credit of US \$20 million to Mongolia for the 'India-Mongolia Joint Information Technology Education and Outsourcing Centre' was finalised and was signed in February 2012. In an effort to upgrade and modernise the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Excellence in Information and Communication Technology in Ulaanbaatar, new PCs and projectors were procured and supplied to the Centre and work on replacing the existing networking equipment with the latest technology equipment is planned to be completed by third week of March 2012. There was ongoing progress to complete the preliminary process for the upgradation and modernisation of the Rajiv Gandhi Art and Production School and the work on the site should start in 2012-13.

There was steady progress, in the field of defence cooperation involving India and Mongolia. The Fourth Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Working Group was held in New Delhi in May 2011. A new Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed in July 2011. India's Chief of Army Staff participated in the 100th Anniversary of the Ministry of Defence of Mongolia in September 2011. A joint India-Mongolia military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant', which is a regular annual feature, was held, in Mongolia in September 2011. India participated in Exercise Khan Quest-2011 that was co-sponsored by Mongolia and the US in Mongolia in July-August 2011.

Both the countries committed themselves to strengthen bilateral civil nuclear cooperation under the MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Use of Radioactive Minerals and Nuclear Energy signed in September 2009. To move forward in the matter, the Department of Atomic Energy of India and the Nuclear Energy Agency of Mongolia held their first Working Group meeting, in Mongolia in December 2011.

The Head of Office of the President of Mongolia, Mr D Battulga, visited India, in November 2011, mainly to interact with the Secretary to the President of India and for an introduction to the structure and functions of the Office of the President of India. In December 2011, the Chairman of the Mongolian Civil Service Council, Mr Zumberellkham Dorjdamba, paid a visit to India to hold talks with the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission in an effort to institutionalise cooperation between the two establishments. In November 2011, a three-member delegation from the National Development and Innovation Committee of Mongolia visited India to interact with the Planning Commission of India to exchange expertise under the MoU signed during the visit of the President of India.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

India's relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continued to be cordial, with the primary focus on humanitarian and human resource development assistance. Exchanges in the area of culture, sports, and education continued to make progress during the year. India and the DPRK have continued cooperation at UN bodies and other international organisations.

India provided food assistance to the tune of US\$ 1 million through the World Food Programme to DPRK in June 2011.

The two sides maintained bilateral exchanges with the Seventh Round of Foreign Office Consultations held in Pyongyang, from 12-14 September, 2011, at the level of Secretary (East). Discussions covered bilateral matters and regional and international issues of mutual interest. The delegation also visited Pyongyang Food Processing Factory for Children as also the Hwanghju county in Northern Hwanghae Province to understand the food situation prevailing in the country and how the distribution of Indian food assistance was taking place.

India's support for development of human resources in DPRK continued with 18 slots allotted under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Training Programme for the year 2011-12. Two slots were also offered to DPRK Diplomats for Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) course, organised by the Foreign Service Institute.



Russian Federation

India's strategic partnership with Russia was elevated to 'special and privileged' status in 2010. During 2011-12, this partnership continued its move along a positive trajectory. This period of intense engagement culminated with the visit of the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, to Russia in December 2011 for the 12th Annual Summit. Regular Ministerial and senior official-level exchanges took place during the year. 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 Moscow. These exchanges reflected the multifaceted and dynamic nature of our time-tested and historical ties.

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, paid an official visit to Russia from 15-17 December, 2011, for the 12th Annual Summit with the Russian President, Mr Dmitry Medvedev. The Prime Minister held wide-ranging talks with the Russian President and with the Prime Minister, Mr Vladimir Putin. The two leaders addressed a group of important CEOs of both countries. Earlier in April 2011, Dr Singh had met President Medvedev in Sanya, China, on the sidelines of the Third BRICS Summit. The two leaders also attended the BRICS Heads of States Summit held on the sidelines of the G-20 Meeting in Cannes in November 2011. They are expected to meet again during the BRICS New Delhi Summit, scheduled in March 2012.

The Annual Summit adopted a Joint Statement titled 'Furthering the India Russia Strategic Partnership to meet the Challenges of a Changing World'. Five agreements were also signed in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Russian President. These were Protocol No. 2 (on the Su-30 MKI Aircraft Licensed Production Expansion in India for 42 Units); MoU between the Competition Commission of India and the Federal Antimonopoly Service (Russian Federation); Protocol of Intentions on Fly Ash Utilisation and Safe Management between the India's Department of Science and Technology and the Inter-regional Association 'Siberian Accord', Siberian Federal District; MoU on Cooperation on Drug Quality and Safety Standards between India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and Russia's Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Public Health and Social Development; and, Educational Exchange Programme, between the Ministry of Education

and Science of the Russian Federation and India's Ministry of Human Resource Development on Cooperation in the Field of Education.

In addition to the Annual Summit, the following important bilateral events took place during the year:

A Russian Parliamentary delegation, led by the Chairman, Russian State Duma Committee on Science and Science Intensive Technologies, Mr Valery Chereshev, visited India (18-24 April, 2011). The Indian Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr Ashwini Kumar, led a 12-member delegation, including seven Members of Parliament, to Russia (4-9 May, 2011). He held discussions with Mr Il'yas Umakhanov, Vice-Chairman of the Russian Federation Council, and Mr Konstantin Kosachev, Chairman of the Duma Foreign Affairs Committee. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Union Health Minister, visited Russia (27-30 April, 2011), to attend a global health conference. Air Chief Marshal P V Naik, the Chief of Air Force, visited Russia (23-26 May, 2011), for discussions with his counterparts. Mr Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Russian Security Council, visited India for the annual bilateral Security Council dialogue with the National Security Advisor, Shri Shivshankar Menon (6 June, 2011). Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, led an Indian business delegation to the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (16-18 June, 2011). He held talks with the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Mr Sergei Ivanov, with whom he co-chaired the 2nd India-Russia Business Dialogue. Shri P Chidambaram, the Home Minister, visited Russia (28-30 June, 2011) to enhance cooperation in the field of disaster management and prevention of emergencies. During the visit, he met the Russian Minister for Civil Defence and Emergencies, Mr S K Shoigu, and visited the Russian National Centre for Disaster Management (EMERCOM) in Moscow.

Admiral Nirmal Verma, the Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, visited Russia (11-18 July, 2011) at the invitation of Admiral Vladimir Sergeevich Vysotskiy, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy. Smt Vijay Latha Reddy, Deputy National Security Adviser and Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), visited Moscow (24-26 July, 2011) for the 10th Joint Coordination Group (JCG) meeting between the Russian Security Council and the NSCS. Shri Ajit Lal, the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, visited



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting with the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, at Moscow in Russia on 16 December, 2011.



President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Islam Karimov and his wife Mrs. Tatyana Akbarovna, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 18 May, 2011.

Yekaterinburg, Russia (21-22 September, 2011), to attend the International Conference of High Security Representatives.

The Defence Minister, Shri A.K. Antony, visited Moscow to co-chair the 11th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC), with the Russian Defence Minister Mr Anatoly E Serdyukov, on 4 October, 2011. The Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma, led another Indian delegation, for the Fifth India-Russia Trade and Investment Forum held in Moscow on 10 November, 2011. The meeting witnessed participation from the business communities of both sides. Three new roundtables on pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, and innovation and commercialisation of scientific research, were launched during the meeting.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, visited Moscow for the 17th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) Meeting (18 November), which he co-chaired, with the Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Sergey Ivanov. He also reviewed bilateral relations in the run-up to the Annual Summit with his counterpart, Mr Sergey Lavrov, on 17 November, 2011.

The IRIGC-TEC meeting was preceded by meetings of various Working Groups under the Inter-Governmental Commission. These include the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies (Moscow, 25-26 April, 2011); Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (Moscow, 3-4 October, 2011); Working Groups on Energy and Energy Efficiency and S&T (Moscow, 17 November, 2011); Sub-Group on Banking and Financial Matters (Bhubaneswar, 21-22 October, 2011); and Sub-Group on Conservation of Tigers and Wildlife (New Delhi; 21-24 May and 17 November, 2011).

Foreign Office consultations were held on the following subjects during the year: (i) UN issues and cooperation within other international organisations (New Delhi; January 2011); (ii) strategic stability, non-proliferation of WMDs and multilateral export control issues (Moscow, February 2011 and New Delhi, November 2011); (iii) principal directions of SCO activities (New Delhi, February 2011); (iv) issues concerning the Asia Pacific Region (New Delhi, February 2011); (v) issues concerning the EU (Moscow, June 2011); (vi) situation in Central Asia and IRC framework (Moscow, July 2011); (vii) G-20 related issues (Moscow, August 2011); (viii) issues concerning South Asia (Moscow in September 2011); and (ix) issues concerning diplomatic properties (Moscow, October 2011).

Significant progress was registered in various ongoing projects in the traditional spheres of defence, nuclear and space sectors. The year saw special emphasis on trade and investment links between the two countries. Bilateral trade, according to Russian statistics, was estimated to cross US\$ 9 billion in the calendar year 2011 (US\$ 8.53 billion in 2010, with India's exports at US\$ 2.143 billion and imports at US\$ 6.392 billion). Both sides acknowledged that there was a need to step up bilateral cooperation in this area in order to achieve the trade target of US\$ 20 billion, set for 2015.

Armenia

Armenia, as a close friend and partner in the South Caucasus region, shared India's views on a wide range of issues, both bilateral and international. The Fifth Session of the India-Armenia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation (IGC), India-Armenia Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), and an India-Armenia Business Forum were held, in Yerevan between 31 October and 1 November, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs. The Armenian delegation was led by Mr Sergey Manassarian, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) took a business delegation from India to coincide the IGC meeting. These meetings provided an excellent opportunity to review the current state of ongoing cooperation in diverse fields. The two sides also identified agriculture, small and medium enterprises, and social and labour issues as new areas where potential for cooperation exists. A Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology for the period 2012-2015 was signed during the visit.

During the Business Forum, FICCI and the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia signed an MoU, to establish a Joint Business Council, which is expected to serve as a platform for enhanced business interaction between the private sectors of the two countries.

During the Foreign Office Consultations, the Armenian side reiterated its support for the G-4 resolution for UNSC expansion in both Permanent and Non-Permanent categories, and also reaffirmed support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the expanded UNSC. The Indian side reiterated its support to the principle of resolution of conflicts through peaceful negotiations.

The Prime Minister of Armenia, together with the Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, Shri Sachin Pilot, participated in the inauguration of the India-Armenia Centre for Excellence in Information and

Communication Technology in Yerevan, on 7 November, 2011. The Centre is the only hi-tech institution in the region equipped with a made-in-India super-computer - PARAM. The two other projects completed with the assistance of India included establishment of a Census Data Processing Centre at which the 2011 Armenian census data will be processed; and a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a public-private partnership project in telemedicine. An MoU was signed on 25 July, 2011, to establish an ICCR's short-term chair of Contemporary Indian Studies at Yerevan State University.

Bilateral trade with Armenia in 2011 stood at US\$ 71.7 million during the year as against US\$ 26.7 million in 2010-11.

Azerbaijan

With Azerbaijan, the trend of consolidation and gradual strengthening of bilateral relations in all fields continued through the year. The third round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was held in Baku from 22-24 September, 2011. The Indian delegation was headed by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), and the Azerbaijani delegation by Mr Khalaf Khalafov, Deputy Foreign Minister. The two sides discussed bilateral relations in detail with particular focus on strengthening cooperation in the political, trade, economic and cultural fields, and people-to-people exchanges. Views were exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Both sides agreed to strengthen the institutional framework between the two countries. They also agreed to conclude agreements on air services cooperation in communications and IT, and an extradition treaty and mutual legal agreement treaty (MLAT) on criminal matters.

Bilateral trade with Azerbaijan in 2011 (January-November) was US\$ 401.5 million over US\$ 240 m in the year-ago period. The main item of export to India was Azeri crude oil. Indian meat, pharmaceutical products, chemicals, tea and rice were the main imports by Azerbaijan. The import of made-in-India cars and mobile phones accelerated in 2011. Substantial volumes of garments, and jewellery and precious stones, including polished diamonds, were sourced from India. A multi-sector business delegation was organised by FICCI in March-April 2011. The visit of Director (Finance), OVL, co-terminus with the FOC, focused on jump-starting a cooperation agenda between it and SOCAR, the state-owned oil and gas monopoly of Azerbaijan, and to scout for fresh business opportunities. State Bank of India started a correspondent banking relationship with the International Bank of Azerbaijan. The number of Indian nationals working in Azerbaijan increased in 2011, particularly of skilled and semi-skilled workers in the local construction sector.

Belarus

India's traditionally friendly relations with Belarus continue to be warm and cordial. High-level level contacts with Belarus were maintained. Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal, Minister of Coal, visited Minsk from 13-16 June, 2011, and discussed possible collaborations in the coal sector and visited manufacturing units of mining machinery. Shri M M Pallam Raju, Minister of State for Defence, visited Belarus from 24-27 May, 2011, to participate in the 6th International Exhibition of Arms and Military Machinery, MILEX-2011, held in Minsk. He discussed various joint R&D projects with Belarus. A DRDO delegation participated in the 'Belarus Innovation Week' held in Minsk from 15-18 November, 2011. Mr Sergei Gurulev, the Chairman of the State Military and Industrial Committee of Belarus, participated in the 'Aero India' Show held at Bengaluru from 9-13 February, 2011. Apart from these visits, there were contacts at the international multilateral fora.

Economic and commercial cooperation between India and Belarus increased during the year, with the trade turnover reaching US\$441.3 million (January-November) as against US\$ 238.6 m in the year-ago period. A delegation, led by Secretary (East) Shri Sanjay Singh, visited Belarus on 26 August, 2011, to discuss long-term economic cooperation. A business delegation from Engineering Export Promotion Council visited Minsk on 28-29 March, 2011, to hold a 'Buyer-Seller Meet' in the field of engineering goods with their Belarusian counterparts. The India-Belarus Joint Business Council (JBC), under the aegis of FICCI on the Indian side and of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce & Industry on the Belarusian side, met in March 2011 in New Delhi. A CII business delegation also visited Minsk from 11-13 September, 2011, and held a 'Buyer-Seller Meet' for collaboration in sectors such as energy, power, construction equipment, automobiles, telecom, textiles, engineering goods, and pharmaceuticals.

Cooperation with regard to defence-related R&D continued, with the Fourth Meeting of the India-Belarus Joint Committee on Military Technical Cooperation held in New Delhi from 7-9 December, 2011. The Rajiv Gandhi Digital Learning Centre (DLC) has been set up by India at the Hi-Tech Park in Minsk and was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, Shri Sachin Pilot, in January 2012.

In the Minsk Movie Festival 'Listapad', held in November 2011, the Indian film 'Stanley's Tiffin Box' won the prize in the best child artiste category. An 'Indian Films Day' was celebrated in the cities of Lida, Baranovich, Novopolotsk and Mogilev.

Georgia

Relations with Georgia remained cordial during the year. Attention was focused on the operationalisation of the agreements concluded in the previous year. In addition, an agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital between India and Georgia was signed, on 24 August, 2011, which came into force on 8 December, 2011. Similarly, an MoU to establish an ICCR Chair of Contemporary Indian Studies at the Tbilisi State University was signed on 12 April, 2011, with the Chair becoming operational in October 2011.

Various collaborative steps and measures were taken, in consultation with the Government of Georgia to ensure the welfare and safeguard the interests of the Indian community, including students and businessmen, whose size has grown in the past few years.

Bilateral trade with Georgia in 2011 was valued at US\$ 74.6 million as against US\$ 106 million in the preceding year.

Kazakhstan

India-Kazakhstan relations witnessed a new high with the visit of the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, to Astana on 15-16 April, 2011. The Prime Minister held wide-ranging discussions with Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, and Mr Karim Massimov, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.

Seven agreements were signed during the visit. These included a package of three agreements between ONGL Videsh Limited (OVL) and KazMunaiGaz JSC (KMG) on the Satpayev Exploration Block, which included a Participating Share Assignment Agreement transferring 25 per cent stake from KMG to OVL; a Carry Agreement; and a Joint Operating Agreement. The others were an Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; a Joint Action Plan (Road Map) for furthering the Strategic Partnership between the two countries' governments for the period 2011-14; an MoU between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), and Kazakhstan Computer Emergency Response Team (Kz-CERT); a Treaty on providing Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil Matters; a Cooperation Agreement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors; and an Agreement on Cooperation in Healthcare between the Healthcare Ministries of India and Kazakhstan.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, led the Indian delegation to the 10th Anniversary Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Astana from 14-15 June, 2011.

The 9th Session of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission (IKIGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation was held in Astana from 11-12 October, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri R P N Singh, Minister of State of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Kazakh side was led by Mr Sauat Mynbayev, Minister of Oil and Gas. A protocol on the outcome of the IKIGC was also signed on the occasion.

Bilateral trade with Kazakhstan in 2011 (April-October) stood at US\$ 184.7 million as against US\$ 306.3 million the previous year.

Kyrgyzstan

India-Kyrgyzstan relations saw an increase in bilateral visits during 2011. The Defence Minister, Shri A K Antony, led a high-level delegation to Kyrgyzstan from 4-6 July, 2011. During the visit, he inaugurated the India-Kyrgyz Mountain Bio-Medical Research Centre in Bishkek along with the Kyrgyzstan President, Ms Roza Otunbaeva. He also met Kyrgyzstan's Defence and Health Ministers, and discussed bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

As part of bilateral defence cooperation, a four-member Indian Army Training Team participated in the training of Kyrgyz military personnel at Osh and Batken, for UN Peace Keeping Operations.

The Kyrgyz Defence Minister, Major General Abibila Kudayberdiyev, visited India, from 8-10 September, 2011 and held discussions with the Minister of Defence, Shri A K Antony, on bilateral military cooperation, including defence research and development.

A 20-member special task force of the Defence Ministry of Kyrgyzstan visited India, from 29 November-21 December, 2011 to take part in joint commando training.

A 14-member delegation of Indian pharmaceutical companies from PHARMEXCIL, participated in a 'Buyer-Seller-Meet,' on 12 December, 2011 in Bishkek.

Bilateral trade with Kyrgyzstan in 2011 (April-October) was US\$ 13.9 million as against US\$ 23.5 million in 2010-11.

Tajikistan

Bilateral relations between India and Tajikistan received a fillip during 2011, with visits of the following delegations from India:

Air Marshal Kishen Kumar Nakhor, Vice Chief of Air Staff visited along with a delegation (11-12 August). He met Defence Minister Colonel-General Sherali Hairulloev, Foreign Minister Zarifi, and Prime Minister Oqil Oqilov.

Minister for Defence, Shri A K Antony, accompanied by senior officials visited Dushanbe, on 3 October, 2011 and met Tajik Defence Minister Sherali Khairulloyev. They discussed issues of mutual interest.

The 6th Session of India-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation (ITJCM) was held in Dushanbe (16-17 May). Shri P K Chaudhery, Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Mr Farrukh Hamraliev, Tajik Minister of Economic Development and Trade signed the protocol of the session. Several measures to increase bilateral trade, investments, and economic cooperation were identified.

Ambassador Shri Asith K. Bhattacharjee, along with Tajik Minister of Education, Mr Abdujabbor Rahmonov, inaugurated the "Indo-Tajikistan Modern Engineering Workshop" at the Tajik State Technical University, in Dushanbe, on 2 June, 2011. The workshop has been set up through Government of India's grant of around US\$ 1 million.

Bilateral trade with Tajikistan in 2011 (April-October) was US\$ 21.8 million as against US\$ 40.7 million in 2010-11.

Turkmenistan

Relations between India and Turkmenistan strengthened further during the year with the TAPI Gas Pipeline project making significant progress, inauguration of an IT Centre in Ashgabat, and several cultural activities in Turkmenistan. The visits of Mr B Nediroy, Minister of Oil & Gas Industry of Turkmenistan to India in the context of the TAPI project and the visit of Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Communications and IT, to Ashgabat, were among the important bilateral developments during the year.

Shri Sachin Pilot visited Turkmenistan (October 2011) to inaugurate the IT Centre, at the Magtymguly University, Ashgabat.

An Indian exhibition of photos of Islamic Heritage of India, and 'Jaisalmer Yellow' paintings was held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Ashgabat, during September-October 2011.

The Agreement between the two countries on Visa Free Regime for holders of diplomatic passports came into force with effect from 1 April, 2011.

Bilateral trade with Turkmenistan in 2011 (April-October) was US\$ 22.1 million as against US\$ 35.8 million in 2010-11.

Ukraine

Bilateral relations with Ukraine were strengthened, with two ministerial level visits. Minister of Tourism, Shri Subodh Kant

Sahai, visited Ukraine from 24-26 September, 2011 in connection with Indian tourism promotion events. He met the First Deputy Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine, Mr Kostiantyn Yefymenko, who holds the tourism portfolio. During the visit, a Joint Indo-Ukraine Tourism Forum was set up.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Mr Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, accompanied by senior officials and a business delegation, paid an official visit to India (24-27 November, 2011). He called on the Vice President, Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, and Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma. Ukraine Foreign Minister Mr Gryshchenko, held delegation-level talks with the External Affairs Minister, Shri S. M. Krishna, and discussed bilateral relations, and regional and international issues of mutual interest. It was agreed that a mechanism be evolved to facilitate visas for businessmen, tourists, students and others to travel in both directions. An agreement on visa exemption for diplomatic passport holders was signed during the visit.

India was represented by a two-member delegation, led by Dr. S. Banerjee, Chairman, and Atomic Energy Commission; at the Kyiv Summit on Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy, on April 19, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor tragedy. India announced a grant of US\$ 1 million to Ukraine for the Chernobyl cause, and also offered free medical treatment to 10 cancer-infected patients from Ukraine at the Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai in 2011 and in 2012.

India and Ukraine consultations on consular and legal issues were held on 19 May, 2011 in Kyiv.

Bilateral trade was US\$ 983.9 million in 2011 (April-October) as against US\$ 2.24 billion in 2010-11 with the balance of trade in Ukraine's favour. Ukraine is one of the world's largest producers of sunflower oil, 25 per cent of which is exported to India. Indian pharmaceuticals have a significant presence in Ukraine's health sector market.

Business delegations from the Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (PHARMEXCIL) [2-6 March], Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), [24-26 March], and EEPC India [3-6 April] visited Ukraine. FICCI held a JBC meeting on 25 March, 2011. A business delegation from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited Ukraine from 13-15 September. CII signed a revised MoU with the Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs during the visit. An Indian company, Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited (KPTL), secured a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)-funded project in Ukraine worth Euro 129.50 million from Ukraine's state company NEC Ukrenergo to

build 750 KV, 353-kms-transmission line from Rivnenska nuclear power station to the capital Kyiv (22 April, 2011).

Uzbekistan

Steady progress was registered in the friendly relations between India and Uzbekistan. President Karimov visited India from 17-18 May, 2011. The highlight of the visit was the Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership. Thirty-four other documents/agreements were also signed. The following exchange of visits took place during the year:

A 15-member Uzbek business delegation, led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations A. Kamalov visited India in April 2011 prior to President Karimov's visit to India in May.

The Ninth Meeting of the Indo-Uzbek Inter Governmental Commission (IGC) was held in Tashkent from 4-5 May, 2011.

India's Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, Shri Sachin Pilot, visited Uzbekistan from 13-15 October and held discussions with high ranking Uzbek dignitaries. During the visit, a Joint Action Plan (JAP) was signed. Under the JAP, an understanding was reached on cooperation in the modernisation of the Jawaharlal Nehru Indo-Uzbek Centre for Information Technology in Tashkent, and cooperation in setting up IT-related production facilities in Uzbekistan.

Gen. V K Singh, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Uzbekistan, from 16-19 November, 2011. He met the First Deputy Defence Minister of Uzbekistan, Lt. Gen. Bakhodir Tashmatov, and discussed defence cooperation between the two countries.

A 27-member delegation of the Indian Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexil), Mumbai, visited Uzbekistan during 14-18 December, 2011. During the visit, the delegation held discussions with Uzbek Deputy Minister of Health, Prof. Marat Khojibekov and arranged a Buyer-Seller Meet.

The 3rd Indo-Uzbek Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) was held in Tashkent on 3 October, 2011.

Bilateral trade for Uzbekistan in 2011 (January-September) stood at US\$ 120 million as against US\$ 80.1 million in 2010-11.

India-Russia-China (IRC) Trilateral Cooperation

The following meetings under the IRC framework were held during the year: (i) Fourth IRC Trilateral Experts Meeting on Disaster Management, in St. Petersburg (6-9 September, 2011); and, (ii) Third Trilateral Business Conference in Rostov-on-Don, Russia (20-21 September, 2011).

Under the disaster management theme, ISRO organised a trilateral expert meeting for the exchange of information and expertise on the use of geo-spatial technologies in monitoring and forecasting flood and drought, at the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad (24-26 May, 2011).

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

India intensified its engagement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) during the year. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, visited Astana (14-15 June, 2011) to represent India at the Summit of Heads of States of the SCO. The External Affairs Minister highlighted the importance of connectivity among SCO countries and suggested that SCO could address this problem through regional solutions. He reiterated that India would be happy to play a larger and more productive role in the SCO, as a full member. Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of Power, represented India at the meeting of the Council of Heads of Governments of the SCO, in St. Petersburg (7 November, 2011).



India enjoys traditionally close political, economic and cultural linkages with the countries of the Gulf region. Firstly, the countries of the region comprise India's largest trading partner group in the world, with a trade amounting to US\$ 130 billion during 2010-11. Secondly, close to 50 per cent of our crude oil requirements is met by the region. Thirdly, the region hosts more than six million Indians who contribute to the economies of the region. Accordingly, India has a vital stake in the peace and stability, and continued progress and prosperity, of the countries in the Gulf, and regular high-level visits are exchanged with each country in the region.

Bahrain

The 400,000-strong Indian expatriate community in Bahrain accounts for over a third of the population of Bahrain. India's bilateral trade with Bahrain reached US\$ 1.55 billion in 2010-11. As part of the regular high-level exchanges between the two countries, Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, visited Bahrain on 27 January, 2011, to attend the Republic Day Celebrations organised by members of the Indian community. He visited Bahrain again on 15 November, 2011, to meet the Indian community. Mr Abdul Latif Abdulla, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, called on him, and discussed issues relating to the welfare of Indian nationals in Bahrain.

Sheikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al-Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, visited India on 30 March, 2011, and met the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, and had detailed discussions on issues of mutual interest. The visiting Minister highlighted the contribution of the Indian community to the progress and development of Bahrain, and assured him that the Bahraini leadership is committed to ensuring the safety and security of Indians in Bahrain.

The India-Bahrain Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) were held on 23 October, 2011, in Manama. The Indian side was led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, and the Bahrain side by Mr Abdul Latif Abdulla, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both sides exchanged views on a number of bilateral and regional issues of mutual concern. Secretary (East) called on Bahraini Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Iran

The year 2011 witnessed further strengthening of relations between India and Iran through a series of high level

interactions and exchanges. Prime Minister's meeting with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in September 2011, followed by the visit of Speaker, Lok Sabha were the high points of bilateral exchanges between the two countries in 2011. In the year that witnessed far reaching changes in the countries in the region and in the global economic arena, India and Iran continued to remain engaged on various international, regional and economic issues. India held its Days of Culture in Tehran and Shiraz from May 10-17, 2011. Bilateral trade between India and Iran was also on a growth trajectory, registering a 2.07% growth in 2010-11 compared to the fiscal 2009-10.

Prime Minister met Iranian President Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on the sidelines of the 66th session of United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2011. During the meeting, Prime Minister accepted a renewed invitation from President Ahmadinejad for visiting Iran at a mutually convenient date. In March 2011, Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad visited Tehran on behalf of Prime Minister to attend the Second World Nowruz Festival from March 26-27, 2011. Health Minister also called on President Ahmadinejad to convey PM's New Year wishes to the President and people of Islamic Republic of Iran.

In November 2011, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar paid an official visit to Iran on the invitation of the Speaker of the Iranian Majlis (Parliament) Dr. Ali Larijani. Smt. Meira Kumar held extensive discussions with Dr. Larijani covering bilateral relations, particularly parliamentary relations and regional developments. A joint press statement was issued at the end of the meeting stressing on increased cooperation and highlight the potential areas of cooperation between the Parliament of India and National Consultative Assembly of Iran (Majlis). Commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and his historic visit to Iran in 1932, Smt. Kumar along with the Dr. Larijani inaugurated a tableau of Gurudev's poem on Iran in the Majlis museum. In a function organized in honour of Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose at Pardis Technology Park, Tehran, Smt. Meira Kumar and the Vice President of Iran for Science and Technology Ms. Nasrin Soltankah called for increasing bilateral cooperation in the domain of Science and Technology. A bust of Acharya Bose was unveiled during the occasion. Smt. Kumar also called on President Dr. Ahmadinejad.

In March 2011, National Security Advisor, Shri. Shivshankar Menon visited Iran for the 8th round of the security consultations. During his visit, he held consultations with Dr. Saeed Jalili, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council of Iran and called on President Ahmadinejad, Speaker of the Majlis, Dr. Ali Larijani and Foreign Minister, Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi. Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Tehran from July 5-7, 2011 for the 9th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC). Both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and it was agreed that 10th round of Foreign Office Consultations would be held in India. It was agreed that the 17th session of India-Iran Joint Economic Commission would be held in India at an early date. India and Iran also exchanged the instrument of ratification of Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons signed in July 2010. During the visit, Foreign Secretary also met Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi and Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Dr. Saeed Jalili. In her discussions, FS exchanged India's views on developments in Afghanistan and Middle Eastern countries, energy security, the North-South Transport Corridor, and combating the menace of global terrorism and piracy in the Indian Ocean.

There were also a number of bilateral exchanges at the ministerial level. In February, Minister for Economic and financial Affairs of Iran, Dr. Shamseddin Hosseini visited India to deliver President Ahmadinejad's invitation to PM for World Nowruz Festival. He also called on Finance Minister Shri. Pranab Mukerjee. During their interactions the Ministers' called for increasing and diversifying the basket of bilateral trade between India and Iran. In September 2011, the Ministers' again met on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank meeting in Washington. The Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement and Double taxation Avoidance Agreement were discussed during the meeting. In October, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Water resources Shri. Pawan Kumar Bansal visited Tehran for participating in the 62nd Annual Meeting of the International Executive Committee (IEC) and 21st ICID congress on Irrigation and drainage. Minister held a bilateral meeting with the Energy Minister of Iran H.E. Majid Namjoo. In November 2011, Deputy Minister for Legal and International Affairs, H.E. Mr. Mehdi Akhoundzadeh visited Bangaluru to attend the 11th IOR-ARC Council of Ministers meeting. He also called on EAM. Deputy Minister of Road and Urban Development of Iran Dr. Shahriar Afandizadeh visited India from January 17-20, 2012 to attend the Meeting on modalities for moving forward on the INSTC Project on January 18, 2012 in New Delhi co-chaired by Commerce Secretary and Secretary (East), MEA.

India-Iran bilateral trade registered 2.07% growth during the fiscal 2010-11. The total value of the bilateral trade for

the period stood at US\$ 13.67 billion. India imported US\$ 10.93 billion worth of goods mainly crude oil and exported commodities worth US\$ 2.74 billion. India's export to Iran registered a 48% increase during the fiscal 2010-11 compared to the period 2009-10.

For the first time, 'Days of Indian Culture in Iran' was held in Tehran on May 10-14, 2011 and in Shiraz on May 16-17, 2011 in cooperation with the Iranian Cultural heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization. The festival attracted thousands of Iranians from all walks of life providing them an opportunity to experience live Indian Music performance, Indian food, films, handicrafts and the various tourist attractions of India. The India Tourism Office Dubai and Tea Board also participated in the festival with their special stalls. In Shiraz, the Music festival was held at the prestigious Hafezieh Hall.

Iraq

India and Iraq have civilisational links going back to ancient days. India has supported a free, democratic, pluralistic, federal and united Iraq. India actively supports the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Iraq. Diplomatic relations with Iraq have been recently upgraded and Ambassador Shri Suresh K. Reddy presented his credentials to the President on 23 June, 2011.

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Iraq, Mr Labeed Majeed Abbawi, visited India from 17-22 May, 2011. The Iraqi Minister of Science & Technology, Mr Abdul Kareem Al-Samarai, led a delegation to India in April 2011 to explore cooperation in e-Governance. The Iraqi Minister of Municipalities and Public Works, Mr Adel Mhoder Radhi, visited India in November 2011 at the invitation of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

At the invitation of the Iraqi National Investment Commission, an Indian business delegation of 15 companies sponsored by the CII visited Iraq from 15-20 October, 2011. The visiting delegation covered sectors relating to oil and gas, medicine, pharmaceuticals, automotive components, vehicles and infrastructure. The delegation called on the three Deputy Prime Ministers, and the Minister of Municipalities and Public Works, among others.

As part of its commitment to support the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Iraq, a large number of Iraqi civil servants were trained in India, under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. India provides 55 scholarships annually to Iraqi students to pursue higher education under the Cultural Exchange Programme Scholarship Scheme (CEPSS), and the General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS), of the Indian Council for

Cultural Relations. India has also facilitated the strengthening of Iraq's public healthcare system and over 50 Iraqi doctors and specialists underwent training in India this year.

During 2010-2011, bilateral trade stood at US\$ 9.75 billion. Iraq is the third largest exporter of crude oil to India. India is the preferred destination for Iraqis looking for reliable medical treatment, higher studies and tourism. During the period January-December 2011, the Embassy of India, Baghdad, issued 28,000 visas to Iraqi nationals.

Kuwait

India and Kuwait have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations and share common perceptions on various regional and international issues. India's bilateral trade with Kuwait reached US\$ 12.27 billion in 2010-11.

The 640,000 Indians constitute the largest single expatriate community in Kuwait. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, visited Kuwait from 25-27 February, 2011, to participate in the 50th Anniversary of Independence of Kuwait. During the visit, the External Affairs Minister called on the Amir, the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of Kuwait. He held separate meetings with Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, visited Kuwait from 9-11 October, 2011 to represent India at the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD). During the visit, he called on the Amir and the Crown Prince of Kuwait and interacted with the Indian community.

Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Corporate Affairs, Shri R P N Singh accompanied by a three-member delegation visited Kuwait from 17-19 April, 2011, to attend the Fourth Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable at which he presented a paper on 'Energy Price Volatility'. On the sidelines of the event, he discussed bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas sector with Kuwaiti Oil Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

A five-member media delegation from Kuwait visited major hospitals in Delhi and Mumbai during 16-21 October, 2011. The visit was organised by the Ministry to promote 'Indian Medical Tourism Destination 2011'. An India Medical Tourism Destination Exhibition and Conference-2011 was organised from 2-3 November, 2011, at the Kuwait International Fair Ground. The event was inaugurated by the Minister of Health of Kuwait, Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer. More than 28 leading hospitals across India participated in the exhibition. An India Food Festival was organised from 21-28 October, 2011. An India Property Exhibition was held

in Kuwait from 21-22 October, 2011, in which over 30 real estate firms from India participated.

Special Kuwait Cell

The Special Kuwait Cell (SKC) deals with the compensation claims of the Gulf War (1990-91) returnees. All the valid claims of the Indian returnees have already been settled. The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) has since closed its claims disbursement operations and no claim is due to Indian claimants any more. Currently, SKC handles residual issues such as audit of the claims account in addition to attending to RTI queries from the erstwhile claimants.

Oman

India and Oman enjoy close relations with strong socio-economic linkages. In the financial year 2010-11, India-Oman bilateral trade was US\$ 5.2 billion. Of the total population of 3.2 million, the over 700,000 Indians make up for the largest single expatriate community.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, visited Oman from 17-19 June, 2011. The Eighth meeting of the India-Oman Strategic Consultative Group (SCG) was held in New Delhi on 19 September, 2011. It was co-chaired by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, from the Indian side and Mr Ahmed Yousuf Al Harthi, Under Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the Omani side.

Omani Minister of Commerce and Industry, Maqbool bin Ali bin Sultan, led a group of Omani business leaders to India to attend the CII Partnership Summit 2011 from 24-26 January, 2011, in Mumbai where Oman was the focus country. The commissioning of the Bharat Oman Refinery Limited (BORL) refinery complex in Bina on 20 May, 2011, was the highlight of bilateral investment relations between the two countries. Omani Oil Company has a 26 per cent equity stake in the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)-promoted US\$ 2.4 billion refinery complex. Jindal Shadeed Iron & Steel LLC, a private sector plant, acquired by Jindal Group of India in 2010 for US\$ 464 million, also started commercial operations in January 2011.

The first Joint Working Group Meeting on Oil and Gas was held in Muscat from 2-5 October, 2011. The second Joint Working Group on Manpower was held in Muscat during 24-25 May, 2011. A Joint Military Cooperation Committee met in New Delhi on 26 September, 2011.

Qatar

India and Qatar have had historical and commercial ties, and people-to-people contacts. The multi-faceted bilateral

engagement has continued to expand. India-Qatar trade during 2010-11 was US\$ 7.20 billion. As many as 500,000 Indians live and work in Qatar, making them the largest single expatriate community.

Dr. Khalid Bin Mohammad al Attiyah, the then Minister of State for International Cooperation of Qatar, visited New Delhi during 13-14 January, 2011, and co-chaired the third meeting of India-Qatar High Level Monitoring Mechanism (HLMM) along with Shri T K A Nair, then Principal Secretary to Prime Minister. The two sides reviewed the status of bilateral cooperation. Mr Yusuf Kamal, Minister of Finance and Economy of Qatar, visited India on 3 March, 2011, to participate in the meeting of the Institute of International Finance (IIF). Dr. Mohammad bin Saleh al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry of Qatar, visited New Delhi on 27 October, 2011, and held discussions with Shri Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, visited Doha from 15-17 June, 2011.

The State Bank of India received permission to open its office in Doha to start wholesale banking operations. The Reserve Bank of India and Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote greater cooperation and for sharing of information between the two regulators.

Saudi Arabia

India and Saudi Arabia enjoy close relations reflecting the centuries-old economic and socio-cultural ties. India's bilateral trade with Saudi Arabia stood at US\$ 25 billion during 2010-11. The two million Indians in Saudi Arabia account for the largest single expatriate community in the country.

Shri Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, led a delegation to the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of International Energy Forum (IEF) in Riyadh on 22 February, 2011. On the sidelines of the IEF meeting, Shri Reddy had discussions with the Saudi Petroleum Minister, Mr Ali Al Naimi. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, accompanied by Smt Mohsina Kidwai, Chairperson of the Haj Committee of India, visited Jeddah on 26 March, 2011 to sign the India-Saudi Arabia Haj Agreement for 2011. He met then Saudi Haj Minister. Fouad bin Abdulsalam Al-Farsi. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, met Dr Nizar bin Obaid Madani, Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, on 17 April, 2011 in Riyadh and discussed bilateral and regional issues of mutual concern. Shri Ahamed also met Dr Abdul Wahed Al-Humaid, Saudi Vice Labour Minister. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister

for Health and Family Welfare, visited Riyadh on 25 October, 2011 to offer condolences on the death of the Crown Prince, Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Mr Khalid bin Muhammad Al-Qusaibi, Saudi Minister of Economy and Planning, visited New Delhi to participate in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from 3-5 February, 2011. During the visit, Mr Qusaibi met Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais, Grand Imam of the Holy Mosque of Makkah, paid a five-day visit to India and met the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, on 24 March, 2011. Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Secretary General of National Security Council of Saudi Arabia, met Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 28 March, 2011 to deliver a personal message from King Abdullah.

An eight-member delegation from the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council of India (CAPEXIL) visited Riyadh from 28-30 January, 2011 to hold a Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) with Saudi businessmen. A 16-member business delegation from the Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) visited Saudi Arabia and held a BSM in the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 13-14 September, 2011. The SRTEPC held a similar BSM in Jeddah from 17-18 September, 2011.

A 33-member Saudi business delegation visited India in February 2011 to attend the Third India-Saudi Business Council Meeting held in New Delhi. An 11-member business delegation from Saudi Arabia led by a prominent Saudi businessman visited India in September 2011

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

India and UAE have close political, economic and socio-cultural relations. India and UAE are one another's largest trading partners with bilateral trade of US\$ 67 billion in 2010-11. The 1.75 million Indians account for the largest single expatriate community in the UAE.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of UAE, visited India from 26-27 June 2011. Sheikh Abdullah called on the Vice President, Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari and the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. Sheikh Abdullah held official delegation level talks with the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna. The External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of UAE signed a bilateral MoU on periodic Political Consultations. Lt. General Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister of UAE, visited New Delhi from 22-23 November, 2011 and held discussions with the Minister of Home Affairs,



The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, with Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, in New Delhi on 27 June 2011.

Shri P Chidambaram. He called on the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. Agreements on Security Cooperation and Transfer of Sentenced Persons were signed during the visit.

The Minister of Overseas Indians Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi, visited UAE in January 2011 and held discussions with Mr Saqr Ghobash, Minister of Labour of UAE. In the capacity of Minister of Civil Aviation, he visited UAE again from 24-25 April, 2011 to launch the Gulf base of Air India Express in Dubai. The Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Dr Farooq Abdullah, visited UAE to attend the 'World Future Energy Summit' in January 2011 and on 3-6 April, 2011 to attend the first Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi and his latest visit to Abu Dhabi was on 8-11 July, 2011 to participate in the IRENA-Africa High-level Consultative Forum.

The Minister of Human Resources Development, Shri Kapil Sibal, launched the international curriculum of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) at the Indian High School, Dubai on 25 May, 2011. He visited Dubai again on 16 September, 2011 to take part in a Conference on Education. The Minister for Textiles, Shri Shanker Singh Vaghela, visited the Dubai Handicrafts Exhibition organised by the Export Promotion Council on 28 August, 2011. The Minister of Urban Development, Shri Kamal Nath, participated in the Global Arab Business Meeting at Ras-Al-Khaimah on 9 October, 2011.

The Minister of State for Defence, Shri M M Pallam Raju, visited Dubai from 13-15 November, 2011 to participate in the Dubai Air Show 2011. The Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, visited UAE on 5-7 December, 2011 to participate in the World Family Summit in Abu Dhabi.

Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, Minister of Foreign Trade of UAE, accompanied by a business delegation visited India from 8-11 February, 2011. She called on the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, on 11 February, 2011. Sheikha Lubna attended the ceremony for the commissioning of the International Container Trans-shipment Terminal at Vallarpadam, Kochi, by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. Mr Saqr Ghobash, Minister of Labour of UAE, visited India from 13-16 September, 2011 and held a meeting with the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi, and signed the revised MoU on Manpower Sourcing. Mr Khalid Ghanem Al Ghaith, Assistant Minister for Economic Affairs of UAE Foreign Ministry, led the UAE delegation at the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) Council of Ministers Meeting in Bangalore on 15 November, 2011.

Yemen

India-Yemen relations date back to ancient times. Currently, there are about 7,000 Indians in Yemen. Bilateral trade during 2010-11 amounted to US\$ 2.25 billion.

Dr. Ali Mothana Hassan, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen, visited India for a Ministerial Conference under the theme, 'Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South Cooperation for development of Least Developed Countries ((LDCs)', held in New Delhi on 18-19 February, 2011. During the visit, Dr Ali Mothana Hassan called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed.

Dr Abu-Bakr Al-Qirbi, Yemeni Foreign Minister, visited India to attend the 11th Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) Council of Ministers Meeting in Bangalore on 15 November, 2011. The chair of IOR-ARC was handed over to India by Yemen in the meeting. During the visit, Dr Abu-Bakr Al-Qirbi also had bilateral discussions with the External Affairs Minister.

In the recent political crisis in Yemen, about 800 Indian nationals were evacuated.

Haj

More than 170,000 Indian Muslims performed the Haj pilgrimage in 2011. Of these, more than 125,000 pilgrims performed the Haj through the Haj Committee of India and the rest through private tour operators.

Spread over a period of 74 days, the Haj operation concluded successfully when the last batch of Indian pilgrims returned home from Saudi Arabia on December 12, 2011. The Indian Haj Goodwill Delegation to Saudi Arabia was led by the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri K Rahman Khan.

Sudan & South Sudan

Mr Ali Ahmed Karti, Foreign Minister of Sudan, visited India from 27-28 April, 2011, as special envoy of the President Omar Al-Bashir, to convey a written message from him. He met the External Affairs Minister from 28 April, 2011, and explained Sudan's stance on various issues and sought India's support. He also called on the Vice President of India.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, led a multi-disciplinary official delegation to Khartoum (Sudan) and Juba (South Sudan) on 12-15 June, 2011, comprising representatives from Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Education, Health, and Agriculture. In Khartoum, he met Sudanese President, Mr Omar Al Bashir, Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Ahmed Karti, and Minister of State

for Petroleum, Mr Ali Ahamed Osman. In South Sudan, the Minister of State for External Affairs assured the South Sudan political leadership of India's commitment to assist South Sudan in its developmental needs,

India was one of the first countries to accord recognition to the new country of South Sudan. The recognition was accorded through a letter by the Prime Minister of India addressed to the President of South Sudan, Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit. The Vice President of India, Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari, represented India at the formal independence day ceremony held in Juba on 9 July, 2011.

A South Sudanese delegation led by Mr Joseph Lual Achuil Lual, Special Envoy of the President of South Sudan and Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, accompanied by Ms. Jemma N. Kumba, Minister of Housing and Physical Planning, visited India from 22-23 November, 2011, and called on the External Affairs Minister, during which the Special Envoy handed over a letter from the President of South Sudan, addressed to the Prime Minister, and briefed him on the current situation in South Sudan.

Sudanese State Minister for Human Resources Development, Mr Al Samani Al Wasila Al Sheikh, visited India on 8 March, 2011

Dr Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan, accompanied by a 20-member high level delegation, attended a Conference organised by the Friends of Moral Re-Armament (India), at Panchagani, Maharashtra, on 8 January, 2011.

Libya

The uprising, civil unrest and turmoil in Libya which started in mid-February 2011 necessitated evacuation of the large Indian community in Libya, which numbered about 18,000. As the situation deteriorated, a multi-pronged evacuation of Indian nationals, by air, sea, and land route, was started under Operation 'Safe Homecoming' on 26 February, 2011. All Indians nationals desirous of returning to India (around 16,200), had been safely evacuated from Libya by 13 March, 2011.

A Libyan delegation led by Special Envoy from Libya, Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Shareef, visited India from 5-6 May, 2011. Subsequently, the then Foreign Minister, Mr Abdulati I. Al Obeidi, visited India from 21-22 July, and held discussions with the Minister of State for External Affairs.

The Minister of State for External Affairs participated in the International Conference on Support of New Libya held

in Paris on 1 September, 2011, hosted by President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom, to discuss the future of Libya with the National Transitional Council.

In May 2011, India provided humanitarian assistance of US\$1 million to Libya, through the United Nations Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA).

Upon the specific request of the National Transitional Council, Government of Libya, another consignment of humanitarian assistance worth about US\$ 1 million was delivered to the Libyan authorities in Tripoli on 28 January, 2012.

Morocco

The 4th session of the India-Morocco Joint Commission was held from 28-29 April, 2011 in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry, and the Moroccan Minister for External Trade, Mr Abdellatif Maazouz. During this visit, Mr Maazouz also met Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture, and Shri Virbhadra Singh, Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

The meeting of the India Morocco Joint Economic Council chaired by CII of India and the CGEM (Confederation General of Moroccan Enterprises) also took place in New Delhi on 29 April, 2011.

The Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr Taieb Fassi Fihri, along with senior officials, travelled to India in April 2011 and met with the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna. A number of bilateral and international issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

Business delegations led by ASSOCHAM, CAPEXIL and TEXPROCIL visited Morocco during the year.

Somalia

The Somali Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Planning and International Cooperation, Dr Abdiweli Mohamed Ali, visited India in March 2011 to attend the Seventh CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership. During the visit, he met the Minister of External Affairs, Shri S M Krishna, and Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma.

Following Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's announcement at the Second Africa India Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, India provided US\$ 2 million to the African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM).

Algeria

Indian Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Jitin Prasada, visited Algeria from 4-6 May, 2011 as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to deliver an invitation to the President of Algeria for the Second India Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011.

Tunisia

A meeting of the India-Tunisia Joint Committee on Science and Technology was held on 19 December, 2011, in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Adviser and Head of International Bilateral Cooperation of the Department of Science and Technology and the Tunisian delegation by Director-General of International Cooperation, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The meeting reviewed the collaborative activities since the last meeting and held discussions on future cooperation.

Djibouti

Mr Mohamoud Ali Youssouf, Foreign Minister of Djibouti, visited India (18-19 February, 2011) for participation in the India-LDC Ministerial Conference.

Dr Ahmed Fouad Aye, Minister of Energy, Water and Natural Resources of Djibouti, visited India (20-26 August, 2011) during which he had discussions with Dr Farooq Abdullah, Minister for New and Renewable Energy, on cooperation between India and Djibouti in the field of renewable energy.

Egypt

The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Dr S Y Qureshi, accompanied by a four-member team from the Election Commission visited Cairo, from 19-22 April, 2011, to share India's experience and expertise in conducting elections, and particularly the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

The Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Jitin Prasada, visited Cairo, from 1-4 May, 2011 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister conveying invitations for the Second India-Africa Forum Summit.

Minister of State for Rural Development, Ms. Agatha Sangma, visited Cairo from 30 January-3 February, 2012 to attend the 17th General Session of Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) in her capacity as incumbent President of AARDO and handed over Presidency to Egypt during the event.

Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation and Planning Fayza Abul-Naga represented Egypt at the Second

India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-II) that took place in Addis Ababa on 24-25 May 2011.

The Egyptian Foreign Minister, Dr. Nabil El-Arabi, visited India from 28-30 May, 2011: and called on the Vice President, the External Affairs Minister, and the National Security Advisor. Egyptian Foreign Minister also called on UPA Chairperson.

The Egyptian Minister for Education, Dr Ahmed Gamal El-Din Moussa, visited India on 8-10 September, 2011 to participate in the E-9 Conference on Women's Literacy organised by UNESCO's E9 initiative in New Delhi.

A number of other bilateral visits were exchanged in economic and commercial areas, which included a three-member delegation led by Joint Secretary (FT&TR-II) to Cairo from 14-17 November, 2011 for holding the Fourth Round of Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) negotiations with Egyptian Tax Authorities; visit of a 17-member CAPEXCIL delegation to Egypt from 10-11 September, 2011, and holding of one Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) each in Cairo and Alexandria; visit of a TEXPROCIL delegation to Egypt from 12-14 October, 2011, along with holding of one BSM-cum-Exhibition.

On 23 October, 2011 to commemorate the Fifth International Day of Non-violence, a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi sculpted by leading Indian sculptor Ram Sutar was unveiled at the Supreme Council for Culture by the then Egyptian Minister of Culture, Dr Emad About Ghazi.

Israel

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, paid an official visit to Israel from 9-10 January, 2012, as part of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel. During the visit, the External Affairs Minister called on Mr Shimon Peres, the President of Israel, and discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. The Minister also met Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, and Mr Avigdor Liberman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and reviewed the bilateral relationship and charted out areas of cooperation for the future, including energy, trade, agriculture and human resource development. Dr Yuval Steinitz, Israeli Minister of Finance, also called on the External Affairs Minister and reviewed the economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. An Agreement for Reciprocal Extradition of Each Other's Nationals and an Agreement for Transfer of Sentenced Persons were signed during the visit. The External Affairs Minister also visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial

and Museum, the Indian Hospice and the cemetery for Indian soldiers in Jerusalem.

The Minister of State for Communications and IT, Shri Sachin Pilot, visited Israel from 30 May-1 June, 2011.

The Israeli Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs. Orit Noked, visited India from 28 April-3 May, 2011, during which a joint declaration was signed.

The Israeli Minister of Tourism, Mr Stas Misezhnikov, visited India from 4-10 September, 2011, and met India's Ministers of Tourism and Civil Aviation with the objective of increasing the number of Indian tourists visiting Israel.

During the visit of the Israeli Internal Security Minister, Mr Yitzhak Aharanovitch, in November 2011, discussions with the Home Minister took place on furthering cooperation in home land security.

The Israeli Finance Minister, Dr Yuval Steinitz, visited India from 13-16 December, 2011, to participate in the Delhi Economic Conference. During the visit, he met the Finance Minister, the Human Resource Development Minister, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and the National Security Advisor.

The Secretary (East), Shri Sanjay Singh, led the Indian side for the India-Israel Foreign Office Consultations in Israel in June 2011.

A 19-member team from the National Defence College visited Israel in October 2011.

The fourth meeting of the India-Israel Forum (IIF) was held in Tel Aviv on 31 August-1 September, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Mr Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Public Infrastructure, Information and Innovation. The Israeli side was led by Mr Aharon Fogel, Chairman, Migdal Insurance Financial Holdings Ltd.

Among other bilateral visits to Israel, the Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, visited in April 2011; the Defence Secretary, Shri Pradeep Kumar, in May 2011 for the JWG on Defence; the CAG, Shri Vinod Rai, visited in May 2011; the Reserve Bank of India Governor, Dr D Subbarao, visited in June 2011; a five member MPs' delegation visited in November 2011; and, the Minister of Water Resources, Government of Kerala, visited in November 2011.

Palestine

India reiterated its unwavering support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and

united State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, within secure and recognised borders, side-by-side and at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Arab Peace Initiative, the Quartet Road Map and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. India also welcomed and supported the Palestinian move in the UN Security Council for securing membership of the UN. Our Prime Minister in his speech in the UN General Assembly declared that India looks forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations.

The Former Foreign Minister of Palestine, Dr Nabeel Shaath, visited India from 23-25 August, 2011, as the Special Envoy of the President, Mahmoud Abbas, to seek support for Palestine's bid for UN membership. During his visit, he met the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed.

The Minister of State, Shri E Ahamed, visited Palestine from 18-20 November, 2011 to participate in the inauguration of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) sponsored Sports Complex for the Ramallah Municipality. The Minister met the President of Palestine National Authority and reiterated India's support to Palestine. A cheque of US\$ 1 million was handed over during the visit to the Commissioner-General of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to provide daily supplementary food assistance to more than 76,000 students attending UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip under the UNRWA's Emergency Programme.

The External Affairs Minister Shri S M Krishna, visited Ramallah on January 11, 2012, for bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister, the President of the Palestine National Authority, and the Foreign Minister. During his bilateral meetings with the Palestinian dignitaries, he reiterated India's support to Palestine.

Syria

The Syrian Vice Foreign Minister, Dr Faisal Mekdad, visited India from 31 July - 2 August, 2011. He called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, and also met the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed. Dr Mekdad briefed the External Affairs Minister about the prevailing situation in Syria. Shri Krishna expressed concern on the escalation of violence and urged the Government of Syria to exercise restraint, abjure violence and expedite the implementation of political reforms taking into account the aspirations of the people of Syria. The Minister of State also reiterated the same during his meeting with Dr Mekdad.

Shri Dilip Sinha, Additional Secretary for International Organisations, visited Syria on 10 August, 2011, as part of the IBSA delegation. The delegation called on the President

of Syria, Mr Bashar Al-Assad, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Walid Al-Moualem, in Damascus, to discuss the prevailing situation in Syria and the way forward.



India's historical relationship with Africa was revitalised during the year keeping in view the functional cooperation in the 21st century. Its political support for Africa was augmented by closer economic cooperation, including economic assistance, functional cooperation, soft loans and private sector investment.

Second Africa India Forum Summit

In May 2011, the second Africa India Forum Summit (AIFS-II) was organised in Addis Ababa. This summit built upon the foundations of the historical relationship that exists between India and Africa, and further contributed to designing the structure of an enhanced engagement between India and its African partners in the 21st century. Two documents, 'the Addis Ababa Declaration' and 'the Africa India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation', adopted at the end of the Summit are seen guiding the systematic enhanced engagement with Africa in the coming years.

The Addis Ababa Declaration is a political document that covers issues of bilateral, regional and international interest to India and Africa, and includes our common position on UN reforms, climate change, WTO, international terrorism, etc. The Africa India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation spells out the agreed area of cooperation, including human resources and institutional capacity building, education, science and technology, agricultural productivity and food security, industrial growth, including small and medium enterprises and minerals, development of the health sector, development of infrastructure, ICT and the establishment of judicial systems with police and defence establishments under civilian control.

There was an extremely positive response to AIFS-II and out of the 15 African countries invited nine Heads of States/ Governments attended the Summit. Equatorial Guinea as co-Chair, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania and Senegal were represented by their Heads of State. Swaziland was represented by the King. Namibia was represented by its Prime Minister, South Africa by its Deputy President and Nigeria by its Vice-President. Algeria was represented by the Personal Representative of the country's President. Egypt and Libya were represented by a ministerial delegation. Deliberations at the Summit and the retreat were fulsome, candid and manifested the close abiding and deep relationship we have built and carry on in our journey in the 21st century.

At the Summit, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, announced many new initiatives to further strengthen cooperation with Africa. He made several announcements for the next three years, including the availability of Lines of Credit of US\$ 5 billion; a Line of Credit of US\$ 300 million for the new Ethio-Djibouti railway line; more than 22,000 scholarships to Africa; and establishment of more than 80 capacity building institutions in Africa. The proposed institutions include India-Africa Food Processing Cluster, India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster, India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development, 32 regional level institutions, English-language training institutes, information technology institutes, a centre for rural development and vocational training centres. The Prime Minister also announced a support of US\$ 2 million for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Plan of Action of the Framework for Enhanced Cooperation of the Second Africa India Forum Summit will be launched within the next six months in consultation with the African Union and its member states.

We intend to undertake these critical projects, focusing on human resource development and capacity-building, by suitably enhancing the 'Aid to Africa' Budget of the Ministry of External Affairs. These projects will be initiated at the bilateral, regional and African Union (AU) levels. The Ministry will be setting up the five Pan-African institutions in Africa through the African Union, The 32 regional institutions through regional economic communities and others bilaterally. Under the scholarships, the Ministry will continue working with the African Union on Special Agriculture Scholarships and will add the training positions offered in the maritime sector. It is hoped that the African nations will utilise these training positions to achieve their developmental endeavours. The Ministry intends to organise a conference to create awareness about the lines of credit for its African partners.

Besides, side events were organised alongside the second Africa India Forum Summit in Addis Ababa. The first-ever academic symposium, 'Africa & India: Partnership for Enhancing Development and Growth', was organised from 11-12 May, 2011. It saw the participation of academicians from different parts of Africa and adoption of a document, which was presented at the ministerial level meeting at the AUC on 24 May, 2011. A cultural show, 'Rhythm of Life'

from 20-22 May, 2011 was inaugurated by Ms Azeb Mesfin, the wife of Ethiopian Prime Minister, Mr Meles Zenaw, and the Commerce and Industry Minister, Mr Anand Sharma. The cultural show saw the fusion of African dance and music with Indian dance and music, and was well appreciated. A multi-media exhibition 'From Tradition to Innovation' was held from 20-22 May, 2011. A trade exhibition 'India Show' was organised from 20-22 May, 2011. The 'Handcrafting Hope' exhibition saw the participation of African craftswoman and their Indian counterparts. A film festival 'Come, Fall in Love with the Magic of Bollywood' was inaugurated during the same time by the Cultural Minister of Ethiopia and Secretary (West). It witnessed a huge turnout during 20-27 May, 2011. The India Africa media partnership symposium called 'Building Bridges' was held on 21 May, 2011.

The next India Africa Forum Summit is slated for 2014 and the endeavour will be to implement as many decisions of the two Summits that have taken place so far as possible, and take India-Africa cooperation to new heights by adopting a mutually beneficial agenda.

Second India-RECs Meeting

In order to further enhance institutional engagement between India and Africa, the second meeting between India and the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) was held in New Delhi from 8-9 November, 2011. The meeting was attended by the Secretaries-General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Executive Secretary of Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and representatives from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) along with senior officials from their delegations.

The primary objective of this meeting was to engage all the RECs in order to discuss the implementation of various decisions taken under the framework of the India Africa Forum Summit.

The representatives of the RECs met with officials in several Indian departments/ ministries/ agencies that are engaged in implementing jointly-agreed programmes and projects. These include among others the Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the National Small Industries Corporation, and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. The delegation also received presentations from the Department of Agricultural Research and Education on setting up three regional institutions. The first was on capacity building in the field of agriculture viz., soil, water and tissue

testing laboratories, farm science centres and agricultural seed production-cum-demonstration centres; the second was from the National Institute For Training of Highway Engineers on Material Testing Laboratories for Highways; and the third from The Energy and Resources Institute and the Barefoot College on sustainable energy technologies.

A special session was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry to provide private sector interaction for the delegation from the RECs. A cross-section of Indian investors and entrepreneurs met with the delegates to discuss business opportunities in different regions of Africa. Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) organised a special session to provide an update on the Pan-African e-Network Project. The delegations from the RECs also participated in a meeting organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs.

The representatives of the RECs expressed their gratitude to India for its continued engagement and for fully recognising the regional dimension of Africa's development. They considered India an important partner and were happy to have a structured dialogue in this format. The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) representative thanked India for supporting regional integration through the construction of the new Ethio-Djibouti railway line, which would provide the member-states of IGAD with improved connectivity. A Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Cooperation between India and IGAD was signed on 8 November, 2011. India already has MoUs with EAC, ECOWAS, COMESA and SADC.

It was agreed that the dialogue with the RECs should continue and that appropriate action plans, including all decisions taken through the Joint Action Plan with the AU, be pursued together.

Burundi

India-Burundi bilateral relations continue to be warm and cordial. Shri Arun Yadav, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries visited Burundi from 10-12 May, 2011, as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister for inviting the President of Burundi to attend the India-Africa Forum Summit-II at Addis Ababa. On the sidelines of the 2nd India-Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met the Burundian President.

In implementation of India's announcements at the Second Africa India Forum Summit, 15 more slots were allocated to Burundi under the ITEC/SCAAP programme during the year 2011-12, taking the total slots to 30.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, with the Heads of Governments during the Opening Plenary Session of 2nd Africa-India Forum Summit, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 24 May, 2011.



The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in a bilateral meeting with the President of South Africa, Mr. Jacob Zuma, on the sideline of the 5th IBSA Summit, at Pretoria, South Africa on October 18, 2011.

An EXIM Bank Line of Credit for US\$ 80 million was extended to Burundi for financing the 20 MW Kabu Hydro Electric Project. The LoC agreement was signed on the sidelines of the IAFS-II at Addis Ababa by Mr Vinod Goel, Resident Representative on behalf of EXIM Bank, and Mrs Clotilde Nizigama, Minister of Finance of Burundi, on 24 May, 2011.

An agreement between the National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA) and Burundi's Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for establishment of India Africa Institute of Education Planning and Administration (IAIEPA) was signed in Bujumbura on 14 October, 2011. The IAIEPA would be established in pursuance of the Plan of Action formulated during the First India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008. Dr Binod Kumar Singh, Registrar, NUEPA, and Dr Julien Nimubona, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Burundi, signed the agreement. Prof R Govinda, Vice Chancellor of NUEPA, Dr Beatrice Njenga, Head of the Education Department, Directorate of Higher Education and Science and Technology, African Union Commission, and other senior officers of the Government of Burundi graced the occasion.

Botswana

India's relations with Botswana have been close and friendly. The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, visited Botswana from 18-19 September, 2011. A CII-led business delegation accompanied him. He called on the Vice President of Botswana, the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration and the Acting Minister of Trade and Industry. He also addressed a business conference organised by the Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA).

The Government of India has extended a grant-in-aid in the health and education sector, under which medical equipment was supplied to Botswana in October 2011 and supply of computers and other equipment is under process. A revised Memorandum of Agreement on secondment of Indian Army/Air Force to Botswana is under the active consideration of both sides.

After the second meeting of India-Africa Forum Summit, the number of ITEC positions for civilian training has increased to 75 in 2011-12 from 60 in 2009-10. Under the decisions of the India-Africa Foreign Summit, six candidates from Botswana have availed of the C V Raman Fellowship for 2011 and two have applied for the same for 2012, and one candidate has availed of the Agricultural Scholarship in 2011-12. Several candidates from Botswana have participated in special training programmes.

Setting up of the India Africa Diamond Institute in Botswana by the Indian Diamond Institute is under progress. Many Indian businessmen have shown interest in investment in the diamond sector in Botswana.

Comoros

Mr Ikililou Dhoinine took over as President of the Union of Comoros in an investiture ceremony held in Moroni on 26 May, 2011. In her message of felicitations, the President of India reiterated in the spirit of South-South Cooperation India's deep desire to further expand the existing close and friendly ties between India and the Comoros.

India has extended a concessional Line of Credit amounting to US\$ 41.6 million to Comoros to set up an 18 MW power project in Moroni to resolve the country's energy crisis.

Shri Gurjit Singh, Additional Secretary (E&SA), paid the first-ever official visit by a senior officer from the Ministry of External Affairs to Comoros from 4-6 October, 2011. He called on the President, the Vice President, and the Foreign Minister of Comoros, and held discussions on bilateral cooperation matters. He offered an additional soft loan of US\$ 35 million for developmental projects to be chosen by Comoros. He reiterated India's commitment to set up a vocational training centre in Comoros as soon as the location of the Centre was decided upon by the Government of Comoros. In response to a Comorian request for support in solar energy, he expressed India's readiness to train Comorian women in the field of solar engineering at the Barefoot College of India under ITEC.

As a part of India's enhanced engagement with Africa, through the process of the India-Africa Forum Summit-I held in New Delhi in April 2008 and IAFS-II held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, India has increased the long-term and short scholarships for Comoros to help the country in capacity building, and human resource development. The Pan-African e-Network Project in tele-medicine and tele-education is already functional in the Comoros.

Eritrea

India and Eritrea enjoy warm and cordial relations in political, commercial, education and other areas. Mr Osman Saleh, Foreign Minister of Eritrea, paid an official visit to India from 6-8 June, 2011, and called on the Minister of State, Smt Preneet Kaur, on 7 June, 2011. This was the first visit of any African Minister after the successful conclusion of the 2nd Africa India Forum Summit in Addis Ababa from 24-25 May, 2011. The Foreign Minister of Eritrea welcomed India's re-emergence as a major economic, political and technological power. He also commended India's

institutionalised engagement with its African partners through the consensual, consultative and responsive mechanism put in place under the rubric of the India Africa Forum Summit. Mr Saleh expressed hope for a sustained political and diplomatic engagement between India and Africa at various global fora, including UNSC.

Eritrean officials attended the conference on Government of India Lines of Credit held in New Delhi from 22-23 November, 2011.

Ethiopia

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 engagements, Lines of Credit, and by Indian companies engaged in various infrastructure projects, while trade constitutes a small but growing segment.

The Prime Minister paid a bilateral visit to Ethiopia from 25-26 May, 2011. This was the first-ever visit by any Indian Prime Minister to Ethiopia. The Prime Minister announced financial support of US\$ 300 million for new Ethio-Djibouti Railway as a regional infrastructure project. During the visit, Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and an Agreement for Cooperation in Small and Medium Enterprises were also signed with Ethiopia. The agreements will help both countries attract FDI and enhance cooperation in medium and small-scale enterprises. The Ethiopian Prime Minister stated that the visit of the Indian Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, was one of the most fruitful visits by a foreign leader.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, also visited Addis Ababa from 22-26 May, 2011, and held discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr Hailemariam Desalegn.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma, visited Addis Ababa from 20 May, 2011, to 22 May, 2011, and held bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister, Mr Meles Zenawi, and the Trade Minister, Mr Abdurhman Sheikh Mohammed, and inaugurated the India Africa Trade Exhibition. He also led a delegation of Indian CEOs and inaugurated the India Africa Trade Ministers meet, which has been announced to be a regular event in the future.

Prior to the visit of the Prime Minister, the Minister for State for Agriculture, Shri Arun Yadav, visited Ethiopia in May 2011, carrying the message of the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh to his Ethiopian counterpart, Mr Meles Zenawi.

Prof. K V Thomas, Minister of State for Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, visited Addis Ababa from

5-7 July, 2011. During his visit, he met the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Hailemariam Desalegn, the Director-General of Sugar Corporation, Mr Abay Tishaye, and Minister for Agriculture, Mr Tefera Debrew, and held discussions on cooperation in the field of agriculture and sugar development.

The ICCR-sponsored troupe, Siddi Goma, visited Ethiopia and gave dance performances in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa from 21-29 October, 2011. The performances were widely appreciated.

Bilateral commercial, economic and investment relations with Ethiopia continue to strengthen during the year. India continued to be the largest investor in Ethiopia at US\$ 4.7 billion, with committed investment of over US\$ 1 billion. During the visit of the Prime Minister, the Ethiopian Prime Minister assured that the total trade between the two countries would reach US\$ 1 billion from the present figure off US\$ 500 million by 2015.

An Agreement between the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority (ERCA) for technical assistance to Ethiopia was signed whereby India will provide technical assistance on implementation of a WTO-compliant customs valuation system, as weaknesses in tax collection in the country are hampering economic development.

As a follow-up to the joint technical cooperation meeting, 41 experts provided training to Ethiopian leather industries to enhance their capabilities as part of a bench-marking project, which was funded by the Government of Ethiopia. India's Central Leather Research Institute and the Footwear Design and Development Institute signed a twinning arrangement with LIDI of Ethiopia for a three-year period. The project was launched in September 2011.

There continued to be an overwhelming response to the ITEC programme with additional slots being offered to Ethiopia. Following the outcome of IAFS-II, the ITEC slots to Ethiopia were increased to 135 from 120. All the 135 slots were utilised by November 2011.

The presence of the eight-member Indian Army training team at Holetta has been appreciated, as the team is involved in successfully enhancing the skills of the Ethiopian Army at the MGHA Military Academy.

Kenya

Mr Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, the Vice President of Kenya, led a business delegation to India from 28 April-3 May, 2011, during which he visited Mumbai to attend the 'I for Africa' event organised by the Indo-African Chamber of

Commerce & Industries, Ahmedabad, and New Delhi. He was accompanied by the Ambassador and the Minister of Trade, Mr Chirau Ali Mwakwere. During the visit, he met the Vice-President, Shri Hamid Ansari. Mr Mwakwere also met the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma.

The President of Kenya, Mr Mwai Kibaki, attended the Second India-Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa from 24-25 May, 2011. He met the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, on the margins of the Summit. The Kenyan delegation included the then Acting Foreign Minister and Minister for Internal Security, Mr George Saitoti, and the Minister for Trade, Ambassador Chirau Ali Mwakwere.

The Minister for External Affairs, Shri S M Krishna, visited Nairobi from 27-28 May, 2011. During the visit he met the Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for Local Government, Mr Musalia Mudavadi.

The Minister for Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, visited Kenya from 16-22 September, 2011. During the visit, he met the Minister for Water and Irrigation of Kenya, Ms Charity Kaluki Ngilu.

The High Commissioner led the Indian delegation at the Summit on the Horn of Africa Crisis, hosted by the Government of Kenya in Nairobi from 8-9 September, 2011.

On 14 September, 2011, the Government of India announced that it would provide humanitarian assistance of US\$ 8 million to countries affected by famine and drought in the Horn of Africa, i.e., Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti. The assistance will be provided through the World Food Programme.

Kenya participated at the 11th meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and associated meetings held in Bengaluru from 9-15 November, 2011.

The Indian Navy ship, Sarvekshak, visited Mombassa port from 25 November -4 December, 2011. INS Sarvekshak carried out a demonstration of an hydrographic survey of an earmarked area off Mombassa port and handed over a chart to the Kenyan Naval authorities. The Indian Navy ship, Talwar, visited Mombasa port from 23-26 April, 2011 for an Operational Turnaround (OTR) visit from a counter-piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden.

Nearly 16 Indian companies participated at the Buyer-Seller Meet organised by the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC), in Nairobi on 6 April, 2011, while 11 Indian companies participated in the Build Expo Kenya exhibition. The Plastics Export Promotion Council, sponsored by the

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with 48 exhibitors from India participated in the 4th International Exhibition for Plastics, Rubber and Packaging Industry held from 13-15 July, 2011, in Nairobi. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations organised the participation of 24 Indian companies at the 15th Kenya International Trade Exhibition that was held in Nairobi from 26-28 November, 2011.

A delegation from the Ministry of Textiles visited Kenya from 29 September - 5 October, 2011, to explore possibilities for cooperation in the field of sericulture.

The High Commission, in association with the Kenya Bengalee Cultural and Welfare Society, organised a multilingual and multimedia cultural presentation 'Jiboner Jatri' to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in Nairobi on 7 May, 2011. The presentation brought together actors, musicians, dancers, narrators and videographers.

The Assistant High Commission of India in Mombassa, in association with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, organised a Qawwali concert by Ustad Ghulam Niazi and his troupe in Mombassa on 26 September, 2011.

The Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, organised 'Indiafrica: A Shared Future Initiative' at the AIESEC Business Summit in Nairobi on 26 August, 2011.

Lesotho

Since 1996, the High Commission in Pretoria has been concurrently accredited to Lesotho, a friendly southern African nation with which India, shares excellent relations. Lesotho's leadership is well disposed towards India and holds a favourable view of India's role in Africa. Lesotho has consistently supported India's candidatures to various international bodies, including the permanent membership to the United Nations Security Council. Lesotho has been fully supportive of our aspirations to play a role internationally.

During the year, the India-Lesotho Advanced Centre for Information Technology was operationalised and Rs 1.46 crore released as grants-in-aid for the construction of a new building for the IT centre. Two trainers from the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing were deputed in November 2011 to assist in the development of the IT centre. An MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Rural Development was signed with the Government of Lesotho in July 2011. A team led by Shri Niten Chandra, Joint Secretary (IC), visited Lesotho from 1-7 November, 2011, to discuss matters relating to the MoU and expanding co-operation in rural development.

Lt. Gen. V S Tonk, Deputy Chief of Army Staff, visited Lesotho from 28-31 July, 2011, to oversee the functioning

Indian Army Training Team and discuss issues of defence co-operation. He called on Mr Pakalitha Mosisili, Prime Minister of Lesotho, and Dr Motloheloa Phooko, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

The Government of India has decided to deploy an Indian Police training team in Lesotho upon the request of the Government of Lesotho to assist in the training of the Lesotho Mounted Police Force. An Indian Army training team, stationed in Lesotho, since June 2001, made further progress in the professionalisation of the Lesotho defence force.

India also provided development assistance to Lesotho through 56 training slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme, and training of civil servants through various training courses under the India-Africa Forum Summit. India also offered an additional Line of Credit of US\$ 10 million to the Government of Lesotho.

Malawi

India and Malawi have long standing, historical close and friendly relations. Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika, the President of the Republic of Malawi, participated at the Second India Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa from 24-25 May, 2011, as the outgoing chair of the African Union Commission. Ms Eunice Kazembe, Malawian Industry and Trade Minister, participated in the Trade Ministers meeting on 21 May, 2011.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur, visited Malawi as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister from 12-14 May, 2011, to deliver invitations to the President and Foreign Minister of Malawi to participate in the 2nd India Africa Forum Summit to be held in Addis Ababa from 24-25 May 2011. She was received by President Bingu wa Mutharika.

Under the decisions taken at the second India-Africa Foreign Summit, one Rural Technology Park and a Cotton Technical Assistance Programme will be implemented bilaterally in Malawi. The number of ITEC positions for Malawi was increased from 41 to 56 in 2011-12. Four Malawian students have utilised Agricultural Scholarships under the India-Africa Forum Summit and two parliamentarians from Malawi participated in the programme for familiarisation for Young Parliamentarian in April 2011.

A large business delegation led by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ms. Eunice Kazembe, took part in the Seventh CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi from 27-29 March 2011

Malawi hosted the 15th COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit in Lilongwe from 14-15 October, 2011.

The President, Mr Bingu wa Mutharika, assumed the Chairmanship of the COMESA Authority from King Mswati III of Swaziland.

Madagascar

Madagascar is limping back to democratic and constitutional order, following the formation of an inclusive and consensual transition government on 21 November, 2011, in accordance with a roadmap brokered by the SADC Troika, comprising South Africa, Zambia and Tanzania. Mr Jean Omer Beriziky, formerly Madagascar's Ambassador to the EU, was appointed as a consensus Prime Minister on 2 November, 2011. Madagascar has been mired in political turmoil since the current President, Mr Andry Rajoelina, toppled the democratically elected President, Mr Marc Ravalomanana, in an Army-backed coup d'état on 17 March, 2009. The SADC's roadmap stipulates Presidential and Parliamentary elections under international supervision, within a year. A liaison office of SADC is already functional in Antananarivo to monitor the implementation of the roadmap signed on 16 September, 2011, by 10 political parties of Madagascar.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has welcomed the roadmap and has called for its full compliance, to pave the way for peaceful and credible elections in Madagascar. The Secretary General also commended the SADC Troika for its mediation efforts. There is no immediate word on lifting of sanctions, aid suspensions, etc. It is believed that these issues would be resolved by the transition government in the near future.

Mauritius

Bilateral relations between India and Mauritius are friendly, comprehensive, and dynamic. In 2011-12, the two countries worked towards strengthening their vibrant and multi-dimensional partnership. Cooperation in the political, economic and commercial, cultural, technical and defence and security spheres were active and mutually beneficial.

The President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, paid a highly successful State visit from 24-28 April, 2011, imparting new vision, momentum and dynamism to the modern and vibrant bilateral relations between India and Mauritius. The President held fruitful discussions with the President, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and the Prime Minister, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, of Mauritius, on all bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The President also met the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Paul Raymond Bérenger, the Chief Justice of Mauritius, and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius. The President highlighted the shared ideals of democracy, in her address to the National Assembly. The President and her delegation

were received with great warmth and affection at all official functions. The President and the Mauritius Prime Minister jointly unveiled the bust of Smt Indira Gandhi at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC), thus symbolising the deep regard, affinity and affection for Indian culture that is prevalent in Mauritius. A Joint Business Meeting, held during the State visit of the President brought together the 57-member-strong business delegation, comprising captains of industry and commerce from India with their Mauritian counterparts.

India continued to be the largest source of imports for Mauritius, whereas Mauritius continued to be the largest source of FDI for India. India's exports to Mauritius were valued at US\$ 801.56 million for 2010-11 and comprised largely of petroleum products. Other export items included cotton, pharmaceuticals, cereals, carpets, electrical machinery and equipment parts, apparel and clothing accessories, etc. India's imports from Mauritius were valued at US\$ 16.51 million and comprised scrap metal, optical, photographic and precision instruments, and aluminium and articles thereof. Mauritius was the single largest source of FDI into India during the financial year 2009-10, with FDI equity inflows amounting to US\$ 10.376 billion or 40.16 per cent of total FDI equity inflows during the period. According to Reserve Bank of India data, India's outward FDI (cleared proposals) to Mauritius amounted to US\$ 2.05 billion, approximately 10 per cent of the total outward FDI during the financial year 2008-09.

A greater number of slots were offered to Mauritius under ITEC (120 under ITEC I and 66 under ITEC II) for 2011-12, and IAFS training and capacity building courses. Sixteen Mauritian officials from various Ministries and Departments, including the Mauritius Police Force, Road Development Authority, Central Electricity Board and Central Water Authority, availed of the IAFS-1 Special Training Courses in 2010-11. IGCIC organised several cultural functions and hosted various visiting cultural troupes from India, under the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) 2010-13. Mauritian under-graduate, post-graduate and doctoral students continued to avail of ICCR and other Government of India scholarship schemes in large numbers.

At the request of the Mauritian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ambassador, Shri Bhaskar Balakrishnan, conducted a Course on Speech Writing for 38 Mauritian Government officials from 12-16 September, 2011.

On 2 October, 2011, Gandhi Jayanti was observed with due solemnity all over the island. The Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) organised the traditional function, including the garlanding of the Gandhi statue. IGCIC commemorated

Gandhi Jayanti on 3 October, 2011 at a function where the Mauritius Vice Prime Minister, A K Bachoo, the Minister of Local Government, Mr Hervé Aimée, and the former Vice President, Mr Raouf Bundhun, were present. The Visiting ICCR scholar, Mr Mahendra Singh Karna, delivered the Mahatma Gandhi lecture at MGI on 4 October, 2011.

The Foreign Minister, Dr Arvin Boolell, led the Mauritian delegation at the 11th Council of Ministers Meeting of IOR-ARC held in Bengaluru on 15 November, 2011. He also met the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, on 14 November, 2011. The Mauritian media gave wide and positive coverage to the IOR-ARC meeting and laid special emphasis on India's assumption of the Chair of the Association, and the appointment of Shri K V Bhagirath as Secretary General of IOR-ARC.

The Garden Reach Shipyards & Engineers-Government of Mauritius Agreement for the design, construction and supply of an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) was signed in Mauritius on 4 March, 2011, during the visit of an MOD/GRSE delegation.

On 20 September, 2011, an MoU was signed between the Mauritius Co-operative Agricultural Federation Ltd. (MCAF) and the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative (IFFCO), for the setting up of a bio-fertiliser plant in Mauritius.

Mozambique

India's relations with Mozambique continued to be warm and friendly. High level exchange of visits continued between the two countries in 2011. The Defence Minister, Mr Filipe Jacinto Nyussi, accompanied by a delegation that included the Navy Chief visited India in June 2011. The Education Minister, Mr Zeferine Martins, visited India in July 2011. The Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Eduardo Koloma, visited India in November 2011 to attend the IOR-ARC Foreign Ministers Conference held in Bengaluru.

India's Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Shri Arun Yadav, visited Mozambique in May 2011.

The EXIM Bank of India signed agreements with Mozambique's Ministry of Finance in 2011 under Lines of Credit of US\$ 20 million for a project on enhancing productivity of rice, wheat and maize cultivation and of US\$ 13 million for setting up of a solar photovoltaic modules manufacturing plant in Mozambique.

India's assistance to Mozambique in the field of training continued and several Mozambican nationals attended special training programmes under India-Africa Forum

Summit decisions. In addition, three young parliamentarians also participated in the training programme organised for Young Parliamentarians from Africa. Two applications have been received for Agricultural Scholarship from Mozambique for 2011-12. The number of ITEC positions increased from 41 to 56 in 2011-12 for Mozambique.

Namibia

Bilateral relations between India and Namibia are close and friendly, and the two countries share commonality of views on major international issues. Namibia has consistently supported India at the United Nations. Indo-Namibian bilateral ties were further consolidated and strengthened during 2011.

The Namibian Prime Minister, Mr Nahas Angula, participated in the second India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa on 24-25 May, 2011 as the current chair of Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Namibian Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Tjekero Tweya, participated in the Trade Ministers meeting held at Addis Ababa.

Smt. Preeti Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Namibia on 10 May, 2011, as Special Envoy of Prime Minister and extended invitation to the President, Mr Hifikepunye Pohamba, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Utoni Nujoma, to participate in the India-Africa Forum Summit-II in Addis Ababa.

The Government of India provided emergency aid of Rs 1 crore towards flood relief in Namibia in April 2011. Central Electrical Limited, Sahibabad, completed the solar electrification of two Namibian villages under the grants-in-aid scheme and these were officially handed over to the Namibian Government in November 2011.

In terms of the bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in Peaceful Purposes of Nuclear Energy signed in 2009, a delegation from Department of Atomic Energy visited Namibia from 18-21 May, 2011, for its implementation.

A delegation of Namibian defence experts also visited India in October 2011 to discuss opportunities for providing training to Namibian defence personnel and had fruitful discussions with India's Ministry of Defence.

Under the decisions of the second India Africa Forum Summit, one Entrepreneurs Development Institute and Information Technology Centre will be implemented bilaterally in Namibia. Several Namibian candidates have availed of special training courses under the India African Forum Summit. Three parliamentarians from Namibian participated in a familiarisation visit to India for Young Parliamentarians in April 2011. Three applications for M.Sc.

course under the Agricultural Scholarship have been received for 2011-12. The number of ITEC positions for Namibia was increased from 110 to 125 in 2011-12.

Rwanda

Shri Arun Yadav, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, visited Rwanda from 23-24 May, 2011, at the invitation of the Rwandan Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources to advance and strengthen sectoral cooperation.

For the implementation of India's announcements at the 2nd Africa India Forum Summit, an additional 15 slots were allocated to Rwanda under the ITEC/SCAAP programme during the year 2011-12, taking the total slots to 40.

WAPCOS Ltd, a Government of India undertaking, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 25 August, 2011, with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources for the identification, planning, implementation, and management of irrigation projects in Rwanda.

Mr Bazatoha Claver, Director, Flight Safety Services, Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority, attended the International Civil Aviation Negotiation (ICAN) 2011 Conference held in Mumbai, from 17-22 October, 2011.

A 25-member business delegation, led by Rwanda's former Prime Minister, Mr Bernard Makuza, visited India to explore new investment opportunities. The highlight of Mr Makuza's visit was a business road show, focusing on trade, investments, joint ventures, technology supplies and sourcing of expertise across a wide spectrum. The road show was organised by the Federation of Indian Micro and Small and Medium Enterprises, New Delhi. The two sides explored business opportunities in agro-processing and packaging, construction, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing of textiles and garments, and banking and financial services. Cooperation in mining and energy, including renewable energy, was also on the agenda.

Mr Gerald Mugube, External Resources Mobilisation Expert, Ministry of Economy and Finance of Rwanda, attended a two-day conference on Lines of Credit from 22-23 November, 2011, in New Delhi. The conference was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs to sensitise Government dignitaries from African countries about the processing, approval, and execution of Government of India-sponsored Lines of Credit.

Seychelles

The relations between India and Seychelles were further consolidated with high-level meetings. The Seychelles President, Mr James Alix Michel, had a bilateral meeting

with the Vice-President, Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari, on 28 October, 2011, on the margins of the CHOGM in Perth. The Seychelles Foreign Minister, Mr Jean-Paul Adam, had a bilateral meeting with the External Affairs Minister on the sidelines of the IOR-ARC Conference in Bengaluru on 15 November, 2011, where Seychelles was unanimously readmitted to IOR-ARC. In both these meetings, issues of bilateral importance were discussed.

The Centre for Excellence in IT, established with the assistance of India, was inaugurated by Seychelles President on 7 April, 2011, in Victoria.

The Indian Naval ship, Shardul, visited Seychelles on an EEZ Surveillance Mission in June-July, 2011, and participated in the Seychelles National Day Parade on 18 June, 2011. The Fifth Indo-Seychelles Joint Army Training/Exercise was conducted in Seychelles from 13-27 November, 2011.

The Indian Naval survey ship, Sarvekshak, visited Seychelles in November 2011 for the purpose of a hydrographic survey at the request of the Government of Seychelles.

A three-member high-level team, led by Lt. Gen. A K Singh, GOC-in-C, Southern Command, visited Seychelles from 14-15 November, 2011, in connection with the India-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise and Training. During his visit, he called on the President, the Vice President and the Home Minister, of Seychelles.

An ICCR-sponsored music group from India, led by Ms Shevanti Sanyal, performed in Seychelles on September 25, 2011.

A High-Level Global Anti-Piracy Conference was held in Seychelles in September 2011. The High Commissioner and the Maritime Security Adviser represented India. Shri M P Gandhi, Joint Secretary (L&T), Ministry of External Affairs, participated in the 9th Meeting of the Working Group-2 on Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia held from 11-12 October, 2011, in the Seychelles.

South Africa

Bilateral relations between India and South Africa are based on historical contacts and engagement, beginning with Gandhiji's political struggle in South Africa as well as our principled and consistent support for the ANC-led movement against apartheid. Post 1994, political relations have developed well as is reflected in a series of important high-level visits as well as a greater appreciation of each others' views on international issues, which has been further consolidated through the IBSA framework. South Africa also became a member of the BRICS group and attended its first meeting in April 2011. The South African President,

Mr Jacob Zuma, met the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit.

Dr Singh visited South Africa from 17-19 October, 2011, to attend the Fifth IBSA Summit held in Pretoria. He was accompanied by the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, and the Minister for Commerce, Industry, and Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma. An IBSA Memorandum of Understanding between Diplomatic Academies was signed during the visit. The External Affairs Minister met his counterpart Ms Maite Nkoana Mashabane, Minister for International Relations and Cooperation, during the visit.

Smt Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests, visited South Africa from 3-11 December, 2011, to attend the Conference of Parties (COP-17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Durban from 28 November-9 December, 2011. She was accompanied by an official delegation, comprising Dr T Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Shri J M Mauskar, Special Secretary, MoEF, and other officials.

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, visited South Africa to attend the Conference on Population Dynamics Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Pretoria, from 31 October to 5 November, 2011. He also met with Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, South African Minister of Health.

Shri Vilas Rao Deshmukh, Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, visited South Africa from 10-15 November, 2011, to attend the 39th Carnegie Meeting of Science Advisers to Presidents and Prime Ministers of G-8 plus O-5 Nations and European Union held in Cape Town. During the visit, he also met his counterpart, Ms Naledi Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology of South Africa.

Smt Krishna Tirath, Minister of Women and Child Development, visited South Africa from 12-15 October, 2011, to attend the Women's Forum held in the run-up to the 5th IBSA summit.

Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, visited South Africa from 18-24 September, 2011, and held a bilateral meeting with Ms Elizabeth, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry. A business seminar was also organised during the visit.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry, visited South Africa from 4-6 May, 2011, to participate in the 21st meeting of the World Economic Forum Africa held in Cape Town. During the visit, he met Mr Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa, Ms Maite Nkoma Mashabane,

Minister for International Relations and Cooperation, and Dr Rob Davies, Minister for Trade and Industry.

There were several visits at the official level and the Joint Working Groups on Information Technology and Science and Technology met in November 2011. A delegation, led by Shri Sukesh Jain, Director, Ministry of Finance, visited Pretoria from 29-31 August, 2011, to attend the Annual Technical Seminar of Middle Level Officers of the IBSA countries on Combating Tax Avoidance and Evasion. Dr. Amitabh Rajan, Additional Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, visited South Africa from 26-27 May, 2011. Dr S Y Quraishi, Chief Election Commissioner, visited South Africa from 15-20 May, 2011, to observe the 3rd local government elections and he held bilateral discussions with Dr B N Bam, Chairperson of the Independent Election Commission of South Africa. Dr. Bam visited India in October 2011, and a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Election Commissions was signed during the visit. A delegation led by Shri B C Khatua, Chairman Forward Markets Commission, visited Cape Town from 17-21 April, 2011 to participate in the 36th Annual International Organisation of the Securities Conference (IOSCO). Shri Vinod Rai, Comptroller and Auditor General, visited South Africa from 14-17 April, 2011, to attend the 20th meeting of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions.

Trade between South Africa and India is on an upswing and further progress was achieved towards the revised bilateral trade target to reach US\$ 15 billion by 2014. Bilateral trade grew by 21 per cent in the first four months of 2011-12, reaching US\$ 4.77 billion, with India's exports to South Africa standing at US\$ 1,703 million and imports at US\$ 3,069 million. There were regular visits by business delegations from the two countries. The South African Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms Elizabeth Thabethe, visited India in November 2011 and met Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, and Shri Virbhadr Singh, Minister for Small and Micro Enterprises. A Conference on Promotion of Pharmaceuticals was organised on 28 November, 2011, in Johannesburg.

A seven-member official delegation, from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, led by Secretary (AYUSH), Shri Anil Kumar, visited South Africa, from 15-20 September, 2011, to participate in conferences on Ayurveda, Unani Tibb and traditional medicine held in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. The delegation included the Director-Generals of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) and the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, Siddha, (CCRUMS) in addition to three experts

on ayurveda. The conference was organised to further strengthen the existing cooperation in the fields of Ayurveda, Unani Tibb and herbal medicine in South Africa. An MoU between the Durban Institute of Technology (DIT) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) was signed for the establishment of an 'Ayurveda Chair'. The MoU was signed for an initial period of three years, which may be renewed for another five years. CCRAS will meet the costs relating to salary and appropriate allowances, of the selected candidate, while DIT will provide housing and other facilities to support academic studies in Ayurveda.

Cooperation in the development sector under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) was further enhanced, with full utilisation of the 105 slots allotted to South Africa, the first time since the inception of the programme,.

Cultural exchanges have been a key feature of the India-South Africa relationship. A Festival of India in South Africa was organised from June-August 2011. For the first time, cultural performances were held in small cities like Bhisho, Nelspruit, Polokwane, Port Elizabeth and Emalahleni, besides major cities like Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. The shared history festival was organised from August-September 2011.

Swaziland

India's relations with Swaziland continued to be friendly. The Swazi King, Mswati III, participated in the second India-Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011 as the current chair of Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). He had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, held on the sidelines of the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS). The Prime Minister announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 37.9 million to Swaziland.

High-level exchange of visits continued between the two countries in 2011. The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur, visited Swaziland as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister in May 2011 to extend the Prime Minister's invitation to King Mswati III for the second India-Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011. The Swazi Trade Minister also attended the Trade Ministers' Conference during the Summit.

A Ministerial delegation led by the Swaziland Agriculture Minister, Mr Clement Dlamini, visited India in October 2011 to attend the India Africa Business Summit organised by FICCI in Hyderabad.

India's assistance to Swaziland in the field of training continued and two parliamentarians from Swaziland

participated in the familiarisation visit to India for Young Parliamentarians in April 2011. The number of ITEC positions for Swaziland increased from 26 to 41 in 2011-12.

Tanzania

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, paid a successful State Visit to Tanzania from 26-28 May, 2011, at the invitation of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. He held official discussions with the Tanzanian President. The Prime Minister announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 180 million to Tanzania for the development of water supply projects in Dar-es-Salaam and coastal regions of Tanzania, and a grant of US\$ 10 million to support socio-economic and educational projects. The Prime Minister also gave a commitment to establish a Vocational Training Centre in Zanzibar and announced a grant of US\$ 1,00,000 for the purchase of laboratory equipment for schools in Zanzibar. Three agreements—Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income (DTAA); Joint Action Plan between National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC) and the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO); and a Joint Venture Agreement between the National Social Security Fund (Tanzania), Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (Tanzania), and Apollo Hospitals Enterprises Limited (India) for the setting up of a super specialty hospital in Dar-es-Salaam—were signed during the visit of the Prime Minister.

A five-member delegation, led by Shri R K Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director of WAPCOS Ltd, visited Tanzania from 2-7 November, 2011, and held discussions with the Ministry of Water for the extension of existing water supply schemes and construction of new water supply schemes in Dar-es-Salaam and Chalinze.

A three-member delegation, led by Dr B C Gupta, Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, visited Tanzania from 31 May-2 June, 2011, to attend the 39th International Sugar Organisation Council Session in Arusha.

A six-member delegation, led by the Tanzanian Deputy Minister of Water, Mr Gerson H Lwenge, visited EdCIL when they were in India during the period 25-30 July, 2011, to discuss the training of Tanzanian water engineers.

Prof Makame Mbarawa, Tanzania's Minister of Communication, Science, and Technology, visited Hyderabad to attend the second India Africa Partnership Summit during the period 11-13 October, 2011.

A Tanzanian delegation, led by Mrs Joyce Mapunjo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry and

Marketing, and Mr Mike Laiser, Director General, Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), visited the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) in October 2011 to discuss the areas of cooperation within the framework of the Joint Action Plan between NSIC and SIDO that was signed during the State visit of the Prime Minister to Tanzania between 26 and 28 May, 2011.

A 22-member delegation, led by Mr Samuel J Sitta, Minister for East African Cooperation, visited Bengaluru from 9-15 November, 2011, to attend the 11th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Dr. Richard Sezibera, visited India, to attend the Meeting of Regional Economic Communities from 8-9 November, 2011.

An Engineering Export Promotion Council of India delegation visited Tanzania from 2-4 April, 2011 and held a buyer-sellers meeting at Dar-es-Salaam.

Also, 36 Indian companies, under the aegis of ITPO, participated at the 35th Dar-es-Salaam International Trade Fair during the period 28 June-8 July, 2011. An Indian agribusiness delegation (under FICCI) visited Tanzania from August 15-17, 2011, and conducted a round table discussion.

During the year, 165 slots were provided to Tanzania under the ITEC Programme. Till 30 November, 2011, TC Division had accepted 177 nominations from Tanzania. All 18 long-term scholarships provided by ICCR were utilised while 18 candidates have so far participated in the courses under IAFS, including one for the CV Raman Fellowship (administered by FICCI).

During the period January to October 2011, India's exports to Tanzania amounted to US\$ 1,254.6 million while imports from Tanzania amounted to US\$ 151.4 million.

An eight-member Qawwali Group, led by Shri Ghulam Qadir, visited Tanzania from 14-21 September, 2011, while the six-member Aakar Puppet Group, led by Shri Puran Bhatt, was there from 23-28 November, 2011.

Uganda

The Vice-President, Shri M. Hamid Ansari, paid a transit visit to Kampala from 8-10 July, 2011. He called on the President, Mr Yaweri Museveni, and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Shri Arun Yadav, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, visited Uganda from 25-29 April, 2011, at the invitation of the Ugandan Minister of Agriculture. Issues concerning bilateral co-operation in the field of

agriculture were discussed. The two sides agreed to operationalise the Joint Working Group at the earliest.

Prof K V Thomas, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, attended the swearing-in ceremony of the President of Uganda between 11-13 May, 2011, as the Special Envoy of the Government of India.

A four-member delegation led by Shri K T Chacko, Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), visited Kampala and held a stakeholders workshop from 13-14 June, 2011. More than 80 stakeholders from different institutions and senior officers/officials of Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives participated in the workshop that was held in preparation for establishing the proposed India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade (IAIFT) in Uganda.

Shri Mani Shanker Aiyer, Member of Parliament, visited Uganda from 19-21 June, 2011, to participate in the Post Election (Induction) Seminar for Members of Parliament of Uganda.

A National Defence College (NDC) delegation, led by Brig A K Jha, visited Uganda from 15-20 May, 2011. It was the first-ever visit to Uganda by an NDC team. The team had an opportunity to interact with various leaders and high ranking officials of the Ugandan Government.

Under the ITEC/SCAAP programme, 61 slots were allocated to Uganda for the year 2011-12. In addition, during the 2nd India-Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, announced the allocation of an additional 15 slots during the year.

A 35-member agri-business delegation from FICCI visited Uganda from 18-20 August, 2011, and had fruitful discussions with the President of Uganda, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Information and Communications Technology, and the Minister of Trade. They also held B2B meetings and took part in a business seminar, co-organised by the Uganda Revenue Authority and the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry where more than 100 companies from Uganda participated.

President Museveni visited India from 21-27 September, 2011, on a private visit for medical treatment. The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur, called on President Museveni and discussed bilateral issues over a working lunch.

A three-member official delegation, led by Shri S S Das, Director, Ministry of Textiles, visited Uganda from 26-29 September, 2011. The visit was funded by JICA India, in order to assess the impact of third country training programmes on

bivoltine sericulture by JICA and the Central Silk Board. The delegation interacted with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries. It also visited Sheema district and met the Chief Administrative Authority.

Zambia

India's relations with Zambia have been close and friendly. The leaders of the Zambian freedom struggle, like Dr Kenneth Kaunda, drew inspiration from India's struggle for freedom, particularly from Mahatma Gandhi. Zambia supported India on issues of importance to it, including India's admission as a Permanent Member in the expanded UN Security Council.

General elections were held in Zambia on September 20, 2011, and belying all exit polls and predictions, the opposition Patriotic Front leader, Mr Michael Chilufya Sata, won the Presidential elections. In a smooth transition of power, he was sworn in as the fifth President of the Republic of Zambia on September 23, ending the 20-year rule of the Movement for Multi Party Democracy.

The Government of India approved a new Line of Credit of US\$ 50 million to the Government of Zambia in November, 2011, for setting up of pre-fabricated health posts in rural areas.

Under the decisions of second India-Africa Foreign Summit, one entrepreneur development institute and five biomass gasifier systems will be established in Zambia. Several candidates from Zambia have participated in the special training programmes and three Zambian nations availed Agricultural Scholarship for 2010-11. The number of ITEC positions for Zambia was increased from 91 to 111 in 2011-12.

Zimbabwe

After the establishment of a fragile 'inclusive government' in February 2009 between the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and the two factions of the Movement for Democratic Change led by the Prime Minister, Mr Morgan Tsvangirai, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Arthur Mutambara, the situation in Zimbabwe continues to be unstable. The stalemate between the President and Prime Minister prompted President Mugabe to call for polls. President Mugabe has sought referendum on the new Constitution. It is widely believed that it would be impossible to hold polls by March 2012 as desired by President Mugabe.

India's bilateral relations with Zimbabwe have always been close and cordial. After a gap of 15 years, the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, visited Zimbabwe from September 19-21, 2011. He was accompanied by a large Indian business delegation.

There have been several ministerial and business-level private visits from Zimbabwe to India in 2011. Zimbabwe is keen to have Indian investment in energy, railways, health and other sectors.

India has assisted Zimbabwe in the telecommunications, power and transport sectors, and contributed to its capacity building. The final phase of the Indo-Zimbabwe SME project has been completed in 2011. A Memorandum of Understanding for the Hole-in-the-Wall Electronic learning (HiWEL) programme was signed with Zimbabwe in September 2011 and subsequently an agreement between the Ministry of External Affairs and HiWEL in November 2011 for its implementation. The Pan African e-Network Project has been completed in Zimbabwe in 2011 and only the hotline for communication between the Heads of State remains.

Under the decisions of the second India-Africa Forum Summit, one Rural Technology and one Food Testing Laboratory are being set up in Zimbabwe. Several Zimbabwean nationals have availed of the special training programmes, with four candidates having applied for Agricultural Scholarship for 2011-12 and one parliamentarian visiting India for a familiarisation visit for Young Parliamentarians in April 2011. The number of ITEC positions for Zimbabwe was increased from 90 to 110 in 2011-12.

West Africa

India shares cordial relations with almost all the countries in the region who view her as a benevolent rising economic power. In the context of India's growing engagement with Africa, there has been intensification of bilateral and regional cooperation with West African countries in capacity building efforts, human resources development and infrastructure building, mainly through granting training slots and scholarships, setting up institutions and extending aid projects and credit lines in accordance with the decision taken at the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-2008) and IAFS-II (2011).

Angola

India has offered to set up a food processing business incubation centre in Angola under IAFS-II.

Benin

A 15-member Theyyam dance troupe from Kerala visited Benin and gave a performance in Cotonou on December 2, 2011. India offered to set up a food testing laboratory and cotton initiative in Benin under IAFS-II.

Burkina Faso

India offered to set up vocational training centre of Barefoot College and cotton initiative in Burkina Faso under IAFS-II.

Cameroon

India made an offer to establish a food processing business incubation centre and a cotton initiative in Cameroon under IAFS-II.

Cape Verde

India approved the supply of computers and accessories worth Rs 1.06 crore to Cape Verde. India offered a Cluster of Solar Charging Stations to Cape Verde under IAFS-II.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Two Hole-in-the-Wall Learning Stations were successfully commissioned in Bangui in the Central African Republic under the aid programme of the Ministry. The project was inaugurated on 31 August, 2011, by Mr Faustin Archange Touadera, the Prime Minister of the CAR. Under IAFS-II, India has offered to establish an English Language Training Institute in CAR.

Chad

Shri Arun Yadav, Minister of State for Agriculture, visited Chad from May 9-10, 2011, as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to hand over the invitation letter for the 2nd India-Africa Forum Summit to the Chad President, Mr Idriss Deby Itno, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Integration. India offered to set up a food testing laboratory and a cotton initiative in Chad under IAFS-II.

Cote d'Ivoire

The new Ivorian Government expressed desire at its highest level to further strengthen and revitalise its relations with India. India welcomed the gesture and made an offer of establishing a Rural Technology Park in Cote d'Ivoire.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The President of DRC, Mr Joseph Kabila Kabange, laid the foundation stone for the construction of the 60 MW Katende Hydroelectric Project for which the Government of India has provided a Line of Credit of US\$ 168 million in October 2011. India has offered to set up a vocational training centre in DRC under IAFS-II.

Equatorial Guinea

Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Information Technology, visited Equatorial Guinea on 5 May, 2011, as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to hand over the invitation letter for the Second India-Africa Forum Summit to the President of Equatorial Guinea. Under IAFS-II, India has offered to set up an institute of Geoinformatic Applications for Rural Development in Equatorial Guinea.

Gabon

India has offered to establish an Entrepreneurial Development Institute in Gabon under IAFS-II.

Ghana

An agreement was signed between the Ministry and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing on 24 March, 2011, for providing two years' support for the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in Information and Communication Technology at Accra. India also offered to set up a food processing business incubation centre in Ghana under IAFS-II.

Guinea

A delegation led by Dr. Mohamed Diane, Minister Directeur du Cabinet a la Presidence, of the Republic of Guinea, held discussions with Secretary (West) in June 2011 in New Delhi on bilateral as well as other issues of mutual concern. India has offered to establish a biomass gasifier system in Guinea.

Guinea Bissau

A cluster of solar charging stations has been offered to Guinea Bissau under the IAFS-II.

Liberia

India supplied laboratory material worth Rs 1.4 crore under its aid project. India also successfully set up two Hole-in-the Wall Learning Stations in Monrovia at a cost of Rs 31 lakh. India has also offered to set-up a Barefoot Vocational Training Centre in Liberia.

India and Liberia signed an Agreement on Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection of Taxes in Monrovia on 3 October, 2011.

Mali

India offered to set up a food processing business incubation centre in Mali under the IAFS-II. The President of the Republic of Mali, Mr Amadou Toumani Toure, paid a State Visit to India on 11-12 January, 2012. He led a high-powered Ministerial and business delegation, which included his spouse, many Ministers and other dignitaries. The President of India hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary on 11 January, 2012. Earlier, delegation-level talks were held in Hyderabad House during which the entire gamut of bilateral relations was reviewed. The two sides agreed to deepen bilateral relations. President Toure and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh led their respective delegations during the talks. An MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Geology and Mineral Resources and an Agreement for grant

of a Government of India Line of Credit of US\$ 100 million for a power transmission project in Mali were signed in the presence of the two leaders.

Mauritania

A Human Habitat Centre and Centre for English Language Training were offered to Mauritania.

Nigeria

Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister for Water Resources and Minority Affairs, represented India at the swearing-in ceremony of the President, Mr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, on 29 May, 2011, in Abuja. Shri R P N Singh, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, visited Abuja as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister from 5-6 May, 2011, and handed over invitation letters to Nigerian dignitaries to attend the 2nd India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa. Prof Ruqayyatu Rufai, Nigeria's Minister for Education, visited New Delhi from 8-10 September, 2011, and participated in the E-9 Countries Conference. Ms. Hajia Zainab Ibrahim Kuchi, Nigerian Minister of State for Niger Delta Affairs, visited India from 31 October-3 November, 2011, to inspect institutions where a number of ex-militants from Nigeria are being trained under Federal government's amnesty scheme.

A 15-member Theyyam dance troupe from Kerala participated in the Abuja Carnival 2011 from 26-29 November, 2011. The troupe also gave performances at Kano International Trade Fair and Indian Cultural Association, Kano.

India has offered Project Arrow and Cotton Initiative to Nigeria under IAFS-II.

A 13-member delegation led by Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman, Nigerian Minister of National Planning, visited India on 3-8 December, 2011, at the invitation of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Nigerian First Lady, Dame Patience Jonathan, welcomed a group of 13 Nigerian children in December 2011 following their return from India after cardiac surgeries, which were funded by the A Aruera Reachout Foundation.

Niger

Niger opened its Embassy in New Delhi in November 2011. Niger was granted an amount of Euro 86,452 towards purchase of two HF cameras with emission and reception system for the National Television of Niger for use at the investiture ceremony of the newly-elected President, Mr Mahamadou Issoufou, in April 2011. Under IAF-II, India offered to set up an institute of Geoinformatic Applications for Rural Development in Niger.

Republic of Congo (ROC)

India offered to establish a Rural Technology Park and a Food Testing Laboratory in ROC under IAFS-II.

Senegal

Mr Abdoulaye Balde, Senegalese Minister of Mines, Industry, Agro-Industry and SMEs, visited India from 10-12 April, 2011, to hand over a message from the Senegalese President to the Prime Minister of India. Mr Balde also met the Minister of State for Mines, Shri Dinisha J Patel. Shri R P N Singh, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, visited Senegal from 4-5 May, 2011, as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to extend invitations to IAFS-II, held in Addis Ababa from 24-25 May, 2011, and called on the Senegalese President and also held a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Maitre Madicke Niang.

On the margins of IAFS-II, held from 24-25 May, 2011 in Addis Ababa, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met the Senegalese President and discussed issues of mutual interest.

A Line of Credit of US\$ 27.5 million, extended to Senegal in 2011 for rural electrification, became effective in August 2011. India also extended cash assistance of US\$ 1 million to Senegal towards flood relief. India has also offered to set up a vocational training centre of Barefoot College and upgrade the Entrepreneurship Development Institute in Senegal.

Sierra Leone

India has offered to set up an information technology centre in Sierra Leone under IAFS-II.

The Gambia

The Government of India has approved the setting up two Hole-in-the-Wall Learning Stations under the aid budget for Gambia at a cost of Rs 31 lakh. India has also offered to set up a food testing laboratory.

Togo

Two LoCs of US\$ 15 million and US\$ 13 million for rural electrification and a farming project for mechanisation of

farming and cultivation of crops, respectively, are under process. India has offered to set up an English Language Training Institute in Togo under IAFS-II.

Pan African e-Network Project

The Government of India's Pan-African e-Network Project, under which India is helping the setting up of a fibre-optic network to provide satellite connectivity, tele-medicine and tele-education for 53 countries in Africa, has been commissioned in all the 47 countries that had signed the agreement for participating in the project. The countries are Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The project is also likely to be implemented in South Sudan, making it the 48th country under PAENP.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

An MoU for putting in place an institutional framework for greater interaction between India and ECOWAS was signed by our High Commissioner to Nigeria and the President of ECOWAS Commission, Ambassador James Victor Gbeho, in the presence of Shri R P N Singh, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas on 6 May, 2011.

Two Government of India tranches of US\$ 100 million and US\$ 150 million were granted to the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development during 2010 and 2011, respectively.

Economic Community of Central African States [ECCAS]

ECCAS participated in the Regional Economic Communities meeting held in New Delhi from 8-9 November, 2011. The delegation was led by Mr Sylvain-Goma, Secretary General of ECCAS.



Austria

India and Austria enjoy warm and cordial relations. The bilateral relations were given a strong impetus during the year with the visit of the President, Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil, from 4-7 October, 2011. She met the Federal President, Mr Heinz Fischer, the Federal Chancellor (Prime Minister), Mr Werner Faymann, and the President of the National Council of the Austrian Parliament, Ms Barbara Prammer. The delegation-level talks covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations and international issues, of mutual concern. Special emphasis was put on strengthening economic and commercial cooperation, scientific cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges. President Fischer expressed strong support for India's place in a reformed United Nations Security Council.

Two MoUs were signed during the visit. These were an MoU between India's Ministry of Railways and the Austria's Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (which provides for cooperation in the modernisation and extension of the capacity of our existing railway network, renewal and extension of railway infrastructure, and supply of railway equipment) and an MoU between India's Department of Science and Technology and the Austrian Science Fund (which enables further cooperation in all fields of research of mutual interest). The President was accompanied by a business delegation. The two Heads of State addressed an Austria-India Economic Forum during the visit. On the sidelines of the event, an MoU was signed between the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Austrian Economic Chamber.

A number of dignitaries from different Indian states visited Austria during the course of the year. These included a delegation from Haryana, led by Shri Kuldeep Sharma, Speaker of the Haryana Legislative Assembly, which visited Austria from 15-19 July, 2011, as part of pre-conference study tour of the 57th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. Shri Wanglin Lowangdong, Speaker of Arunachal Legislative Assembly, and Shri Man Bahadur Dahal, Deputy Speaker of Sikkim Legislative Assembly, also visited Austria, from 2-4 August, 2011, as part of a similar study tour.

The Indian Embassy in Vienna, in cooperation with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), organised a Festival of India from 14-30 March, 2011, in

Vienna, which had multiple components, such as a food festival, a film week, seminars on Indian dance, Indian music and information technology, as well as an India-Austria Roundtable on Innovation and Technology.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

India's relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to be warm and friendly. Foreign Office Consultations with Bosnia and Herzegovina were held at New Delhi on 5 April, 2011, after a gap of eight years. The consultations, which were co-chaired by Mr Edin Dilberovic, the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Secretary (West), provided an opportunity to review bilateral relations and to discuss ways and means of adding more substance to the cooperation between the two countries.

Bulgaria

The traditionally warm and cordial relations with Bulgaria continued to flourish during the year, and received a boost with the official visit of a Bulgarian parliamentary delegation, led by the National Assembly Chairperson, Mrs. Tsetska Tsacheva, to India from 26-30 November, 2011. The delegation included the Bulgarian Health Minister, Mr Stefan Konstantinov, and the Minister of Education, Youth and Science, Mr Sergey Ignatov. An inter-governmental Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Medicine and a Programme for Cooperation in Science and Technology for 2011-13 were signed during the visit.

The 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, who had visited Bulgaria in 1926, was inaugurated simultaneously in Sofia and Varna on 11 May, 2011. Bulgarian speakers spoke in detail on the international acclaim won by Tagore and about his visit to Bulgaria. Tagore's digital paintings were displayed and the film 'Geetanjali', with subtitles in Bulgarian, was screened in all major towns of Bulgaria.

A 'Made in India Expo' was organised in Sofia from 10-18 December, 2011, which was well received by the Bulgarians. The Wool Industry Export Promotion Council of India and nine other Indian companies participated in the Expo.

Croatia

The traditionally friendly bilateral relations between India and Croatia were strengthened through active political and economic engagements during the year. The 9th Round of

the India-Croatia Foreign Office Consultations was held in New Delhi on 6 May, 2011. Led by Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West) on the Indian side, and Dr Mario Nobilo, Secretary for Political Affairs, on the Croatian side, the meeting provided a useful opportunity to review different aspects of bilateral relations and to exchange views on regional and international issues of common concern.

The Cultural Exchange Programme signed between the two sides, in 2010 was implemented, with the participation of an Indian specialist in underwater archaeology, in the Fourth International Congress on Underwater Archaeology held in Zadar, Croatia, in October 2011. Efforts continued to implement the agreement on setting up a joint research corpus in the field of science and technology.

The Indian Embassy in Zagreb continued its focus on market promotion activities during the year, organising seminars, public meetings, etc., in which the Ambassador presented India's economic growth, strides in the field of science and technology, its emergence as a hub for research and development, etc. An 'India Trade Promotion and Investment Seminar' was held in Dubrovnik on 18 January, 2011. The Embassy also brought out a report on the small and medium enterprises of Croatia, with particular reference to their use of innovative technologies, for the benefit of the Indian small and medium enterprises sector.

The study of Indology and Indian languages was supported with gifts of 50 Hindi books, including dictionaries and grammar and text books as well as Hindi learning kits to the Department of Indology, University of Zagreb. The Embassy also supported the Department of Indology in organising the 6th International Conference on Sanskrit Epics and Puranas, in Dubrovnik. The Embassy also presented over 200 children's books to various schools in Zagreb.

The 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and his visit to Croatia were commemorated, in cooperation with the Croatian Parliament, local cultural organisations and the ICCR.

Other cultural promotion events held during the year included participation of India in the 'Subversive Film Festival' held in Zagreb from 7-21 May, 2011, on the theme 'Post colonial Indian and African Cinema'. The 2nd 'Days of Indian Culture' was organised in Zagreb from 7-14 May, 2011, by the Embassy in cooperation with a Croatian NGO. India participated in the 1st International Travel and Destination Expo held in Split in November 2011.

Cyprus

Relations between India and Cyprus have been traditionally very close and friendly. The warmth of these relations was

maintained through the visit of the Cypriot Foreign Minister, Mr Markos Kyprianou, to New Delhi from 17-19 April, 2011. He held detailed discussions with the Indian External Affairs Minister on bilateral, regional and international issues. The Foreign Minister also met with the Vice President, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Parliamentary Committee and the Congress Party General Secretary.

During the year, Cyprus supported India's candidature in several international forums, including the International Law Commission, Human Rights Council, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint Inspection Unit of the UN and the Committee for Elimination of all types of Racial Discrimination.

Czech Republic

The year witnessed further strengthening of relations between India and the Czech Republic. Mr Milan Stech, the President of the Czech Senate, visited India from 8-13 May, 2011, at the invitation of the Vice-President of India. He called on the Prime Minister, the Vice-President, and held meetings with the External Affairs Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Foreign Office consultations between the Czech Republic and India were held, in New Delhi, on 6 June, 2011, and were co-Chaired by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Tomas Dub, and Secretary (West). These were the first consultations after the new Government came to power in the Czech Republic. During the meeting, the two sides discussed different aspects of bilateral relations as well as major regional and international issues of mutual interest, and agreed to further reinforce and diversify cooperation bilaterally as well as multilaterally.

Mr Martin Kocourek, the Industry and Trade Minister of the Czech Republic, led a 50-member business delegation to India from 9-11 October, 2011. Mr Milan Urban, Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Affairs of the Czech Parliament, was a member of the delegation, which met the Commerce and Industry Minister. During discussions at this meeting, a target for an annual trade-turnover of US\$ 2 billion was set for 2012.

The Minister for Coal, Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal, accompanied by Special Secretary (Coal), Chairman of Coal India Ltd and Chairman of Neyveli Lignite Corporation visited Czech Republic from 13-16 June, 2011.

An important development during the year was the revalidation of the 1966 Agreement between India and the erstwhile Czechoslovakia on cooperation on the use of



The President of Czech Republic, Mr. Milan Stech, calls on the Vice President, Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari, in New Delhi on May 09, 2011



Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai, inaugurating the new Indian Chancery building at Helsinki on 5 October, 2011.

nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Deepening of cooperation in this key sector was explored during the visit of the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, the Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, and the Chairman of the National Power Cooperation of India Limited as also some scientists from BARC to the Czech Republic in June 2011. Also in June 2011, Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. (HEC), Ranchi, signed an MoU with Vitkovice, one of the largest and most diversified industrial groups in the Czech Republic.

The Indian Ambassador in Prague signed an MoU on behalf of the ICCR in June 2011 for the establishment of a Chair for teaching Hindi in the Charles University, Prague. A number of cultural exchanges during the year strengthened the people-to-people links.

Denmark

The Minister for Water Resources, Shri Salman Khurshid, visited Denmark, on 8-9 June, 2011, at the invitation of the Danish Minister of Environment, Ms. Karen Ellemann. On an invitation from the President of the Danish Parliament, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt Meira Kumar, also visited Denmark from 16-19 June, 2011, with a delegation of Parliamentarians and Lok Sabha officials. During the visit, the delegation called on the Queen of Denmark and also had meetings with the Danish Presidium.

An MoU was signed in June 2011 between the Aarhus University and the ICCR to establish a Rotating Chair of Indian Studies. This is the second ICCR Chair in Denmark.

The Embassy, in cooperation with the ICCR and the University of Copenhagen, celebrated the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore by organising exhibitions entitled 'Tagore in Advertisements' and 'Tagore in Kantha' from 15-20 September, 2011. A seminar was also organised in the University of Copenhagen, in September on the works and life of Tagore.

Bilateral relations received a setback, after the Danish Government decided not to appeal against the Danish High Court decision of 30 June, 2011, to disallow the extradition of the Danish national Niels Holck, aka Kim Davy, to India. He is accused of having masterminded the Purulia arms drop in India and the Government of India maintains that he must be sent to India to face the consequences of his terrorist acts.

Estonia

Bilateral relations between India and Estonia are warm and friendly, and were further strengthened and diversified during the year through a number of high-level visits from the Indian side. The progress is reflected in Estonia's in

principle decision to open a Resident Mission in India in 2012.

A 10-member goodwill delegation of the Indian Parliament, led by Shri P K Bansal, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, visited Estonia on 28 June, 2011.

The Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Shri Praful Patel, met the Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia, Mr Juhan Parts, during his visit to Tallinn, on 3 October, 2011.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister for Communication and Information Technology, and Human Resource Development, visited Estonia on 19 September, 2011. He called on Mr Andrus Ansip, Prime Minister of Estonia, and met the Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications, Mr Juhan Parts. He and the Estonian Minister of Finance, Mr Jurgen Ligi, signed the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement during the visit.

A 10-member Bihu dance group from Assam, sponsored by ICCR, visited Estonia and participated in the cultural festival in Tallinn in July 2011.

Finland

Finland and India have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relations. In the recent past, the level of interaction and engagement, both political and commercial, has been significantly enhanced.

Mrs Tarja Kaarina Halonen, President of Finland, visited India during 1-3 February, 2012, to participate in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS). During the visit, she met the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the growing India-Finland cooperation, particularly in innovation and environment.

There have been several Ministerial visits from both sides, cementing the excellent bilateral relations. The visits from the Finnish side in 2011 include those of their Minister of Migration and European Affairs, Ms Astrid Thors, in January; of the Minister of Environment, Ms Paula Lehtomäki, in February; of the Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr Jyri Häkämies, from 24-26 September, 2011. Mr Häkämies was accompanied by a 50-member business delegation. During his visit, he inaugurated an office of FinNode in Delhi, which will facilitate transfer of technology from Finnish companies. Ms Heidi Hautala, Minister for Development Cooperation, visited India from 2-5 February to participate in the DSDS. Secretary (ER) hosted a luncheon meeting with her to exchange experiences regarding development cooperation.

Ministerial visits from the Indian side, in 2011, included those by the Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Shri Farooq Abdullah, in March-April 2011 and by the Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Kamal Nath, on 10-11 May 2011. Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, visited Finland on 17-18 May, 2011, to participate in the meeting of the UN Security General's High Level Panel for Global Sustainability and met Ms Paula Lehtomäki, Finland's Minister of Environment.

From 27-29 June, 2011, a 10-member Goodwill Delegation of Indian Parliamentarians, led by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri P K Bansal, visited Finland. Shri Bansal met Finland's Minister of Economy, Mr Jyri Häkämies, and the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Mr Eero Heinäluoma.

The Minister of Human Resource Development and Communications & Information Technology, Shri Kapil Sibal, visited Finland from 20-21 September, 2011, for participation in a Summit on Information and Security Network for emerging markets, organised by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. During the visit, Shri Sibal met Ms Krista Kiuru, Minister of Housing, Transport, and Communications.

Economic relations received a boost with the convening of the 17th Joint Economic Commission in New Delhi on 24 November, 2011.

The ICCR opened a Yoga Centre in the Embassy in Helsinki and has deputed a Yoga teacher from India for a two-year term. A 10-member Bihu dance group from Assam, sponsored by ICCR, visited Finland to participate in the Cultural Festival of Europe held in Turku from 20-30 July, 2011. An ICCR-sponsored 15-member Bollywood dance group 'Matrix' also performed in Finland, in October 2011.

Greece

The 6th Session of the Indo-Greek Joint Economic Committee (JEC) Meeting was held in Athens, on 28 March, 2011, with the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma, leading the Indian delegation. A comprehensive Protocol for strengthening bilateral cooperation in various sectors was signed on the occasion.

The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) and Hellenic Organisation for Standardisation (ELOT) signed an MoU on 7 September, 2011, for technical cooperation in the field of standardisation.

A tourism promotion road show was organised in November 2011 by the Embassy in Athens in cooperation with the India Tourist Office. More than 50 local tour operators

and representatives of three airlines, viz., Air India, Etihad and Qatar Airways, participated in the road show.

Hungary

India's relations with Hungary continued to be close, friendly and multifaceted. Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Minister of State for Planning, Parliamentary Affairs, Science and Technology, and Earth Sciences, led a seven-member Parliamentary delegation to Hungary, from 1-4 May, 2011, and interacted with the Hungarian-Indian Inter-Parliamentary Union Friendship Group. The External Affairs Minister visited Hungary to attend the 10th ASEM Foreign Ministers' meeting from 5-7 June, 2011, when he held a bilateral meeting with the Hungarian Prime Minister. Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Minister of S&T and Earth Sciences, visited Hungary from 16-19 November, 2011, to participate in the World Science forum, organised by the Academy of Sciences of Hungary.

The Foreign Office Consultations were held with Hungary on 23 January, 2012, led by Mr János Hóvári, Deputy State Secretary for Global Affairs in Hungary's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Shri M Ganapathi, Secretary (West). The talks were cordial and productive, providing an opportunity for review of bilateral as well as regional and international issues.

A 14-member business delegation from the EU-India Chambers of Commerce visited Hungary from 17-19 May, 2011, as part of their Central and Eastern European tour to explore business environment and opportunities. Twelve Indian companies, including representatives from the Handicrafts Export Promotion Council, participated in the International Trade Fair in Budapest in October 2011. A six-member delegation of CII visited Budapest from 23-24 November, 2011, to participate in the Grow India Conference organised by the Ministry of National Economy of Hungary.

A 16-member National Defence College delegation was in Hungary on a familiarisation visit from 23-27 May, 2011, and a Working Group Meeting on Defence was held in New Delhi from 3-4 November, 2011.

Iceland

The ties between India and Iceland, based on shared values and many common interests, were strengthened by the visit of the Foreign Minister of Iceland, Dr Ossur Skarphedinsson, from 25 April-3 May, 2011. This was the first-ever visit of an Icelandic Foreign Minister to India. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, met the Foreign Minister of Iceland on 26 April, 2011. The two sides discussed issues related to bilateral ties as well as regional and international issues of common concern. During the visit, Dr Skarphedinsson met Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State

for Environment and Forests, and discussed possibilities of cooperation in the area of climate change and green energy. He also met Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Minister of Tourism. The Foreign Minister of Iceland also visited Jammu and Kashmir, where he held meetings with the Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, and the Chief Minister, Shri Omar Abdullah, and discussed cooperation in the area of renewable energy to exploit the potential that exists in J&K for mini-hydro power projects and geothermal energy. He also visited Agra and travelled to Mumbai, where he inaugurated the Honorary Consulate of Iceland and met Shri Murli Deora, Minister for Corporate Affairs, on 30 April, 2011.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri P K Bansal, paid a goodwill visit to Iceland on 24-25 June, 2011, accompanied by a Parliamentary delegation. They visited the Icelandic Parliament and were received by the Speaker of Parliament, Mrs Ásta R Jóhannesdóttir. The delegation also met the Icelandic Minister of Industry. Mr Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, the President of Iceland, also met the delegation.

Under the Cultural Exchange Programme, two artisans from India attended a workshop and exhibition of Indian and Icelandic arts in Iceland from 22 September to 1 October, 2011.

Latvia

Bilateral relations between India and Latvia are warm and cordial, and received a boost from the visit of Smt Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, to Riga from 31 March-2 April, 2011.

Indian culture was promoted in Latvia through a performance by the Saroja Vaidyanathan Kathak and Bharatnatyam troupe on 2 November, 2011. The 150th Birth Anniversary of Tagore was celebrated in Latvia University on 30 September, 2011.

Lithuania

The friendly relations between Lithuania and India were strengthened with the visit of Smt Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, to Vilnius from 30 June-2 July, 2011, to attend the Ministerial meeting of the Community of Democracies. She called on the President of Lithuania during the visit.

From the Lithuanian side, their Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Asta Skaisgirte- Liauškiene, visited India on 11 November, 2011.

Foreign Office Consultations between India and Lithuania were held on 19 May, 2011, in New Delhi at the Joint Secretary-level and provided an opportunity for a review of different aspects of bilateral, regional, and international relations.

India and Lithuania signed the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, in New Delhi on 26 July, 2011.

Moldova

A high-level 13-member e-governance delegation of the Government of Moldova visited India, from 1-2 August, 2011, to study e-governance practices and ICT sector development. The delegation was led by Mr Victor Bodi, Secretary General.

Montenegro

India's relations with Montenegro have traditionally been close and friendly since the days that it was a constituent republic of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. There is considerable goodwill and feeling of friendship for India in Montenegro.

Montenegro has availed of training courses under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) in areas such as cluster development, financial management, etc., including the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, organised by the Foreign Service Institute in Delhi.

Poland

Shri R P Singh, Secretary (DIPP), led a delegation to Poland to participate in the Second Session of the India-Poland Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation held in Poznan on 25 May, 2011.

The Minister of Coal, Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal, visited Poland from 19-22 June, 2011, and held discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Poland, Mr Waldemar Pawlak.

The Foreign Minister of Poland, Mr Radoslaw Sikorski, visited India from 11-12 July, 2011, and met the External Affairs Minister and the Minister for Commerce and Industry. During the visit, discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues were held.

The Culture Minister of Poland, Mr Bogdan Zdrojewski, visited India from 1-5 November, 2011.

The Polish Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Beata Stelmach, and Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Mr Rafal Baniak, led a large business delegation to India from 5-10 November, 2011. Apart from the business meetings, the delegation met Secretary (West), and Secretary (Coal) in Delhi and the Governor of Maharashtra in Mumbai.

Romania

Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Culture, visited Romania from 26-29 March, 2011, for signing the bilateral Programme of

Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Education, Youth and Sports for the years 2011-2015 between India and Romania.

A delegation led by Shri Ram Lubhaya, Additional Chief Secretary (Water Resources), Government of Rajasthan, visited Romania from 27-29 July, 2011, to study the organisation, structure and functions of the National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, Bucharest.

An ICCR-sponsored seven-member dance group, led by Ms Priyadarshini Shome, performed in Romania from 20-23 February, 2011.

The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, led a delegation, which included representatives from the Indian business community to Bucharest, for the meeting of the Joint Economic Commission on 2 February, 2012.

The Foreign Minister of Romania, Mr Cristian Diaconescu, is scheduled to visit India in the third week of February 2012.

Serbia

Relations between India and Serbia continued to be cordial. The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur, visited Serbia from 5- 6 September, 2011, when she represented India in the commemoration ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of the first NAM Meeting held in Belgrade. She called on the Serbian Prime Minister and held meetings with the Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Economy and Regional Development.

A three-member Air Force delegation, led by Air Marshal R K Vashisht, visited Belgrade in July 2011. Another three-member delegation from the Armament Research and Development Establishment of the Defence Research and Development Organisation visited Belgrade, in October 2011 to discuss possible transfer of technology.

Slovak Republic

India's relations with Slovakia continued to be warm and friendly. Both countries cooperated well in multilateral agencies and international fora. The Slovak Minister of Economy, Dr Juraj Miskov, and the Minister of Defence, Mr Lubomir Galko, visited India from 11-13 April, 2011, along with a business delegation when they held talks with the Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma, the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of State for Defence, Shri M Pallam Raju, and the Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Shri Virbhadr Singh. The Slovak delegation also held interactive sessions with FICCI and CII.

The Secretary, Culture, visited Slovakia in March 2011, where the Programme of Cooperation in the field of culture

for the years 2011-2013 was signed. A 15-member delegation from the NDC visited Slovakia from 16-21 May, 2011, when they interacted with the Slovak Minister of Defence and other Slovak dignitaries, including the Chief of the General Staff.

Slovenia

Relations between India and Slovenia have been traditionally warm and friendly, and received a strong fillip in the current year with the state visit of the Slovenian Prime Minister, Mr Borut Pahor, to India on 13-16 June, 2011. He was accompanied by three Ministers, Mr Darija Radic, Economy Minister, Mr Dorijan Marusic, Health Minister and Mr Patrick Vlacic, Transport Minister. During his visit, the Prime Minister addressed an India-Slovenia Business Conference, in Mumbai on 13 June, 2011, where an MoU was signed between the Small and Medium Development Chamber of India and the Slovenian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Foreign Investment (JAPTI). During the visit, the Slovenian Prime Minister met the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister, and the Leader of Opposition. Prime Minister Pahor addressed a business conference in New Delhi organised by FICCI and CII. A MoU was signed between Air India and Slovenia's National Carrier Adria Airways. Another MoU was signed between Velenje Coal Mines of Slovenia and Firewood Group of India. The two Prime Ministers also witnessed signing of three agreements, including the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement signed by the Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and the Slovenian Economy Minister, Mr Darija Radic. The Bureau of Indian Standards and its Slovene counterpart also signed a MoU. Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore and University of Nova Gorica signed an Agreement for Cooperation in the field of Research and Education.

A group of journalists from Indian print media visited Slovenia from 30 May-4 June, 2011, at the invitation of the Slovenian Government.

A three-member high-level team from India, comprising Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Shri Bhaskar Chatterjee, Principal Secretary, All India Council for Technical Education, Shri M K Hada, and Special Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training, Shri Vishwapati Trivedi, visited Ljubljana from 9-12 May, 2011, to look into developments regarding the International Centre for Public Enterprise.

The Embassy of India, in cooperation with the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC), a Government of India enterprise, organised the participation of 11 Indian small-scale units in the 44th International Trade Fair held

in the city of Celje from 7-14 September, 2011. Besides, a business delegation from the EU-India Chamber of Commerce visited Slovenia on 16 May, 2011, and another from CII from 5-6 October, 2011.

A cultural troupe of 12 members, led by Ms Radhika Shah, and sponsored by ICCR, visited Maribor, which has been declared the Cultural Capital of Europe from 23-26 May, 2011. A Carnatic Vocal Music concert by the Indian artist, Shri Gurucharan, was organised by the Embassy of India in association with the Slovene Cultural Association, Gopuram, on 22 October, 2011, at the City Museum in Ljubljana.

Sweden

Shared democratic values and common perceptions on many issues related to social and economic development reinforce the traditionally cordial relations between India and Sweden. The momentum of bilateral relations was maintained and expanded during the year. There was a good exchange of Ministerial visits from both sides in 2011.

From the Indian side, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt Meira Kumar, led a multiparty Parliamentary delegation to Sweden from 13-16 June, 2011. The Speaker extended an invitation to the Speaker of Sweden to lead a Parliamentary delegation to India, which was accepted by him. Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of Power, visited Sweden from 19-23 June, 2011, and Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister for Communications & Information Technology and Human Resource Development, visited Sweden from 21-24 September, 2011. Shri Brij Kishore Sharma, Minister of Transport of Rajasthan, visited Sweden, on 23-25 August, 2011.

The other visits from India included those by Dr Saumitra Chaudhuri, Member, Planning Commission, who visited Sweden from 17-21 May, 2011, and Shri Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations, from 13-15 June, 2011.

From the Swedish side, the most important visit was that of the Foreign Minister, Mr Carl Bildt, who was in India from 18-22 October, 2011. During his visit, Mr Bildt held meetings with the External Affairs Minister and the National Security Advisor.

The Swedish State Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ms Karin Johansson, also visited India in connection with the Nobel Week celebrations in October 2011. Mr Hakan Juholt, Leader of Sweden's Social Democratic Party, visited India on 31 October-4 November, 2011, and had meetings, among others, with Shri Srikant Kumar Jena, Minister for Statistics and Programme Implementation, Chemicals and Fertilisers.

The 4th Joint Working Group meeting on Health was held in Stockholm, on 19 May, 2011, which agreed on bilateral cooperation in a number of areas, including mental health, elderly care, health and climate change, etc. The 4th India Forum meeting, organised by the German Marshall Fund, in cooperation with Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held in Stockholm from 11-12 November, 2011.

In the cultural sphere, the University of Gothenberg inaugurated the Visiting Professorship in Indian Studies on 20 December, 2011 for the year 2012-2015. The 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was organised by the Association of Tagore Lovers in Gothenberg and by Uppsala University in May 2011, by Lund University on 21 September, 2011, and by Stockholm University on 22 September, 2011. An 11-member Saroja Vaidyanathan Kathak and Bharatnatyam troupe performed in Stockholm on 2 November, 2011. An exhibition of paintings of Shri Jatin Das, sent by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, was held in Uttersberg, Sweden, from 7 July- 21 August, 2011.

Switzerland

The highlight of the year was the State Visit of President, Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil, to Switzerland from 30 September-4 October, 2011. She visited the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, on 1 October and interacted with the Indian scientists from various institutions engaged in research at CERN. On 2 October, 2011, she paid tributes at the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the Ariana Park in Geneva. On 3 October, the President was given a ceremonial welcome accompanied by a guard of honour at the Parliament Square by the Swiss President, the members of the Federal Council and other dignitaries. The delegation-level talks were attended by six of the seven Ministers of the Swiss Cabinet during which bilateral issues and international issues of mutual interest were discussed. A MoU on Financial Dialogue was signed during the visit. On 4 October, both the Presidents addressed the Indo-Swiss Business Forum, which saw the participation of a 45-member Indian business delegation from CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM, and of delegates from the Swiss India Chambers of Commerce and State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). On 4 October, 2011, at the University of Lausanne, a MoU establishing the Rabindranath Tagore Chair on Indian Studies was signed in the presence of the two Presidents, and a bronze bust of Tagore was unveiled on the campus, commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Tagore.

An official Indian delegation participated in the World Economic Forum (WEF), Davos, held from 26-30 January, 2011. The delegation comprised of Shri P Chidambaram,

Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Urban Development, Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Praful Patel, Minister for Heavy Industries, and Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, and two Members of Parliament, Shri N K Singh and Smt Shobhana Bhartia.

The Commerce and Industry Minister visited Switzerland from 24-25 March, 2011. He inaugurated the 'BaselWorld 2011' along with Mr Didier Burkhalter, Federal Councillor for Home Affairs. India was the Guest Country at this event. In Berne, the Minister held official talks with his counterpart, Federal Councillor Johann N Schneider-Ammann. The discussions covered major issues of bilateral importance, including export of generic pharmaceuticals from India and the India-EFTA Trade and Investment Agreement. The Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs, Mr Johann N Schneider Ammann, visited India from 7-9 April 2011 along with a high-level business delegation, during which he had several business meetings and a bilateral meeting with the Commerce and Industry Minister.

India was the Guest of Honour Country at the prestigious Geneva Festival 2011, where spectacular cultural events and display of Indian art and crafts were held from 4-14 August, 2011. Several Ministers of Tourism of various Indian States and the Chief Minister of Meghalaya were present during the festival. A seminar was also organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries, with the participation of local and Indian business community. At the Locarno Film Festival 2011, held in the first week of August, India was the focus country in the 'Open Doors' section and some Indian independent cinema producers/directors received awards and financial support.

The Lok Sabha Speaker, accompanied by the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Rahman Khan, and other Members of Parliament, visited Switzerland, to participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Union Meeting held in Berne from 16-19 October, 2011.

Turkey

Relations between India and Turkey, which have been warm and cordial, were further strengthened during the year, through the exchange of high-level visits, business delegations, and cultural troupes. The most important event of the year was the visit of the Vice-President of India to Turkey from 10-15 October, 2011.

The Turkish Minister for Economy, Mr Zafer Caglayan, visited India from 19-21 April, 2011, leading a Turkish business delegation. Mr Caglayan visited India again from 16-19 November, 2011, to inaugurate the 'Turkey Expo'

trade exhibition in Mumbai hosted by the Istanbul Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

The Vice President of India, accompanied by his wife, Smt Salma Ansari, paid an official visit to Turkey from 10-15 October, 2011, at the invitation of the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, Mr Cemil Cicek. His delegation included Shri Mukul Wasnik, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, and four Members of Parliament. He visited Ankara, Konya, Kappadokya and Istanbul. He had meetings with the President, Mr Abdullah Gul, the Prime Minister, Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Ahmet Davutoglu, in addition to holding delegation-level talks with the Speaker, Mr Cemil Cicek. He was conferred an Honorary Doctorate in International Relations by the Mevlana University in Konya on 12 October, 2011. Other highlights of the visit included an interaction with over 70 Turkish academicians, journalists and writers in Ankara, and a dinner hosted by the Turkish Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists (TUSKON) in Istanbul.

Ministerial visits from India included those by the Minister of Human resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal, and the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, who represented India at the UN LDC-IV Conference held in Istanbul from 9-13 May, 2011. The External Affairs Minister also led the Indian delegation for the Istanbul Conference on Afghanistan on 2 November, 2011. He had a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister, Mr Ahmet Davutoglu, on the sidelines of the Conference.

Air Chief Marshal P V Naik, Chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee, visited Turkey from 18-21 April, 2011. He was hosted by the Turkish Chief of General Staff. The Air Vice Chief, N A K Browne, visited Istanbul, on 31 May, 2011, for the Global Air Chiefs Conference. The Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Nirmal Verma, paid a five-day visit to Turkey from 12-17 June. He was received by the Minister of National Defence of Turkey, the Turkish Chief of General Staff and the Secretary General of the National Security Council, besides meeting the concerned officers in the Turkish military establishments.

With the assistance of the Indian Embassy, Indian Food Festivals were organised, in Ankara and Izmir in May 2011.

A 15-member Dandia Ras Group from Gujarat participated in the 25th International Golden Karagoz Folk Dance Competition, in Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, from 7-12 July, 2011. The group also performed at the Opera House in Ankara.

To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of 'Gurudev' Rabindranath Tagore, the Embassy released a bilingual

(English and Turkish) coffee table book on 'Gitanjali', with financial help from the Ministry of Culture. The book was released on 29 November, 2011, at the National Library, Ankara, where a film on 'The Making of Gitanjali', was also screened. On the occasion, an exhibition of digital prints of Tagore's 44 paintings was also inaugurated, which lasted till 4 December, 2011.

West Europe

Belgium

Relations between India and Belgium continued to remain cordial and friendly. The 12th Meeting of the India-Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union took place in New Delhi on 15 April, 2011. This meeting was co-chaired by the Commerce Secretary on the Indian side and various aspects of bilateral relations were reviewed and a roadmap for further progress identified. Alongside the Joint Commission, the 2nd Meeting of the India-Belgium Joint Committee on Science and Technology was also held in New Delhi on 13 April, 2011, which identified new steps for enhancing cooperation in the fields of science and technology and noted the progress in joint collaboration in the field of astronomy under which a DOT 3.6m telescope being built with Belgian assistance in Nainital is expected to be operational in November 2012.

After registering a decline in 2009, bilateral trade witnessed a significant rebound in 2010 increasing by 46.5 per cent from € 7.1 billion in 2009 to € 10.4 billion in 2010 making Belgium, the second largest trading partner of India in the European Union. Indian exports to Belgium increased by 38.5 per cent to € 3.6 billion from € 2.6 billion in 2009 and Belgian exports to India increased by 51 per cent to € 6.8 billion from € 4.5 billion in 2009. The growing trend in bilateral trade has continued during the period January-September 2011 with total trade increasing by 35 per cent and reaching € 10.5 billion as against € 7.8 billion during the corresponding period in 2010.

To raise India's cultural profile in Europe in general and Belgium in particular, India signed an agreement with Europalia International to be the partner country for the next Europalia Festival in 2013-14, which would be the largest ever festival of India to be held abroad. The ICCR President, Dr Karan Singh, and ICCR Director General, Mr Suresh K. Goel, visited Belgium in this regard from 3-5 October, 2011 and from 14-15 November, 2011, respectively. An International Conference on Post-Independence Hindi Literature was held at the University of Ghent from 3 to 5 October, 2011 with financial support from ICCR. The conference was attended by academics and students from

across Europe. The ICCR President, Dr Karan Singh, delivered a special address at the conference on the theme 'The Many Facets of Hindi.' To mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, the Mission co-hosted an Odissi dance concert in BOZAR, Brussels' premier cultural venue, on 2 November, 2011, featuring dancers cum choreographers Monalisa Ghosh and Arindam Bannerjee, who performed the Tagore dance dramas 'The Warrior Queen' and 'Timeless India'.

European Union

Relations between India and the European Union continue to grow and diversify. EU is India's largest trade partner and a significant source of foreign investments. The implementation of the Lisbon Treaty in 2010 and the operationalisation of the European External Action Service in early 2011 intend to widen and deepen the way in which EU interacts with the outside world. These changes are also designed to strengthen the integration process within the EU and enhance the competencies of the EU institutions, including the European Council, European Commission and the European Parliament. As EU's sphere of authority expands, its engagement with India has deepened thereby allowing the two sides to also broaden the scope of cooperation.

The 12th India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi on 10 February, 2012. The President of the European Council, Mr Herman Van Rompuy, and the President of the European Commission, Mr Jose Manuel Barroso, led the EU Delegation. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, led the Indian delegation. This summit was the first such Summit in India following the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. Four documents were issued at the Summit: The Memorandum of Understanding between the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India and the European Commission (EUROSTAT) on Statistical Cooperation; India-European Union Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation Cooperation; the Joint Declaration for Enhanced Co-operation on Energy between the Government of India and the European Union; and, the Indo-EU Joint Statement.

The 22nd India-EU Ministerial meeting was held in Bangalore on 16 January, 2012. The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Catherine Ashton, led the EU delegation whereas the Indian side was led by the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna.

The Minister for Urban Development, Shri Kamal Nath, visited Brussels from 12-13 October, 2011 and addressed the Plenary Session of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union.



President of the European Council, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, and the President of European Commission, Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, meeting the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi on 10 February , 2012.



German Chancellor, Ms. Angela Merkel, calls on the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 31 May, 2011.

The Vice-President of European Commission, Ms Neelie Kroes, in charge of Digital Agenda visited India from 23-25 November, 2011 and met with her counterparts.

The India Delegation in the European Parliament, formally constituted in September 2009, visited India from 11-15 April, 2011. It was led by its current Chairperson, Mr Graham Watson, a British MEP, and met with a cross-section of Indian leaders.

A 40-member Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers led by the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Sushil Modi, visited Belgium and Luxembourg from 13-17 September, 2011 and had interactions with key officials of EU institutions.

India and EU have launched bilateral Foreign Policy Consultations at the level of Secretaries. The first such meeting took place in New Delhi on 15 November, 2011. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on important regional and global issues.

The 5th India-EU Security Dialogue took place in New Delhi on 19 May, 2011. The two sides exchanged views and discussed ways for strengthening cooperation on security and related matters.

The 6th India-EU Energy Panel met in New Delhi on 18 November, 2011. Secretary level officials on both sides exchanged views on energy security challenges and international cooperation. They also reviewed the work of various working groups under the Panel, namely on Coal, Clean Coal Technologies, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Indian experts participated at the India-EU Consultations on Cyber-security and Cyber-crime held at Ispra, Italy, on 20 October, 2011 where the two sides explored possibilities of cooperation on cyber-security and cyber-crime issues.

An expert level meeting on counter-piracy between Indian and EU officials was held in New Delhi on 16 November, 2011. Officials discussed various issues related to combating piracy and explored ways for enhancing cooperation in this field.

The India-EU Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism met in New Delhi on 10 January, 2012. A Seminar between India and EU was also organised on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi on 11 January, 2012 to familiarise each other about their respective counter terrorism structures.

The third India-EU Forum on Effective Multilateralism, jointly organised by ICWA and the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), was held in New Delhi on 27-28 September, 2011. Participants from the two sides discussed issues related to India-EU relations covering counter terrorism, climate change, cooperation in anti-piracy operations, etc.

The India-EU Ad-hoc Dialogue on Human Rights is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 22 March, 2012.

The EU, as a bloc of 27 countries, is India's largest trading partner while India was EU's 8th largest trading partner in 2010. Total trade in the calendar year 2010 increased by 27.82 per cent to € 67.78 billion (Indian exports € 32.99 billion; Indian imports € 34.79 billion) as compared to 2009. In the first eight months of 2011, trade between India and EU grew at 23 per cent. During this period, India's exports to the EU were € 26.7 billion and imports were € 26.9 million. In 2010, total Indian exports to the EU in different services sector were € 8.7 billion whereas total Indian services imports from the EU were € 10.98 billion.

France

India's relations with France are multifaceted and encompass fields such as trade and investment, education, science and technology, civil nuclear cooperation, defence, space and culture. Bilateral relations continue to deepen throughout the year with several high level visits, including the visit of the Prime Minister to attend the G-20 Summit in Cannes from 3-4 November, 2011.

The Lok Sabha Speaker transited through Paris on 20-21 October, 2011 and had interactions with French Members of Parliament and luminaries of French society.

In the run-up to the G-20 Summit, the Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee (14-15 October, 2011), Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Mallikarjun Khadge (26-27 September, 2011), Minister for Tourism, Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, (24-24 October, 2011) and Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar (21-24 June, 2011) visited France for sector-specific G-20 Ministerial meetings. The Minister of Power, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, visited France from 18-19 October, 2011 for the International Energy Agency (IEA) Ministerial Meeting.

The Home Minister, Shri P Chidambaram, visited Paris from 26-28 June, 2011 and had meetings with his counterpart and heads of French security agencies. The Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Dr C P Joshi, visited Paris from 23-25 May, 2011 to meet his French counterpart. The Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma, visited France from 24-26 May, 2011 to attend the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting and WTO Ministerial Meeting. Minister of State for Defence, Shri Pallam Raju led a delegation to Paris from 19-23 June, 2011 to attend the 49th Paris Air Show.

From the French side, the Foreign Minister, Mr Alain Juppe, visited India from 20-21 October, 2011. He met the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, and reviewed the progress



The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, with the Foreign Minister of France, Mr. Alain Juppe, in New Delhi on 20 October, 2011



The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, with the British Foreign Secretary, Mr William Hague, in London on 30 June, 2011.

on the implementation of the Joint Declaration on bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest and importance as also the "India-France: Partnership for the Future" adopted by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and the French President Nicolas Sarkozy on 6 December, 2010. Reaffirming that the India-France Strategic Partnership has been steadily strengthening and widening in scope, both Ministers agreed on a roadmap for its further development.

A four-member parliamentary delegation of the India Friendship Group from the French National Assembly led by its President, Mr Nicolas Forrisier visited India from 5-10 December, 2011.

The third round of Foreign Office Consultations was held in Paris on 6 May, 2011 at the Secretary level. This was followed by the India-France Joint Working Group Meeting on Counter Terrorism on 9 June, 2011 in Paris.

The first India-France Joint Army Exercise 'Shakti' was held in India at Chaubattia from 9-22 October, 2011. The platoon level exercise was based on counter-insurgency/counter-terrorism in mountainous environment. A contract for upgradation of the Mirage-2000 fleet of Indian Air Force was signed between the Ministry of Defence and French service providers on 29 July, 2011.

The first India-France Joint Satellite Megha Tropiques, for monitoring tropical atmosphere was launched on 12 October, 2011 by a PSLV. Both ISRO and its French counterpart are working on another joint satellite SARAL, which is meant for studying the ocean surface.

The 48th Scientific Council Meeting of India-France Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA - le Centre Indo-Français Pour la Recherche Avancée) was held in Udaipur from 19-26 November, 2011.

Bilateral trade in the first ten months of 2011 was € 6.4 billion, 10 per cent higher than the corresponding period of 2010. The 15-month-long Indian cultural festival 'Namaste France' a comprehensive depiction of Indian culture and art in its various traditional and contemporary forms, launched on 14 April, 2010 came to a close on 28 June, 2011.

On 12 September, 2011, a cultural programme was organised in the prestigious UNESCO hall in Paris in the presence of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs. Irina Bokova. The programme comprised poetry reading by Aparna Sen and recital of Rabindra Sangeet by renowned exponents like Dr L Subramaniam, Kavita Krishnamurthy and Vikram Sen. An exhibition of Tagore paintings 'The Last Harvest' was inaugurated by the Minister of Culture, Smt. Kumari Selja, at the Petit Palais in Paris on 26 January, 2012.

Germany

Indo-German bilateral relations continued to grow at a steady pace in 2011 with several high-level visits from both sides. India and Germany are celebrating the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations in 2011-12. To commemorate this important landmark in the history of Indo-German relations, Germany is celebrating the 'Year of Germany in India' from September 2011 to November 2012. India will reciprocate by celebrating the 'Days of India in Germany' from May 2012 to March 2013.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel led a high-level delegation to India on May 31, 2011. The Chancellor called on the Indian President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patel and had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. The Prime Minister and Chancellor Merkel headed the first Indo-German Inter-governmental Consultations, reviewing the full range of bilateral relations from security and defence policy, trade, vocational training, education and research to infrastructure and sustainable energy and environment technologies. Agreements and MoUs in the field of science and technology, vocational education and skill development were signed during the visit. Chancellor Merkel also received the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2009 and was the second German Head of Government, after former Chancellor Helmut Kohl to receive this prestigious award. During her visit, the Chancellor also launched the 'Year of Germany in India 2011-12'.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, visited Germany to attend the International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn from 4-6 December, 2011.

Minister for Environment & Forests, Shri Jairam Ramesh, visited Berlin to participate in the second Petersberg Dialogue on Climate Change held in Berlin from 3-4 July, 2011.

The Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Shri Praful Patel, visited Berlin on 15-16 September, 2011 and had meetings with Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, Dr Phillip Rössler, and Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Dr Peter Ramsauer. He inaugurated and addressed the 'India Day' at the Frankfurt International Motor Show held on 16 September, 2011.

The Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and Civil Aviation, Shri Vayalar Ravi, visited Berlin on 11-13 October, 2011. He signed the Comprehensive Social Security Agreement between India and Germany together with German Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, Dr Ursula von der Leyen.

The Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Arjun Munda, visited Germany with a high-level delegation (4-9 April, 2011) to participate in the Hannover Industrial Fair 2011. He also held discussions with the business community in Berlin, Hamburg and Munich.

Advisor to Prime Minister of India for the National Skills Development Council, Dr S Ramadorai, led a delegation to Berlin from 4-6 April, 2011 to meet Dr Georg Schütte, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and other relevant German stakeholders to discuss the conclusions of joint bilateral cooperation on vocational education and training.

The National Security Advisor, Shri Shivshankar Menon, visited Berlin from 10-11 September, 2011. He participated in the Bergedorf Round Table hosted by the Koerber Foundation in Berlin and held talks with Dr Christoph Heusgen, Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to the German Chancellor.

Secretary, DRDO, and Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister, Dr V K Saraswat, visited Germany in November 2011. Dr Saraswat had bilateral meetings with State Secretary S Beemelsmann from the Federal Ministry of Defence and Parliamentary State Secretary Ernst Burgbacher from the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, besides visiting several well-known defence enterprises in Germany.

An MoU was signed between Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron, Hamburg for cooperation in nano and materials science and technology during the visit of Prof. C N R Rao, to Hamburg, in December 2011.

The German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms Cornelia Peiper, visited India from 23-24 September, 2011 to officially inaugurate the 'Year of Germany in India'. She met the Minister of State for Human Resource Development and External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed. An MoU was signed between Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Max Mueller Bhawan on introduction of German language in CBSE curriculum.

The Economic Minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Mr Ernst Pfister, visited Chennai, Mumbai and Pune from 6-12 February, 2011 and attended a trade fair for building materials, machines and construction vehicles in Mumbai. Mr Pfister also visited IIT Chennai.

The Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Development, Dr Peter Ramsauer, visited New Delhi and Mumbai from 17-21 April, 2011 and met Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Shri Praful Patel. Minister Ramsauer also met the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and Civil Aviation, Shri Vayalar Ravi, and the Minister for

Urban Development, Shri Kamal Nath, and discussed issues of bilateral interest.

There are a wide range of bilateral dialogue mechanisms in place to discuss a variety of bilateral and global issues of mutual interest between India and Germany. A number of Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings were held in 2011. The third meeting of the JWG on Agriculture was held in Hanover on 15 November, 2011 during the Agritechnica fair. The JWG on Coal held its meeting from 26-30 September, 2011 at Essen. The fourth meeting of the JWG on Automobiles was held on 30 May, 2011 in New Delhi. The tenth Bilateral Finance Ministry Consultations were held in Berlin on 9 May, 2011. The 4th meeting of the Indo-German Joint Working Group on Vocational Education and Training was held in Munich from 10-13 October, 2011. Both sides discussed the roadmap for further cooperation in this sector in accordance with the MoU signed between India and Germany in May 2011. Sector Skill Councils, joint development of occupational standards, training of trainers, the new Bill on recognition of foreign qualifications of Germany and on dual systems, including the National and European Qualifications Framework were among the subjects also discussed at the meeting. The 20th meeting of the Indo-German Consultative Group was held in Goa from 5-7 November, 2011.

Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe and the 5th largest trade partner globally. Bilateral trade in 2010-2011 was € 15.4 billion. During January-October 2011, Indo-German bilateral trade increased by 20.83 per cent to € 15.18 billion; Indian exports increased by 25.93 per cent to € 6.37 billion. Indian imports increased by 17.39 per cent to € 8.81 billion.

It was decided to set up Rotating Chairs of Indology in different German universities in 2003 in order to re-invigorate the study of Indology and Indian art. So far, ICCR has operationalised 18 short-term Chairs at the German universities. During 2011, two chairs were operationalised. Prof. Dr Aniket Jaaware, University of Pune, occupied the Chair at University of Tuebingen and Prof. Dr Anand Kumar from Jawaharlal University, Delhi, occupied the Chair at University of Freiburg.

ICCR has sponsored a long-term Chair named Heinrich-Zimmer Chair of Indian Philosophy and Intellectual History at South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, for the period 2010-2012. The long-term Chair at the South Asia Institute has been extended for another two years from April 2012 to March 2014. ICCR has signed an MoU with the Leipzig Graduate School of Management to establish a long term Chair in February 2011.

A number of events were organised to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. An exhibition of 98 original paintings by Rabindranath Tagore, 'The Last Harvest', was organised at the Museum of Asian Art, Berlin-Dahlem in September-October 2011. In addition, some of the main events organised in Germany to commemorate the occasion were: Seminar on 'Tagore and Germany' at German Literature Archive in Marbach; retrospective of Satyajit Ray's Films at Munich; staging of Tagore's Play Chitrangada in five German cities; exhibition 'Homage to Rabindranath' organised at the Embassy of India in Berlin; International Workshop 'Tagore meets Einstein' organised at Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Literary Seminar organised by Literatur Forum Indien e. V. at Koenigswinter and Exhibition of digital re-prints of Tagore's paintings in Munich and in the Embassy of India, Berlin.

Ireland

Bilateral relations between India and Ireland have remained cordial and friendly during the period, based on shared common values and mutual understanding. The new Irish Government elected in March 2011 showed keen interest in establishing stronger links with India. India was prominently portrayed as an important country in Ireland's 'Asia Strategy'. To forge stronger relations and engage more actively with India, the Irish government sent key ministers to India in the first few months in office. Mutually beneficial relations continued to grow in the political, economic and commercial, educational and scientific research spheres. Minister of State (Independent Charge), for Ministry of Programme Implementation and Statistics, Shri Srikant Kumar Jena, visited Ireland in August 2011 to participate in the World Statistics Conference in Dublin.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preeti Kaur, visited Dublin from 16-18 October for the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore in Ireland. During the visit, she jointly unveiled with the Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, a bust of Tagore in St. Stephen's Green, the most prestigious location in Dublin. This historic event was a significant milestone in the relations between our two countries. She had interactions with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, the Minister for Agriculture, representatives of Irish business and the Indian community in Ireland.

In spite of the economic downturn in Ireland, the year witnessed a steady growth in bilateral trade, with the total turnover in goods and services crossing the € 1 billion mark. The Irish Minister for Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation, Mr Richard Bruton, led a trade delegation to India in April 2011, seeking commercial opportunities for Irish business.

An ICCR-sponsored exhibition 'Kalpana: Masterpieces of Figurative Indian Contemporary Paintings' was hosted in Cork and Dublin in October and November 2011, respectively. The exhibition, together with the Tagore Festival, showcased Indian culture in Ireland. Other events relating to the Tagore Festival, included release of a bilingual version of Tagore's Stray Birds translated into the Irish language, an academic symposium on Tagore, and a cultural performance.

Italy

Bilateral relations between India and Italy remained cordial and friendly with high-level exchanges during the year. At the invitation of the Government of Italy, the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna visited Rome from 2-4 June, 2011 to participate in the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the Unification of Italy. During the visit, the External Affairs Minister met the Foreign Minister of Italy, Mr Franco Frattini, on 4 June and discussed bilateral relations and international and regional issues of mutual interest.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preeti Kaur, subsequently visited Italy from 6-10 July, 2011 and held follow-up discussions with the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Stefania Craxi. The Minister of State also separately had interactions with members of the Indian community and Indian business and industry in Italy.

The Minister for Economic Development of Italy, Mr Paolo Romani, led an Italian Trade Mission to New Delhi and Chennai from 31 October-3 November, 2011. During the visit, the Italian Minister met the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma, and the Minister for Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises, Shri Praful Patel, to discuss measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade and commerce. In Chennai, the Italian Minister had meetings with the State government.

The Minister for Power, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, visited Rome from 23-25 June, 2011. The Minister met the Italian Economic Development Minister, Mr Paolo Romani, and addressed the Italian industry.

The Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Shri Harish Rawat, visited Rome from 25 June-1 July, 2011 to participate in the 37th Session of the FAO Conference.

A four-member Italian Parliamentary delegation led by Member of Parliament, Mr Sandro Gozi, visited India from 1-7 December, 2011.

Bilateral trade during the period January-September 2011 grew by 25.8 per cent over the corresponding period in 2010. Total trade in 2010 was • 7.21 billion. Major export items to Italy are

textiles, chemicals, iron and steel, automotive components while imports are mainly machinery and capital goods, precision and other machine tools, metallurgical products, etc.

On the cultural side, specific events in Italy were organised in 2011 related to the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. These included screening of Indian films based on Tagore's work and thoughts during the 11th Edition of 'River to River Indian Film Festival' in December 2011 and a concert on 'Tagore's songs of love and destiny' organised by the Alain Danielou Foundation in Rome in May 2011. In March 2012, a Tagore painting exhibition is being organised at the National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rome.

Luxembourg

The 12th meeting of the India-Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union was held in New Delhi on 15 April, 2011. The entire gamut of bilateral relations was reviewed and next steps identified for further strengthening cooperation between the two sides. Bilateral trade turnover increased to € 53 million in 2010 as against € 44.7 million in 2009, registering a rise of 18.56 per cent. The Social Security Agreement signed between the two countries on 30 September, 2009 entered into force on 1 June, 2011.

At the invitation of Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, a Parliamentary delegation led by President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Representatives, Mr Laurent Mosar, visited New Delhi from 28 February-2 March, 2012.

Netherlands

The year 2011 saw a new dynamism and vigour in the Indo-Dutch relationship. Its highlight was the highly successful visit of Dutch Foreign Minister Prof. Dr Uri Rosenthal to India in July 2011. A return visit by the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, has been scheduled for early 2012. The meetings of the two Foreign Ministers resulted in extensive discussions on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest. Dr Rosenthal expressed Netherlands' support for India's permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council and underlined importance of efforts to enhance trade and economic ties. The two Foreign Ministers met later in the year on the margins of the Afghanistan Summit in Berlin. Planned incoming Ministerial delegations include visits by Minister of Culture, Smt Kumari Selja as well as Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal, later in 2012.

The second Indian Diaspora Conference was organised in the Netherlands on 25 September, 2011, which was inaugurated by the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri

Vayalar Ravi, who also delivered the Keynote Address. He also met the Dutch Minister of Social Affairs and Employment Mr Henk Kamp on 26 September and discussed implementation of Social Security Agreement signed in October 2009, which has since come into effect from 1 December, 2011.

Several visits of trade and investment delegations demonstrate the importance of the year from the business perspective. The Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Environment, Mrs. Melanie Schultz van Haegen led a 60-member delegation to India from 3-7 April, 2011, Secretary, Shipping, and Chairman, Cochin Port Trust, Mr Paul Antony, visited the Netherlands from 8-12 May, 2011. The MoU between India and the Netherlands on Cooperation in Ports, Maritime Logistics and Transport was renewed for a period of three years. Deputy Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr Marten van den Berg, led a 42-member business delegation to India. A Work Plan on Agriculture Cooperation for 2011-15 and a Letter of Intent for Strengthening Cooperation in the area of 'Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility' were signed during the visit. The Dutch Minister for Agriculture and Foreign Trade, Mr Henk Bleker, visited India from 7-8 November, 2011 and sought cooperation of India for setting up of a Joint Working Group to further cooperation in the areas of 'Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility'.

India and the Netherlands have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Both sides are also enhancing cooperation in the fight against international piracy. Dutch Coordinator for Counter-terrorism and National Security Division in the Foreign Ministry, Mr Frank van Beuningen visited India from 14-15 June, 2011 for carrying forward the dialogue on counter-terrorism. A return visit was paid by a delegation, headed by the Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs on 16 January, 2012.

A Seminar on 'Cooperation in the Water Sector' was organised in March 2011 at The Hague by the Indian Embassy, which was attended on the Indian side, inter alia, by an important delegation led by Dr Ramasami, who also co-Chaired the second Joint Committee Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation. An important outcome of the Seminar was the launch of the initiative titled 'DIWALI' (Dutch India Water Alliance for Leadership Initiative) intended to forge an India-Netherlands alliance in the water sector and in water management. Another Seminar which focused on 'Indo-Dutch Cooperation on Information and Communications Technology' was also organised. An Indo-Dutch Water Expert Meeting was held at Utrecht in April 2011 to follow up on the initiatives of the Seminar.

Despite the global economic turndown, bilateral trade registered an annual growth of 23 per cent last year. Netherlands continues to be an important investment partner of India. It has also emerged as a prime destination for outbound investment from India as well as joint ventures in third countries. Most major IT companies from India like HCL, TCS, Wipro, Infosys and Mahindra Satyam have established offices in the Netherlands. Major acquisitions have taken place like Tata Steel and Chorus, Apollo Tyres and Vredestein, Banco Products and Nederlandse Radiatoren Fabriek (NRF).

In order to encourage Dutch investment in India and increased business flows, a Fast Track Business Visa Scheme has been implemented with effect from 1 August, 2011 and has been appreciated by Dutch businessmen and the Indian diaspora.

As part of efforts to promote India's cultural heritage in the Netherlands, a month-long Festival of India entitled 'India Month' is planned from 2 October, 2012 at the Gandhi Centre in The Hague. The inauguration of the Gandhi Centre on 2 October, 2011 by the ICCR President, Dr Karan Singh, in the presence of Mr Jozias van Aartsen, former Foreign Minister and currently Mayor of The Hague, brought to fruition a 40-year-old long cherished dream of the Government of India, of the Indian and Surinami Hindustani diaspora as well as of the Embassy. The Centre is now fully operational and year-long cultural activities have been planned with the support of ICCR. Rabindranath Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary was celebrated in an array of impressive year-long activities which included inauguration of bronze busts of Tagore at the Public Library in The Hague and the inner courtyard of Leiden University as well as staging of his famous play 'Raktakarabi' by the Indian diaspora and ICCR-sponsored cultural performances.

ICCR-sponsored Chair of Contemporary Indian Studies at Leiden University marks a significant shift in level of bilateral academic interaction at the tertiary level with India. This is also manifest in the many demands from universities ranging from Erasmus, Rotterdam and Maastricht to establish a Chair in Indian Studies in diverse fields including information technology, public health with focus on ayurveda and alternative systems of Indian medicine, etc.

Portugal

Traditional friendly relations between India and Portugal continued to be maintained during the year. Excellent relations between the two countries were reflected in the address of Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho who in his maiden speech at the UNGA, inter alia, reiterated Portugal's support for a permanent seat for India (and

Brazil) in the UNSC and in the support Portugal extended to our candidature at various international fora, including the Joint Inspection Unit, International Law Commission, Committee Against Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and for External Auditor for IAEA.

The Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and Civil Aviation, Shri Vyalar Ravi, visited Lisbon from 8-11 October, 2011 and had a meeting with his Portuguese counterpart Minister for Social Security and Solidarity, Mr Pedro Mota Soares, where the two leaders discussed the Social Security Agreement to be signed shortly. The Minister also met members of the Indian diaspora at an interactive session.

Commissioner for NRI Affairs, Goa, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, visited Lisbon from 27-31 July, 2011 and met leading members of the Indian and Goan diaspora.

Portuguese Minister of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning, Ms Assuncao Cristas will participate in the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organised by TERI in New Delhi from 31 January-5 February, 2012.

The political relationship was buttressed by deepening interactions in the economic sphere. Trade turnover, which had dropped to € 302.63 million in 2008-09 has now recovered and is likely to exceed the pre-crisis figures of € 521million registered in 2007-08. This year, trade figures have already reached € 455.16 million in the first three quarters of 2011-12. Portuguese companies, including in the infrastructure sector, have also begun forming partnerships with Indian companies. The biggest toll-road company in Portugal, Brisa Auto Estradas and India's Feedback Ventures decided to jointly invest Rs 20 crore for tolling operations and maintenance services on Indian highways.

A well-attended week-long film festival to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was held at Cinemateca Portuguesa from 19-25 May, 2011. An event was held in the University of Lisbon to mark World Hindi Day on 10 January, 2012.

Spain

Relations between India and Spain continued to deepen with several high-level visits during the year. The Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vyalar Ravi, visited Spain from 6-9 October, 2011. The Minister met with the Overseas Indian community in Madrid, made a presentation on Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2012 and invited the Overseas Indian community to participate in the said event.

Spain was the Partner Country at the 17th edition of the Technology Summit and Technology Platform organised by

our Department of Science and Technology in New Delhi from 22-23 November, 2011. The Technology Summit was inaugurated by the Minister of Science and Technology. The Spanish delegation was led by Secretary General of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, Mr Juan Tomás Hernani Burzaco. Main thematic areas for this year's edition were biotech, renewable energy and water-related technologies. A Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India, and Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDIT), Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain, was also signed on the occasion.

The Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Dr C P Joshi, led an official delegation to Spain from 26-28 May, 2011. During the visit, the Minister had a bilateral meeting with his counterpart, Minister for Public Works and Transport of Spain, Mr Jose Blanco Lopez. Discussions focused on cooperation in the roads sector, including construction, transfer of technology and know-how, use of information technology and safety issues in the roads sector.

The Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, Shri Sachin Pilot, participated in the GSMA Mobile World Congress from 13-16 February, 2011 in Barcelona.

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations, Shri Sam Pitroda, visited Madrid on 9 May, 2011 at the invitation of Casa Asia to deliver a lecture on 'Innovation in India: Initiatives and Opportunities' at Fundacion Ramon Areces. During the visit, Shri Pitroda also met Minister for Science and Innovation of Spain, Dr Cristina Garmendia.

A 42-member delegation of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers visited Madrid on 10-13 September, 2011. Besides Ministers and senior officers from 19 states, the Committee included the Chief Minister of Assam, the Deputy CM of Bihar and the Deputy CM of Jharkhand. Presentations were made by the Spanish authorities on issues such as Value Added Tax (VAT) system, deduction of taxes and their controls and checks over tax evasions, etc.

Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, visited Spain from 25-28 April, 2011 to participate in the meeting of UNWTO Working Group on Tourist/Consumer Protection. He also held meetings with UNWTO Secretary-General, Mr Taleb Rifai, and Secretary General for Tourism in Spain's Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, Mr Joan Mesquida.

A four-member delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, visited Barcelona, Spain from 22-25 September, 2011 to attend an exhibition organised by the International Textile Manufacturers Association (ITMA).

An Indian delegation, led by Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, visited Madrid from 10-11 November, 2011 to participate in informal consultations on the legal form of outcomes in AWG-LC (Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action) and AWG-KP (Ad-HOC Working Group on Kyoto Protocol).

Spanish Secretary of State for Tourism, Mr Joan Mesquida, visited India from 20-24 September, 2011 and held meetings with Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and officials of Indian private sector airlines.

The sixth meeting of the Civil Society Dialogue-India-Spain Tribune is scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 21-22 March, 2012.

India-Spain bilateral trade in the first 10 months, January-October 2011, showed positive growth and reached € 3,456.60 million, which was 13.2 per cent higher than that for the same period in 2010. Indian exports during this period amounted to € 2,338.60 million, and imports stood at € 1,118 million. During the year, Spanish infrastructure companies, such as Isolux and San Jose, bagged transmission line and road contracts in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, respectively. Acciona, Gamesa and Windar expanded their wind and solar energy projects in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

The Spanish National Post 'Correos' commemorated the 150th Birth Anniversary of Tagore with the release of a stamp and a postmark on 7 May, 2011. An ICCR sponsored 15-member contemporary Indian dance troupe led by Tanusree Shankar also presented a dance drama 'The Child' based on Rabindranath Tagore's poem in May 2011.

The Hay Festival of Segovia in collaboration with Casa de la India organised a separate segment 'Universo Tagore' from 21-25 September, 2011 to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Tagore. ICCR sponsored the participation of writer Upamanyu Chatterjee and film-maker Rituparno Ghosh in the Festival. Upamanyu Chatterjee talked about Tagore's influence in contemporary literature. Rituparno Ghosh discussed gender issues in cinema. The festival concluded with the screening of his film 'Noukadubi' based on Tagore's novel.

Casa de la India (CDLI), in collaboration with Indo-Latin American Cultural Initiative (ILACI) organised an ensemble of academic seminars and parallel cultural activities called 'Tagore in Spain' from 27 September-4 October, 2011 in Salamanca, Barcelona and Valladolid. ICCR Director-General visited Spain from 11-12 November, 2011 on the occasion of the Fifth Anniversary of Casa de la India. The ICCR sponsored the participation of three scholars from

India. Reputed scholar Prof. Indra Nath Choudhuri delivered a lecture at Casa Asia on Tagore's relation with Spanish poet Juan Ramon Jimenez on 26 October, 2011. Educationist José Paz donated his personal collection of more than 30,000 books, CDs and paintings on Rabindranath Tagore to Casa de la India. A Tagore Research and Study Centre planned to be set up in Casa de la India with the collection. An exhibition of digital prints of Tagore's paintings sponsored by ICCR was held at Casa de la India from 3 October-8 November, 2011.

A European Hindi Conference will be held in the University of Valladolid from 15-17, March, 2012. The Hindi section of the Ministry extended a grant to organise this conference. Scholars engaged in the study of Hindi language from Europe and India are likely to participate.

United Kingdom

India's relations with UK continued to grow and develop during the year 2011. Our mutual commitment for a special relationship was reflected in increased bilateral activity in various fields. A meeting between the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and UK Prime Minister, Mr David Cameron, was held on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit at Cannes on 3 November, 2011 in which mutual desire for increased cooperation was reiterated.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, visited London on 29-30 June, 2011 and met UK Secretary of State in Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr William Hague. The two sides had wide-ranging discussions that covered the entire gamut of India-UK bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest. Mr Hague renewed the invitation for the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, to visit the UK for the next bilateral Summit.

The Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, visited London on 25 July 2011 for the fourth round of the India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue. The Minister for Heavy Industries, Shri Praful Patel, visited UK from 13-14 September, 2011. The Minister for Urban Development, Shri Kamal Nath, visited London on 14 October, 2011. As a sequel to last year, the High Commission of India and the City of London jointly organised the 2nd Infrastructure Financing Conference in London on 25 November, 2011. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, led the Indian delegation. The Minister of State for Communications and IT, Shri Sachin Pilot, led a delegation to London from 1-2 November, 2011 to attend the London Cybersecurity Conference and also had a bilateral meeting with Mr Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries.

Ministerial visits from the UK included visits by Mr Jeremy Browne, UK Minister of State in Foreign Office, from 4-6 July, 2011, Lord David Howell, Minister of State in Foreign and Commonwealth Office, from 29-31 August, 2011, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Britain's Cabinet Minister and Conservative Party's Co-Chair from 18-20 September, 2011, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Justice, from 24-28 September 2011, Ms Caroline Spelman, Secretary of State for DEFRA, from 3-5 October, 2011, Mr David Willets, Minister for Universities and Science from 13-17 November, 2011 for the fourth India-UK Education Forum, Mr Gregory Barker, UK Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change, from 13-18 November, 2011 for the India-UK Business Leaders' Climate Group Summit. Lord Mayor of London paid his annual visit from 9-14 October, 2011; and, Mr Andrew Mitchell, UK Secretary of State for International Development from 14-16 December, 2011 to discuss development cooperation between India and the UK.

Parliamentary exchanges continued with the return visit of Speaker of House of Commons, Mr John Bercow, to India from 15-20 August, 2011. Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Meira Kumar also led a delegation of Speakers from State Legislative Assemblies of India for the 57th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Meeting in London from 22-27 July, 2011. A group of eight Conservative Friends of India MPs in the UK Parliament led by their chair, Mr Stephen Hammond, visited India from 16-24 September, 2011 as guests of Ministry of External Affairs (Public Diplomacy Division). There was also exchange of visits between Deputy National Security Advisers during the period. Deputy NSA of India, Amb. Vijaylatha Reddy visited London on 1-2 June, 2011 and UK Deputy NSA Mr Julian Miller returned the visit on 7 October, 2011. The regular bilateral Foreign Office Consultations were held in London on 28 June, 2011 and the Indian delegation was led by then Foreign Secretary, Smt Nirupama Rao.

The heightened cooperation in the economic sector continued this year. The total bilateral trade during the period April-September 2011 was US\$ 7.77 billion, out of which exports from India were worth US\$ 4.18 billion and imports to India were worth US\$ 3.69 billion. The total UK FDI investment during April-September 2011 was US\$ 2.356 billion.

India signed Tax Information Exchange Agreements in London with Jersey on 3 November, and Guernsey on 20 December, 2011.

ICCR Director-General visited Edinburgh from 25-28 August, 2011 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding

between ICCR and University of Edinburgh for establishing ICCR's Chair of Contemporary Indian Studies in the Edinburgh University.

During the first quarter of 2012, the visit of Human Resource Development Minister is planned. Strategic Dialogue at NSA level may also be held in Delhi.



The Americas

United States of America (USA)

The year 2011 saw India and the US deeply involved in maintaining a high level of engagement to implement the vision of bilateral cooperation articulated by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and US President, Mr Barack Obama. The year witnessed continued interaction between the two countries in the fields of political, strategy, defence, security, counter-terrorism, civil nuclear cooperation, clean and renewable energy, education, and science and technology, through exchange of high-level visits by leaders and officials, and people-to-people contacts.

Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the 6th East Asia Summit in November 2011 in Bali.

The second India-US Strategic Dialogue in July was a useful opportunity for the two sides to reaffirm and reiterate their commitment to the relationship and define new goals for the future.

Our sustained counter-terrorism cooperation in recent years culminated in the launch of the first-ever India-US Homeland Security Dialogue, which reviewed the whole gamut of counter-terrorism and security related aspects of our bilateral cooperation.

Realising that tremendous synergies exist in the field of education, the two sides decided to institutionalise cooperation in the field of Higher Education and launched the first India-US Higher Education Summit, co-Chaired by Minister for Human Resource Development and Secretary Hilary Clinton.

Other significant bilateral exchanges during the year included, from the Indian side, the visit of National Security Advisor to Washington DC in January, Foreign Secretary in February; Defence Secretary in March; Finance Minister in June; Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister in June and September; Minister of Power in September; Minister for Human Resources Development in October; and Minister for Corporate Affairs in November. The high-level visitors from the United States included Deputy Secretary for Homeland Security Jane Lute in January and July; Commerce Secretary Gary Locke in February; Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano in May; Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Marc Grossman in April and

October; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in July; Senator John McCain in August; Under Secretary Commerce Francisco Sanchez in November; Governor of Virginia Robert McDonnell and Governor of Maryland Martin O'Malley in November; Congressman Marc Thornberry; Acting Under Secretary of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Ann Stock in November; Deputy Secretary of State William Burns in December and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah in December.

Visit of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: Secretary Clinton visited India in July and, along with External Affairs Minister S M Krishna, co-chaired the second meeting of the Strategic Dialogue on 19 July in New Delhi. Secretary Clinton was accompanied by Director of National Intelligence, the President's Advisor for Science and Technology, Deputy Secretary Department of Energy, and Deputy Secretary Department of Homeland Security. External Affairs Minister was joined by Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Prime Minister's Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation Advisor, Foreign Secretary and other senior officials.

The two leaders reviewed progress across broad spectrum of our bilateral relations and set new goals for further strengthening the India-US Global Strategic Partnership. Secretary Clinton reiterated US support for India's membership in a reformed United Nation Security Council. She also reiterated US' commitment to the Nuclear Suppliers Group Clean Waiver and said that the new enrichment and reprocessing transfer restrictions agreed to by the Nuclear Suppliers Group members should not be construed as detracting from the unique impact and importance of the US-India civil nuclear agreement or our commitment to full civil nuclear cooperation.

Welcoming the maturity and mutual confidence in the bilateral relationship, the two leaders took stock of cooperation in the fields of intelligence and counter-terrorism including cyber-security; defence; science and technology; agriculture; health; education; energy; trade and investment; space and women empowerment.

Reiterating their commitment to comprehensive sharing of information on the Mumbai terror attack of 2008, the two leaders discussed the challenges in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including the need for elimination of safe havens and infrastructure for terrorism and violent extremism in



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, with the US President, Mr. Barack Obama, at a Bilateral Meeting, on the sidelines of the 9th ASEAN-India Summit and the 6th East Asia Summit, in Bali, Indonesia on 18 November, 2011.



The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, with US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton, in New Delhi on 19 July, 2011.

Afghanistan and Pakistan. They also discussed their shared interest in peaceful and stable Asia Pacific and the Indian Ocean region and the evolution of an open, balanced and inclusive architecture in the region.

Political and Strategic Consultations: The year witnessed further expansion of strategic consultations with launching of a Central Asia Dialogue in June in New Delhi and a West Asia Dialogue in July in Washington DC. The fourth round of the East Asia Dialogue was held in September. A trilateral dialogue with Japan at senior officials' level was held on 19 December. The bilateral dialogue on United Nations matters was launched in New Delhi in March. The Joint Working Group (JWG) on UN Peacekeeping Operations also met in March in New Delhi.

India and the United States reaffirmed their commitment for consultation, coordination, and cooperation on Afghanistan, and to work jointly in Afghanistan in the areas of reconstruction, development, capacity building, agriculture, and women's empowerment, expanding on work already underway. Acknowledging that regional trade, transit and commercial activities in South and Central Asia would benefit Afghanistan, India has offered its growing markets to Afghanistan's products and announced, in early November, the virtual elimination of sensitive lists affecting exports of all least developed SAARC countries to India. Similar viewpoint is echoed by the New Silk Road Initiative announced by the US Government-

The two countries continued to work together, and with other countries, towards the shared goal of stable and peaceful Asia through various mechanisms of bilateral dialogue, the regional forums, including the East Asia Summit, and trilateral dialogue with Japan. The two countries explored ways to work together to ensure the safety of and access to the global commons - air, sea, space and cyber domains - which is vital for international commerce and global energy security.

India and the United States explored ways to promote food security in Africa through a triangular cooperation programme with Liberia, Malawi, and Kenya. The proposed cooperation envisaged participation of African students and professionals at Indian universities and research and technical institutes in mutually agreed capacity building programmes.

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. The 9th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in New Delhi in March 2011.

The Home Minister, Mr P Chidambaram, and US Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Ms Janet Napolitano, launched the India-U.S. Homeland Security Dialogue in New Delhi in May 2011. The Dialogue had been announced by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and US President, Mr Barack Obama, in November 2010. The two sides agreed on a programme of cooperation in global supply chain management, megacity policing, combating counterfeit currency and illicit financing, cyber security, critical infrastructure protection, and capacity building and technology upgrading. They reiterated their commitment to further strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation, including through intelligence sharing, information exchange, operational cooperation, and access to advanced counter-terrorism technology and equipment.

In September, the US designated the Indian Mujahideen as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist under Executive Order 13224.

Cyber security: India and the United States signed on July 19, a Memorandum of Understanding between respective Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT-IN and US-CERT) to exchange information on cyber attacks and mutual response to cyber security incidents, to cooperate on cyber security technology, and to exchange information on cyber security policy, best practices, capacity building and exchange of experts.

Defence: The year witnessed steady progress in bilateral defence cooperation with a robust slate of dialogues, military exercises, defence trade, personnel exchanges, training cooperation, capacity building, information sharing, including in the areas of counter narcotics, counter-piracy, and maritime safety.

The 11th meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) led by the Defence Secretary and the US Under Secretary of Defence for Policy was held in Washington, DC in March 2011. The meeting prioritised maritime security, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, and counter-terrorism cooperation. The two countries agreed to continue consultations on maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region in existing forums such as Defence Policy Group and its appropriate sub-groups.

The 9th and 10th meetings of the Defence Procurement and Production Group (DPPG) were held in March and November 2011, respectively, and the meeting of Joint Working Group on Defence was held in New Delhi in November 2011. The 13th meeting of the Joint Technical Group was held in the US on 25 March, 2011.

Joint Exercises between the three services have increased in scale and complexity since the signing of the New Framework

in 2005. There have been 55 joint exercises so far, with six of them (2 Army and 4 Navy) held in the year 2011.

India's defence orders to US companies reached a cumulative value of over US\$ 9 billion in the last decade. Important defence acquisitions from the US, include the VVIPs BBJs, C130Js, INS Jalashwa, LRMR Aircraft P8I and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. Through regular interaction at political and functional levels, the two sides worked to strengthen cooperation through technology transfer, and joint research, development and production of defence items.

Trade and Investment: India-US economic ties were characterised by growing and balanced trade in goods and services as well as a rising flow of investments in both directions. Bilateral trade crossed US\$ 48 billion in 2010, registering an increase of 30 per cent over the previous year. The two-way services trade was US\$ 38 billion. The two governments resumed technical-level negotiations to finalise a Bilateral Investment Treaty in October.

Bilateral investments showed an upward trend. The latest available figures show US FDI in India (until March 2011) at US\$ 9.5 billion and Indian investment in the US as US\$ 6.6 billion.

The Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner co-Chaired the second meeting of the India-US Financial and Economic Partnership held in Washington DC in June 2011. The Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister, Shri Anand Sharma, met US Trade Representative Ron Kirk in Washington in June and the two sides agreed to re-invigorate the Trade Policy Forum (TPF). During their visits to the United States, Finance Minister, Commerce and Industry Minister and Minister of Power called on US investors to benefits from the opportunities provided by the Indian economy.

The meeting of the India-US CEOs Forum held in Washington DC on 22 September was attended by the Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister, Shri Anand Sharma, the Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, from the Indian side and US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Deputy National Security Advisor Mr Michael Froman from the US side. The deliberations of the CEO Forum identified the areas of clean energy; technology, health, agriculture, and education; trade, security and aviation; trade and agriculture; energy efficient buildings project for expansion and deepening of business-to-business ties.

US Commerce Secretary Gary Locke led a high-technology trade mission to India in February 2011. The delegation included representatives of businesses seeking to promote their technologies and services related to civil nuclear energy,

civil aviation, defence and homeland security, and information and communications technology to India.

The issue of enhanced visa fee for skilled workers and high rate of denial for business visas was consistently raised with the US government at various forums.

Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation: India and US remained committed to strong civil nuclear energy cooperation. Prime Minister Singh and President Obama exchanged views on India's Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages regulations in Bali in November 2011. India reiterated its commitment to ensuring a level playing field for US companies on the basis of mutually acceptable technical and commercial terms and conditions. US expressed strong support for India's full membership in the four export control regimes, including the Nuclear Suppliers Group in a phased manner. The High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG), the principal forum for advancing India-US cooperation in advanced technologies, including in dual use and strategic trade, was held on 11-12 July, 2011 in New Delhi.

The last round of Strategic Security Dialogue at the level of Foreign Secretary and Under Secretary Arms Control and International Security, Ellen Tauscher, was held in Vienna on 14 June, 2011. The dialogue covers wide-ranging issues including disarmament and non-proliferation, membership of export regimes, bilateral civil nuclear cooperation, proliferation cases, FMCT and global security issues.

The United States' Department of Energy and India's Department of Atomic Energy signed an Implementing Agreement on Discovery Science in July 2011 that provides framework for cooperation in accelerator and particle detector research and development at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, and Brookhaven National Laboratory.

The 4th meeting of the Civil Nuclear Energy Working Group (CNEWG) was held at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in July 2011. The Group developed an Action Plan focusing on cooperation on High Temperature Gas Reactors and Nuclear Safety in the coming year. Chairman, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mr Gregory B Jaczko, led a delegation to India in November to discuss with Indian officials issues related to civilian nuclear power safety and standards.

The first meeting of the US-India Joint Working Group to implement the MoU on Cooperation with India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnerships was held in New Delhi in October.

Energy Cooperation: US Department of Energy Deputy Secretary, Mr Daniel Poneman, and Member, Planning

Commission, Mr B K Chaturvedi, led respective delegations for a comprehensive dialogue on energy cooperation on the sidelines of the Strategic Dialogue in July 2011 and reviewed progress made by Joint Working Groups on Coal, Power and Energy Efficiency, Oil and Natural Gas, New and Renewable Energy and Civil Nuclear Energy.

Clean energy and renewable energy emerged as key areas of bilateral cooperation. The Indian and US governments established a Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center with contribution of US\$ 25 million each over five years. The Centre is focusing on priority areas of solar energy, second-generation bio-fuels, and energy efficiency of buildings. Twenty one joint proposals from different consortia were received and maiden awards are expected soon.

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) approved two new private equity funds in 2011, which plan to invest US\$ 350 million in clean and renewable energy sector in India targeting hydro, biomass, wind, and solar power projects. OPIC also announced a US\$ 300 million South Asia Clean Energy Fund mainly targeting India. OPIC has committed more than US\$ 500 million of financing and insurance for Indian solar projects by end-2011. India and United States have worked to assess the shale gas resources of India, under the MoU signed last year, and the results are to be announced soon.

In November 2011, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Mr Francisco Sánchez, led a trade mission of US companies from clean technologies sector to India.

Agriculture: Steady progress in our agricultural cooperation has been made following the signing of MoU for cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security in March 2010 and the meetings of India-US Agricultural Dialogue and its three Working Groups – Strategic Cooperation for Agriculture & Food Security; Food Processing, Farm-Market Linkages and Agricultural Extension; and Crop and Weather Forecasting in September 2010.

As part of the cooperation to strengthen farm-to-market linkages, the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) hosted a reverse trade mission to the United States in May 2011 for Indian business and government representatives to learn about modern cold chain technologies and US practices and standards.

The bilateral Agriculture and Food Security programme for 2010-15 entails a total US contribution of US\$ 66 million and Indian contribution of US\$ 21.67 million over the life of the programme. As on November 2011, USAID had obligated US\$ 23.89 million to the programme.

Thirteen Indian scientists, nominated by the ICAR, National Chemical Laboratory and the Central Food Technological Research Institute under the USDA Norman Borlaug Fellowship Program travelled to leading US universities throughout 2010-11, to conduct research including identification and mapping of disease-resistant gene complexes in wheat, salt tolerance in rice and rapid nucleic acid detection.

Shri P K Basu, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, led a high level delegation to the United States in October to strengthen cooperation in the areas of agricultural technologies and genetics.

India and the United States have implemented a number of projects for scientific and technical cooperation in Earth observations and sciences designed to enhance crop and weather forecasting for agriculture. The 'Monsoon desk' set up at National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) for enhancing monsoon forecasting sent in the first data in July, which is being examined. The data received from the 'Monsoon Desk' will also help in building India's capacity in developing and using a coupled ocean-atmosphere modeling system for strengthening the 'National Monsoon Mission'. NOAA scientists also visited the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in April.

Education cooperation: The Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal, and the US Secretary of State, Mrs Hillary Clinton, co-Chaired the first Indo-US Higher Education Summit in Washington DC on 13 October, 2011 and launched a new phase in the partnership. The two sides agreed to hold the Higher Education Dialogue, to be co-Chaired by Minister for Human Resource Development and the US Secretary of State, as an annual bilateral event to provide a platform for collaboration among academia, the private sector, and government on both sides.

The two sides agreed to support the goals of promoting strategic institutional partnerships in the priority areas of higher education, encouraging collaboration in research and development, fostering partnerships in the areas of vocational education and skills enhancement, exploring models for educational institutions for the 21st century (such as 'meta' universities), strengthening programmes for student and faculty exchange and welcoming the involvement of the private sector in the two countries to support this collaboration. India announced its intention to set up an India-US higher education platform and sponsor initially up to 1,500 faculty and junior scholars to leading universities and research institutes in the United States.

A trade mission of 21 US institutions of higher education visited India from 10-15 October, 2011.

Indian students, numbering nearly 105,000, constitute the second largest group of international students studying in the United States. The United States announced the 'Passport to India' initiative to encourage an increase in the number of American students studying and interning in India. The number of US students studying in India witnessed an increase of 44 per cent during the year.

Under the Singh-Obama 21st Century Knowledge Initiative, the request for proposals from post-secondary educational institutions by November 2011 received overwhelming response. The proposals aim at exchange activities such as curriculum design, research collaboration, team teaching, exchanges and seminars. The initiative prioritises the fields of agricultural sciences and food security; energy; sustainable development; climate change; environment studies; education and educational reform; public health and Community development and Innovation. The Indian (UGC) and the US (USIEF) sides have received over 40 and 108 joint proposals, respectively, which are currently being reviewed by a Joint Working group. The selected proposals will be eligible for academic awards in support of university partnerships.

The two governments have enhanced their contributions to US\$ 3.35 million to the Fulbright-Nehru Scholarship Programme, which has witnessed a tripling of number of scholars in last three years.

Science & Technology: India-US cooperation in the fields of science and technology, implemented through existing and new platforms, continued to remain a cornerstone of our bilateral relationship. The India-US Science and Technology Forum with a mandate to promote, catalyse and seed bilateral collaboration in science, technology, engineering and biomedical research has, over a decade of functioning, convened activities that have led to the interaction of nearly 10,000 Indian and US scientists and technologists, established 24 virtual joint research centre and organised more than 30 training programmes and numerous bilateral conferences.

The India-US Science and Technology Endowment Board awards nearly US\$ 3 million annually to entrepreneurial projects to commercialise technologies under the two priority areas, namely 'Healthy Individual' and 'Empowering Citizens'. The first call inviting Letter of Intent by September 2011 received 381 proposals, out of which three business plans were shortlisted in November 2011 by the Endowment Board. Final award decision is likely to be made by early 2012 followed by announcement of second cycle of call for proposals.

Dr John P. Holdren, Assistant to the US President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of

Science and Technology met Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Ashwani Kumar, in New Delhi in July 2011. The two sides agreed to step up cooperation in areas relating to energy, agriculture, affordable healthcare, nutrition and monsoon forecasting.

Innovation: Mr Aneesh Chopra, Chief Technology Officer, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the US President, attended the Global Innovation Roundtable in New Delhi in November 2011. The two countries continued their consultations under the framework of the India-US Dialogue on Open Government to jointly develop an open source "Data.gov" platform by the first quarter of 2012 to be taken to interested countries globally. The 'open source' platform is intended to provide citizens access to Government information via a user-friendly website and a package of e-governance applications to enhance public service delivery.

Civil Aviation: India and the United States signed a Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA) on 18 July, 2011, to advance aviation safety and by creating a framework for cooperation between the US Federal Aviation Administration AA and India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Under the ongoing India-US Aviation Cooperation Programme (ACP), the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and the Airports Authority of India announced their commitment to a Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS) pilot satellite navigation project at Chennai International Airport. The US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the US Federal Aviation Administration organized the 2011 Aviation Summit in New Delhi on 17-18 November, 2011.

Space: The removal of Indian Space Research Organisation and subordinate agencies from the Entities List in February 2011 marked a significant step in eliminating remaining barriers to greater cooperation in space exploration and research. The bilateral Joint Space Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation met on 13-14 July in Bangalore and reviewed potential areas for future cooperation in earth observation, space exploration, space sciences and satellite navigation. Joint experiments at the International Space Station, human spaceflight activities, and global navigation satellite systems were identified as areas for cooperation. The two sides had substantive discussion on Oceansat-II and Mega-Tropiques missions, which will help refine scientific models and improve understanding of global weather patterns.

Health: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have

established a Global Disease Detection (GDD) Regional Center in New Delhi to support emerging disease detection, pandemic influenza preparedness and response, laboratory containment systems, and training and capacity building.

The US Agency for International Development and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are implementing several activities under a new Health Partnership Programme Agreement, focusing on technical assistance to strengthen India's health system through the public and private sectors.

Culture: The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, in collaboration with the Indian Embassy in Washington and the Kennedy Centre, organised a three-week long mega festival 'Maximum India' in March 2011 that showcased the work and talents of renowned Indian artists, including Dr L Subramaniam, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Malavika Sarukkai, Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi and several others.

Consular Dialogue: The 1st Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Consular Issues was held in Washington in July 2011. The two sides discussed various measures for aligning visa policies to facilitate movement of professionals, scientists and businessmen and addressed issues such as satisfactory placement of students affected by the Tri-valley University visa fraud case. The two sides also discussed protocol courtesies at the port of entry to high-level visitors, challenges pertaining to illegal immigration, extradition and trans-national adoption of children as also legal and other resources available to spouses of Indian origin who become victims of domestic violence.

Women Empowerment Dialogue: Ms Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, met Shri D K Sikri, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, in New Delhi on 19 July, 2011 to review progress on issues of early childhood care and education, market-preparedness of Self Help Groups, training of women for grassroots governance, domestic violence against women and non-conventional energy sources.

Canada

The momentum of bilateral relationship was sustained through regular interactions at political and official levels during the year 2011. The Canadian federal budget for 2011-12 carried a specific reference for collaboration with India under Canada's Global Commerce Strategy stating that the Canadian government is developing a more targeted engagement strategy to forge closer ties with India across different sectors. A key highlight was the keen interest of the Canadian provinces to explore possibilities of cooperation with India.

During the year, technical negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with India commenced. Significant progress was made towards the conclusion of Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement (BIPA). The negotiations for a bilateral Social Security Agreement (SSA) and MoU on Transportation were concluded. The drafts for an Audio-visual Co-Production Agreement were exchanged. MoUs in the field of mining and geology were signed with the provinces of Saskatchewan and British Columbia. During the visit of Secretary, Civil Aviation, the Agreement on Air Services was expanded, including additional code-share for Air Canada and fare rationalisation for cargo aircraft. Canada supported India's candidatures for the external auditor of IAEA (CAG), Joint Inspection Unit (Ambassador Gopinath) and CERD (Ambassador Lahiri). National Security Advisor Shri Menon held discussions with his Canadian counterpart Mr Stephen Rigby, on the sidelines of the 47th Munich Security Conference in February 2011.

Year of India in Canada: The Prime Minister of Canada, Mr Stephen Harper, inaugurated the Year of India in Canada 2011 and also officiated at its closing ceremony. Over 100 multi-sectoral events were held all across Canada, coordinated on the Indian side by ICCR. These included cultural performances of all genre, including classical-instrumental, vocal and dance, dance drama, folk, fusion, rock, Bollywood; writers' festivals, film festivals, eminent lecture series, exhibition by Lalit Kala Akademi, Sahitya Akademi authors, business events, Made in India show, Education Summit, Innovation Summit, mini-PBD, India Chairs, Mahatma Gandhi statue, Tagore Anniversary and MoU for India Chair at the Carleton University.

Education and Innovation: Minister of State for Human Resources Development visited Canada for participation in the bilateral Education Summit and Innovation Summit in June 2011. The Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird co-inaugurated the Education Summit, which was attended by 21 Vice Chancellors of eminent Indian Universities and Presidents and Vice-Presidents of 23 Canadian universities/institutions. The Canadian government in its budget announced special provisions for the promotion of educational and economic tie-ups with India and also announced a fund of \$ 12 million for a Canada-India Research Centre.

The first India-Canada Innovation Summit was held at the Canada-India Centre of Excellence at Carleton University. As a follow-up, high level delegations from DRDO led by Dr Saraswat and Ministry of Agriculture, led by Shri Gangadharan, Secretary Animal Husbandry and Fisheries visited Canada for technology tie ups. The Commerce

Secretary, Shri Rahul Khullar, visited Canada to inaugurate the EEPC-India Show.

Mini Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: In June 2011, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur, visited Canada for participation in the regional PBD, which was co-inaugurated by the Governor General of Canada, Mr David Johnston.

Canadian provinces: Premier of Saskatchewan, Mr Brad Wall had a very productive visit to India in March 2011, including discussions with Department of Atomic Energy. The Premier of British Columbia, Ms Christy Clark, paid a successful visit in November 2011 and explored opportunities of cooperation in sectors such as mining, forestry, education, agriculture and food processing and education. Both the provinces signed MoUs on Mining and Geology with the Ministry of Mines.

Trade and Investment: India-Canada bilateral trade figures indicated an upward trend during the period January-September 2011 as compared to same period in 2010. During the first nine months of 2011 (January-September), the total bilateral trade stood at US\$3.69 billion as against US\$ 2.91 during the same period in 2010, showing a growth of 26.9 per cent. India's exports to Canada at US\$ 1.9 billion registered 30.1 per cent increase whereas India's imports from Canada at US\$ 1.79 billion were up by 23.6 per cent over the same period in 2010.

Agricultural commodities including peas and pulses continued to be a significant segment of bilateral trade. 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 2012. Bilateral cooperation in agriculture and animal husbandry was also reviewed during meeting of Joint Working Group on Agriculture in Ottawa in November 2011.

Significant two-way investment tie-ups were announced by TATAS, Wipro, Ashok Piramal, HAL, Bombardier, SNC Lavalin, CAE, Millennium Capital, etc. The cumulative Indian investments in Canada since 2000 are estimated at C\$7.67 million as against Canadian investment of C\$3.80 billion in India.

The Canadian Minister for International Trade, Mr Ed Fast visited India in November 2011 for the 2nd Round of the Annual Trade Ministerial Dialogue. He had useful meetings with the Finance Minister, Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister, Agriculture Minister, Human Resource Development Minister and Civil Aviation Minister.

Following the announcement of free trade negotiations by the two Prime Ministers during their meeting on the sidelines

of G-20 Summit in Seoul in November 2010, three rounds of negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement have taken place. The third round of negotiations on CEPA, which covers all trade in goods and services; investment; trade facilitation and other areas of economic cooperation, was held on 13-15 December. The India-Canada Joint Study Report has concluded that the Free Trade Agreement could boost the economy of the two countries and increase bilateral trade by 50 per cent.

Latin America and Caribbean Countries

Relations between India and Latin America and Caribbean region further strengthened and deepened during the year with frequent exchange of visits and high level interactions at all levels. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Kamla Persaad Bissessar, paid a State Visit to India from 5-14 January, 2012. She was also the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2012 in Jaipur. She interacted with Heads of Government and State of Brazil, Mexico and Argentina on the margins of various international events, especially in the context of G-20, IBSA and BRICS. The External Affairs Minister held the India-Rio Group Ministerial Dialogue in the extended Troika format under the Presidency of Chile on the margins of UNGA in New York in September, 2011. The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, visited Guatemala, Ecuador and Panama from 29 April-5 May, 2011. Secretary (West), Shri Vivek Katju, visited Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Guyana in July 2011. Amongst the important incoming Ministerial visits during the year were that of El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Mexico and Colombia. The Lok Sabha Speaker visited Mexico from 11-14 April, 2012 and Trinidad and Tobago, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay from 7-19 January, 2012.

India's total trade with Latin America and Caribbean region for the calendar year 2011 was US\$ 25.1 billion and the cumulative investments were estimated at US\$ 15 billion. Our historical and cultural ties with the Caribbean countries with substantial presence of diaspora continued to be strengthened with people-to-people and cultural exchanges. India Cultural Centres were opened in Mexico City and Sao Paulo during the year.

Argentina

Bilateral relations with Argentina continued to be active during the year. The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, led a business delegation to Argentina from 24 May, 2011. Several business delegations from CHEMEXCIL, ESC and EPCH delegation visited Argentina separately, during the year. A bilateral Agreement

for Tax Information and Exchange Agreement was signed on 21 November, 2011 in Buenos Aires by Head of the Federal Administration of Public Revenues of Argentina, Mr Ricardo Echegaray and Indian Ambassador Shri R Viswanathan. The IVth Edition of Festival of India was held in Buenos Aires from 3-13 December, 2011. A seminar titled 'The New India and the New Latin America - Complementarities and Synergies', Indian cultural show with music and dance, handicrafts and cuisine were showcased during the festival.

Bolivia

India made a cash contribution of US\$ 200,000 to Bolivia as a relief measure in the wake of floods in the north and central regions of Bolivia. Jindal Steel Bolivia, a joint venture of Jindal Steel and Power Limited of India and Empresa Siderurgica Del Mutun of Bolivia, started export of iron ore from its El-Mutun mine in which Jindals' estimated investments are US\$ 2.1 billion spread over a five-year period.

Brazil

The India-Brazil Strategic Partnership continued to strengthen with exchange of high-level bilateral visits during the year. The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, met the President of Brazil, Ms. Dilma Rousseff, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in April 2011 in Sanya, China and the IBSA Summit in Pretoria, South Africa in October 2011. The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, visited Brazil from 27 April-2 May, 2011 to participate in the World Economic Forum on Latin America in Rio de Janeiro. Governor of the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil Mr Antonio Anastasia, accompanied by a 30-member business delegation visited India on 9-18 October, 2011 and had very useful and productive meetings with industry representatives in India. The fifth meeting of the India-Brazil Joint Commission at the Foreign Ministers level was held in New Delhi on 12 December, 2011 and was co-Chaired by the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, and the Foreign Minister of Brazil, Mr Antonio Patriota. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues. On 9 December, 2011, Secretary (West), Shri M Ganapathi and his Brazilian counterpart, Under Secretary General of Brazilian Foreign Affairs, Ms Maria Edulieza, held a review meeting of the Joint Commission Meeting covering the wide spectrum of our relations.

Prof. C N R Rao, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India led the Indian delegation to the 7th Meeting of the India-Brazil Science Council held in Rio de Janeiro from 25-27 August, 2011 and reviewed the cooperation agreement as well as joint calls

of projects. The Finance Secretary, Shri R Gopalan, led the Indian delegation to the first 'India-Brazil Economic and Financial Dialogue' held on 30 June, 2011 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Dr S Y Quraishi, visited Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro from 29 June-2 July, 2011 and met with the President of the Brazilian Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Mr Ricardo Lewandowski.

An Indian cultural festival called 'Mostra Mudra' was organised in four cities of Brazil ~ Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Brasilia and Belo Horizonte ~ from 19 May-5 June, 2011 with the participation of 45 prominent artists. Seminars on Rabindranath Tagore were also organised at the Federal University of Minas Gerais State and the University of Sao Paulo. An Indian Food Festival called 'Festival de Gastronomia Indiana' was organised from 14-17 September, 2011 in Brasilia. The India Cultural Centre was established in Sao Paulo in May 2011.

The Centre for Latin American Studies of Goa University organised an International Conference titled 'India-Brazil Dialogue' on 28-30 October, 2011.

Chile

Bilateral relations with Chile received further impetus with the visit of Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Meira Kumar, from 12-15 January, 2012. She led a multi-party Indian Parliamentary delegation at the invitation of the President of the Lower House. During her visit she met President of the Senate, Mr Guido Girardi and addressed members of the Chilean National Assembly.

Amongst other important interactions is the visit of Minister of State for Mines, Shri Dinsha J Patel, to Chile from 27 April to 1 May, 2011 during which he met with Chilean Minister of Mining Mr Laurence Golborne and Chilean Mining Industry Representatives. He also visited Codelco Chuquicamata Copper Mine and SQM Lithium Mine. Mr Jorge Bunster, Director-General of International Economic Relations of Chile visited India from 12-15 April, 2011 and met with Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. The Third Meeting on the Expansion of the Indo-Chilean Preferential Trade Agreement was held in Santiago on 30 June-3 July, 2011. Dr S Y Quraishi, Chief Election Commissioner participated in the bicentenary celebrations of the Chilean Congress from 2-8 July, 2011 in Santiago and signed an MoU for exchange of views in the field of electoral process of the two countries.

The important business interactions and visits to Chile during the year included FIEO business delegation from 12-18 November, 2011; EPCH Buyer-Seller Meet on Handicrafts from 27-30 November, 2011. Amongst important Indian

scholars and academicians who visited Chile during this period were Prof. Sachchidanand Sahai, Dr Devekai Jain, Prof. Leena Srivastava and Dr Y Venugopal Reddy, former Governor of Reserve Bank of India.

Secretary (West), Shri M. Ganapathi, delivered an address at the book launch of 'Chile in the age of Globalization- Dialogue with India' on 19 December, 2011.

Colombia

Our bilateral relations with Colombia during the year were underpinned by exchange of visits and conclusion of important Agreements. The Minister of State for Mines, Shri Dinsha J. Patel, visited Colombia from 1-4 May, 2011 and met his counterpart Mr Carlos Rodado Noriega and signed an MoU for Cooperation in Geology and Mining. During the visit, he called on Vice President, Mr Angelino Garzón and met Mr Sergio Díaz-Granados, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, and Mrs. María Constanza García Botero Colombian, Vice Minister of Infrastructure.

Secretary (Steel), Shri Pradeep Kumar Misra, led a delegation of public sector companies to Colombia in June 2011. Secretary (West), Shri Vivek Katju, visited Colombia from July 9-12, 2011 for Foreign Office Consultations with his counterpart Vice Foreign Minister, Ms. Monica Lanzetta. Commerce Secretary, Shri Rahul Khullar, led a 10-member EEPC delegation to Colombia from 31 August-2 September, 2011 for the first meeting of India-Colombia Joint Business Council. Vice Foreign Minister Ms Monica Lanzetta visited India from 31 October-4 November, 2011 and held talks with Secretary (West), Shri M Ganapathi, to review the progress of the bilateral institutional mechanisms.

The bilateral Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was signed in New Delhi in May 2011. A 32-member Chemexcil delegation visited Colombia on 11-12 August to explore business opportunities in Colombia and staged the Indian Chemical Exhibition. A 10- member business delegation from Colombia also participated in the India-LAC Pharma Meeting organised by Pharmexcil in Hyderabad in September 2011.

An ICCR-sponsored 10- member Avishkar Gujarati Folk Dance Troupe visited Colombia to participate in the five-day Dance and Gastronomy Festival of India from 21-25 November. India donated a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi to the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation, in Medellin, the second largest city in Colombia.

Ecuador

India's relations with Ecuador received fresh momentum with the visit of the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, from 1-3 May, 2011 for the Third India-Ecuador Ministerial Foreign Office Consultations with his counterpart

Vice Foreign Minister of Ecuador, Mr Ledo Kinto Lucas. He called on Vice President, Mr Lenin Voltaire Moreno Garces, and met with the Foreign Minister, Mr Ricardo Patino, and the Defence Minister, Mr Javier Ponce Cevallos. A Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed during the visit. Under Secretary General of the Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Mr Rafael Quintero, visited India from 18-20 February, 2012 and met with Secretary (West), Shri M Ganapathi.

Guyana

India and Guyana remained actively engaged in development cooperation during the year. Secretary (West), Shri Vivek Katju, led the Indian delegation to the third round of India-Guyana Foreign Office Consultations in Georgetown on 15 July, 2011 with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett. During the visit, he called on President Bharrat Jagdeo, Prime Minister Samuel Hinds and Finance Minister Ashni Singh. EXIM Bank approved the contract between Surendra Engineering Corporation Ltd, India and Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana, for supply and installation of Irrigation Pumps under Government of India's Line of Credit of US\$ 4 million in Guyana. Further, another Line of Credit of US\$ 19 million for construction of a Super Specialty Hospital in Guyana was approved during the year.

Mexico

The India-Mexico 'Privileged Partnership' gained momentum during the year with regular exchange of high-level visits. Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, led an Indian Parliamentary delegation to Mexico from 11-14 April, 2011 and called on President Calderon of Mexico. She also interacted with members of the Chambers of the Congress, President of the Senate Mr Manlio Fabio Beltrones Rivera and President of the Chamber of Deputies Mr Jorge Carlos Ramirez Marin. The Foreign Minister of Mexico, Ms Patricia Espinosa, visited India for the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from 30 January-2 February, 2012. During the visit, she met the External Affairs Minister, the National Security Advisor, and the Ministers of State for Environment and Forests and Rural Development.

Amongst the other important visits to India from Mexico were that of the Governor of the Central Bank of Mexico, Mr Agustin Carstens, on 10 June, 2011 and Mexican Vice Minister for Agriculture, Mr Mario Ruiz Funes, from 18-24 September, 2011.

Visits from our side to Mexico were that of Karnataka Minister of Industries, Shri Murugesh R Nirani, from 8-10 May, 2011; National Defence College (NDC) delegation led by Commandant Air Marshal P K Roy to Cancun and Mexico City from 21-28 May, 2011; Election Commissioner,

Shri V S Sampath, visited Mexico City from 13-15 September, 2011 and the Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Jitin Prasada, attended the World Road Congress (Mexico City) on 26-30 September, 2011

Important business delegations from India to Mexico were: 13 Indian companies participated in the 7th World Chambers Congress in Mexico City from 7-9 June, 2011; EEPC India organised the India Pavilion in PAACE Automechanika Mexico 2011 from 13-15 July in Mexico City; a nine-member delegation from the Plastics Export Promotion Council of India (Plexconcil) to Mexico in March and again in October for buyer-seller meetings and participated in 'Plast Imagen Mexico 2011' exhibition; Mr Sanjiv Handa, Member (Mechanical), Railway Board visited Mexico on 18-19 October, 2011; and, CAPEXIL delegation participated in the Guadalajara Book Fair held on 26-30 November, 2011.

The Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre (GTICC) was inaugurated in Mexico City during the visit of Shri Suresh K Goel, ICCR Director-General, in May 2011. During the year, a number of cultural and academic events were organised in Mexico City and other cities: A three-week long festival, 'India in the Heart of Mexico', from 2-17 April; a Kathputli play titled 'Marionetas de Rajasthan' staged by Mr Diego Ugalde De Haene, a Mexican artist and his team on 8 October, 2011; and, ICCR sponsored six-member percussion ensemble, led by Shri Amrit Nataraj, participated in the International Festival of Cervantino from 10-25 October, 2011. Some of the prominent Indian scholars who visited Mexico during the year were Prof. Sudarshan Iyengar, Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith, renowned sociologist Prof. Ashis Nandy, and Prof. S N Nageswara Rao from Sir Theagaraya College, Chennai.

Paraguay

Bilateral relations between India and Paraguay acquired new momentum with the visit of Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Meira Kumar, who led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Paraguay from January 17-20, 2012 at the invitation of Mr Victor A. Bogado, President of the Lower House of the National Congress of Paraguay. During the visit, she called on the President of Paraguay Mr Fernando Lugo, the Vice President of Paraguay Mr Federico Franco, and also Mr Efrain Alegre, President of Permanent Standing Committee of the National Congress and Mr Jorge Lara Castro, Minister of External Affairs.

Peru

India and Peru continued their warm and friendly relationship in 2011-12. Mr Javier Roca, Director General for International Economy, Competition and Private Investment Affairs, led a delegation to India from 4-6 July,

2011 for the second round of talks on BIPPA. Peruvian Vice Minister of Environment Mr Hugo Cabiese participated in the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on Green Economy and Inclusive Growth, held in New Delhi on 3 October in collaboration with UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. During the visit, Mr Hugo called on Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests. A 10-member delegation from CHEMEXCIL participated in the Industrial Trade Fair of the Americas 'FAMERICAS' held in Lima from 19-21 May, 2011. A three-member Peruvian delegation visited Hyderabad for 'INDIASOFT 2011' on 25-26 March, 2011.

Uruguay

India-Uruguay bilateral relations received impetus with the visit of Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Meira Kumar, who led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Uruguay from 15-17 January, 2012 at the invitation of President of the Lower House, Dr Luis Lacalle. During her visit she also met Mr Jose Mujica, President of Uruguay and Mr Danilo Astori, President of the Senate and Vice President. Earlier in September 2011, the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was signed by the Ambassador of Uruguay and Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes, in New Delhi.

Venezuela

The warm and friendly relations between India and Venezuela continued to flourish during the year. Bilateral trade crossed US\$ 5.5 billion with large imports of hydrocarbons by India. A five-member Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Shri Basudeb Acharya visited Venezuela at the invitation of the Government of Venezuela from 16-19 May, 2011. For the first time Venezuela participated in the annual India International Trade Fair in November 2011. In view of the widespread destruction of property and displacement of people in Venezuela caused by heavy rains in 2011, Government of India donated US\$ 1 million to Venezuela as a relief to the victims.

Central America

India enjoys excellent bilateral relations with all the individual Central American countries. India's relations are also strengthened through the India-SICA (Central American Integration System) Dialogue to which India attaches high importance. Through development assistance and technical cooperation programmes, India has been assisting these countries in human resource capacity building initiatives in a modest way. The IT Centres set up with India's assistance in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, after running them for three years, have been handed over to their respective governments in June 2011 as per the original agreements. As

part of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, ICCR sponsored dance troupes led by Dr Sonal Mansingh and Ms Sutapa Talukdar performed in Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama in October 2011. Ten Indian IT software companies participated in the Costa Rica Technology Insight in June 2011 at San Jose, Costa Rica. India donated Cash Assistance of US\$ 100,000 each to El Salvador and Nicaragua as a disaster relief in the wake of the damage caused by flash floods.

El Salvador

India's bilateral relations with El Salvador received a boost with the visit of Foreign Minister, Mr Hugo Martinez from 27-29 March, 2011. He held delegation level talks with the External Affairs Minister. Three MoUs in the field of Agriculture were signed during the visit. The Vice Minister of Education of the Republic of El Salvador, Dr Erlinda Handal Vega visited India from 21-23 November, 2011 and met with the Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri Ashwani Kumar.

Guatemala

Bilateral relations with Guatemala received further impetus with the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, to Guatemala from 29 April-1 May, 2011. He held bilateral talks with his counterpart Mr Carlos Raul Morales Moscoso, Vice-Minister of External Relations of Guatemala. Both sides also agreed to move further on cooperation in regional organisations, including SICA (Central American Integration System). Shri Ahamed also called on the President of Guatemala, Mr Alvaro Colom Caballeros. The Embassy of India was formally inaugurated by the President of Guatemala during the Minister of State's visit.

Panama

Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Meira Kumar, led an Indian Parliamentary delegation to Panama from 14-21 April, 2011 to participate in the 124th IPU Assembly. The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, visited Panama on 3-5 May, 2011 and held talks with Vice Foreign Minister, Mr Alvaro Aleman. He also met the Minister of Economy and Finance, Mr Alberto Vallarino. Shri J M Mauskar, Special Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests, visited Panama to attend the UN Climate Change meetings on 20 September-7 October. An EEPC business delegation visited Panama from 31 August-2 September, 2011.

Caribbean Countries

India enjoys active and vibrant relations with the Caribbean countries. Through the India-CARICOM Dialogue process, the relations are being strengthened and deepened. The important exchanges during the year included a three-

member delegation from Ministry of Finance attended the Seventh Meeting of the Peer Review Group of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes in Cayman Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands from 18-22 July, 2011. On 30 August, President Leonel Fernandez of Dominican Republic (DR) inaugurated the Indo-DR Centre for Excellence in IT set up with GoI assistance. A few Indian companies participated in 'INTEC TECNOLOGIA 2011' in the capital city Santa Domingo in November 2011. A music and dance troupe from Goa visited Grenada on 8-9 August, 2011 to participate in the Grenada Carnival. Ms Deboleena Paul, Manipuri dance teacher-cum-performer at MGICC in Port of Spain visited Grenada and gave a dance rendition organised by the Indo-Grenada Heritage Foundation (IGHF) and conducted dance classes in Grenada from 30 October 30-4 November, 2011. An MoU to facilitate economic and cultural exchanges was signed between India and Montserrat on 30 September, 2011 in Montserrat. As part of the celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, an exhibition of Tagore's paintings was held in Paramaribo in collaboration with the Department of Culture of Suriname from 7-13 May, 2011.

Cuba

India's relations with Cuba continued to be warm and friendly with active interactions. Like on previous occasions, India supported Cuban sponsored UN resolution against the US embargo during the year. The first round of bilateral negotiations on Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was held in Cuba from 1-4 June, 2011. A five member S&T delegation visited Havana from 27-30 June, 2011 and explored possibilities of cooperation in drug development, molecular biology, bioinformatics, vaccine development and plant genetic engineering. India extended a Line of Credit of US\$5 million to Cuba for setting up a Milk Powder Processing Plant in Camaguey Province of Cuba.

Commonwealth of Dominica

An MoU for setting up of an ICT Centre of Excellence with Indian assistance in the Commonwealth of Dominica was signed on 14 October, 2011. An MoU on bilateral cooperation in Agriculture was signed between ICAR and Ministry of Agriculture of Commonwealth of Dominica on 14 October, 2011 during the visit of an ICAR delegation to attend the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) and Agrifest from 13-15 October, 2011. India donated a Cash Assistance of US\$ 100,000 to the Commonwealth of Dominica as disaster relief in the wake of the damage caused by flash floods.

Jamaica

Secretary (West), Shri Vivek Katju, led the Indian delegation for the Fourth Round of India-Jamaica Foreign Ministry Consultations (FOC) with Ambassador Ms. Evadne Coye, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica on 13 July, 2011 in Kingston. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues. During the visit, Secretary (West) called on Foreign Minister of Jamaica, Dr Kenneth Baugh. Shri Amarnath Pradhan, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, visited Jamaica to participate in a workshop on the role of Parliamentarians in Constituency Development Fund from 6-9 June, 2011. An 11-member Manipuri dance group participated in the celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in December 2011.

St Vincent and Grenadines

On June 1, the Indian Heritage Foundation of St. Vincent and Grenadines organised various cultural events to mark the 150th year of Indian arrival in St. Vincent and Grenadines. ICCR sponsored the visit of a 14-member Bihu Assam dance troupe to perform at this event. India donated US\$ 100,000 to the Government of St. Vincent and Grenadines as Cash Assistance in the wake of damage caused by flash floods and landslides.

Trinidad and Tobago

The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), Ms Kamla Persad Bissessar, paid a State Visit to India from 5-14 January, 2012 accompanied by high-level ministerial, official and business delegation. Prime Minister Bissessar was also the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) on 7-9 January, 2012 in Jaipur where President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award on her in recognition of her contribution to strengthening diasporic links. Prime Minister Bissessar, in addition to Delhi and Jaipur, also visited Jodhpur, Kolkata, her ancestral village Bhelupur in Buxar and Mumbai. She called on the President, the Vice-President and the External Affairs Minister. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held a dialogue with Prime Minister Bissessar and covered a wide gamut of our bilateral relations. Dr Singh announced an increase in the annual ITEC slots to Trinidad and Tobago from 30 to 50. Five Agreements/MoUs were signed during

the visit: Cooperation in traditional medicine; setting up of a Chair in Ayurveda in the University of West Indies; bilateral Air Services Agreement; CEP and Technical Cooperation Agreement in the field of Education.

Earlier, the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs and Civil Aviation, Shri Vayalar Ravi, visited Trinidad and Tobago from 29 May-1 June, 2011; Secretary (West), Shri Vivek Katju, called on Dr Surujrattan Rambachan, Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, during a brief stopover in Port of Spain on 14 July, 2011. Secretary (DARE), Dr S Ayyappan led a two-member delegation to T&T on 17 October, 2011 where an MoU and a work-plan to facilitate exchange of experts on rice, coconut and citrus fruits was signed with T&T. Secretary (AYUSH), Shri Anil Kumar, led a three-member delegation from the Department of AYUSH to T&T on 2-6 November, 2011 and participated in a two-day Seminar and workshop-cum-exhibition on Ayurveda at the Divali Nagar on 4-5 November.

The Foreign Minister of T&T, Dr Surujratan Rambachan, paid an official visit to India and co-chaired the First India-T&T Joint Commission Meeting along with the External Affairs Minister on 28-29 November, 2011. Both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Mr Winston Dookeran, Minister of Finance of T&T, visited India on 6-16 December, 2011 and attended the 4th International Tax Dialogue (ITD) Global Conference on Tax and Inequalities. He also met with the Finance Minister.

The ICCR sponsored several cultural troupes during the year. These were: 15-member Bhangra and Giddah dance group in May-June 2011; a 14-member group of Goenchim Noketram dancers, a folk and music group from Goa in August 2011; an eight-member Qawwali group in October 2011; an 11-member Manipuri Martial Art/Dance group led by renowned Manipuri dance exponent, Ms Priti Patel, in November 2011.

CARICOM (Caribbean Community)

An MoU between CARDI (Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute) and ICAR (Indian Council for Agricultural Research) was signed by DG, ICAR, Dr Ayyappan, and Executive Director, CARDI, Dr Arlington Chesney on 14 October, 2011.





The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, meeting the Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, in New Delhi, on January 06, 2012.

United Nations and International Organisations

India in the United Nations

66th Session of the UN General Assembly

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, visited New York, from 22-26 September, 2011, leading the official Indian delegation to the high-level segment of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). In his statement during the general debate of the UN General Assembly on 24 September, the Prime Minister expressed deep concern on the world economic situation, saying that the economic and financial crisis of 2008 had deepened even further in many respects. He called on governments around the world to renew people's faith in the Charter and objectives of the United Nations through their actions and deeds. He called for an early reform and expansion of the Security Council to enhance the Council's credibility and effectiveness in dealing with global issues and make it reflect contemporary realities. He called for putting the development agenda "firmly back to the centrestage of the United Nations' priorities." He also said that the global community needed to pay particular attention to Africa. Referring to the "unprecedented social and political upheaval in West Asia, the Gulf, and North Africa", the Prime Minister said that the people of these regions were demanding the right to shape their own future. Articulating India's firm commitment to internationalism and multilateralism, the Prime Minister asserted that societies could not be reordered from outside through military force and people in all countries had the right to choose their own destiny.

Reiterating India's principled position on the Palestine issue, he said that India looked forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations. The Prime Minister stressed that the fight against terrorism must be unrelenting and there could not be selective approaches to dealing with "terrorist groups or the infrastructure of terrorism." Stating that nuclear proliferation continued to remain a threat to international security, he said that the Action Plan put forward by the former Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for a nuclear-weapons free and non-violent world provided a concrete roadmap for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. On South Asia, the Prime Minister called for enhanced cooperation and stated India's commitment to make the region peaceful. He also said that India wished to see "an open, inclusive and transparent architecture of regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region."

On the margins of the 66th UNGA Session, the Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with the Prime Ministers of Japan, and Nepal, and the Presidents of Iran, Sri Lanka, and South Sudan, the newest member of the UN.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, also visited New York from 21-27 September, 2011, to take part in the high-level segment of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. In addition to bilateral meetings with his counterparts, the External Affairs Minister attended several ministerial-level plurilateral and multilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), including the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Foreign Ministers' meeting, the G-4 Foreign Ministers' meeting, the SAARC Foreign Ministers' informal gathering, the Sixth Round of the Ministerial-level India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Political Dialogue, a meeting with the Extended Troika of the Rio Group and the high-level meeting of the UN Security Council on Conflict Prevention, organised by the Lebanese Presidency of the UNSC.

The Minister of Health and Family Welfare of India, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, visited New York, from 18-21 September, 2011, leading a delegation to the high-level meeting of the 66th UNGA on Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases. In his statement to the UNGA, Shri Azad underscored India's efforts for the prevention, treatment, care and support of HIV and AIDS patients. He noted that India's efforts, focused on high risk groups and expanding services, and improving access to ART therapy, had been able to contain the epidemic with a prevalence of just 0.3 per cent.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, visited New York from 22 October-1 November, 2011. Shri Ahamed participated in the monthly debate of the UN Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question on 24 October and delivered India's statement. He also addressed the UNGA meetings on the 'necessity of ending the economic, commercial, and financial embargo imposed by the US against Cuba', on 25 October, and on the report of the International Court of Justice on 26 October, 2011. Shri Ahamed also held a meeting with the President of the 66th Session of the UNGA, Mr Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, on 31 October, 2011.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, addressing the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York on 24 September, 2011.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur, visited New York from 10-16 October, 2011. During her visit, Smt Kaur participated in the UNGA plenary meeting on 11 October on New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Addressing the meeting, Smt Kaur called for increased international efforts for Africa's development, especially in its efforts to make progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and in surmounting the difficult challenges confronting post-conflict and transitional societies. She pledged India's commitment in this regard. Smt Kaur also addressed the Security Council on 12 October on the topic of 'Security Sector Reform'.

Shri K Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, visited New York from 4-11 October, 2011, and participated in the deliberations of the UN. He addressed the UNGA on 4 October on the report of the work of the UN and made a statement on 10 October at the UNGA's Second Committee on macroeconomic policy questions, the international financial system and development, as well as external debt sustainability and development. On 6 October, he met Mr Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly.

A non-official Indian delegation consisting of 15 Members of Parliament visited New York in three batches during October-November 2011 to participate in the work of the six main committees of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly. The MPs were Shri Dushyant Singh, Shri E G Sugavanam, Shri H K Dua, Shri K Rahman Khan, Shri Moinul Hassan, Shri N K Singh, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Shri Prem Chand Gupta, Shri P J Kurien, Shri Ram Gopal Yadav, Smt Ratna De, Smt Santosh Chowdhury, Shri Satpal Maharaj, Shri Shatrughan Sinha, and Smt Viplove Thakur. The MPs participated in meetings of the UNGA Plenary and its committees as well as of the UN Security Council, and delivered India's statements on issues such as women, peace and security, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, report of the Security Council, equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, report of the Human Rights Council, situation of the Palestinian refugees in the Near East, the International Year of Cooperatives, effects of atomic radiation, report of the ECOSOC, sports for peace and development, promotion and protection of the rights of children, administration of justice at the UN, 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 as a member of the UN Security Council

India was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for a period of two years (beginning

1 January, 2011). During its first year on the Security Council, India underscored its commitment to promoting international peace and security through peaceful resolution of conflicts on the Security Council's agenda. India's efforts were mainly focused on the situation in its immediate and extended neighbourhood, including Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Africa. India also worked for enhancing international cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism, prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors, anti-piracy efforts and the strengthening of UN peacekeeping and peace-building efforts.

The External Affairs Minister participated in a high-level meeting of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on 11 February, 2011, organised by the Brazilian Presidency of the UNSC, on the subject of 'Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Inter-dependence between Security and Development'. In his statement, the External Affairs Minister, while dwelling on the interdependence between security and development, said that international efforts should focus on promoting development for all by encouraging economic activity and enhancing their livelihood security. He reaffirmed India's commitment to making its experience of over six decades of nation-building available to global efforts towards greater development and improved security. During the visit, the External Affairs Minister chaired a Ministerial meeting of G-4 countries on Security Council reforms and attended an IBSA Ministerial meeting on 11 February, 2011. The G-4 Ministers also met the President of the General Assembly, Mr Joseph Deiss. The External Affairs Minister also participated in a meeting of the group of developing countries that are devoted to early reform of the Security Council and also had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Slovenia, Portugal, Brazil, Colombia, and Gabon.

Counter-Terrorism Committee

On joining the Security Council, India was elected as the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. Under India's Chairmanship, the Counter-Terrorism Committee made significant progress on implementation by the member-States of their obligations under resolutions pertaining to counter-terrorism. A special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee commemorating the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee took place, on 28 September, 2011, in which the Committee adopted an outcome document that called for 'zero tolerance' of terrorism and of terrorist actions. India also continued to work for progress in the negotiations on the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT) and its early finalisation.

Piracy

Given the threat to international maritime trade and security, posed by acts of piracy off the coast of Somalia, India actively promoted concerted international cooperation in counter-piracy operations. In its interventions during Security Council meetings, India stressed that there was an urgent need for the international community to address the problem of hostage-taking by pirates and consequent humanitarian problems faced by the hostages and their families, and seek their quick release by whatever means appropriate. At India's initiative, the Security Council mandated international cooperation for release of hostages taken by pirates as well as for prosecution of those taking hostages and those aiding and abetting the acts of hostage-taking.

Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

India also continued to participate actively in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), an informal group of interested States and international organisations, established in January 2009, to coordinate international counter-piracy efforts. During 2011, Indian delegations participated in plenary meetings of the Contact Group held in New York on 21 March, 14 July, and 17 November, respectively, and in deliberations of its five Working Groups. The Communiqué issued by the 10th CGPCS Plenary, on 17 November, 2011, included, at India's instance, a paragraph stressing the international community's anger at the ongoing suffering of the innocent seafarers and their increasingly violent treatment at the hands of pirates, resulting in psychological, physical, and medical stress, and expressed the unacceptability of this situation and its deep sympathy for the captive seafarers and their families. Flag administrations were also urged to effectively engage with ship owners, to provide information on the welfare of the crew, measures being taken for their release, and the status of payment of their wages, to the substantially interested States, so that the families could be kept informed. The shipping industry was also called upon to provide all necessary assistance to seafarers after their release.

5th International Day of Non-Violence

On the occasion of the Fifth International Day of Non-Violence, observed worldwide on 2 October, 2011, a commemorative function was held at the United Nations on 30 September, 2011 (as 2 October fell on a weekend). The UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, was the Chief Guest at this special event, in which the Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Ramachandra Guha, who spoke on 'Non-Violence as an Instrument of Social Change - Why Gandhi Matters.'

Reform of the UN Security Council

During the year, India continued with its efforts for an early and meaningful reform of the UN Security Council. The G-4 Foreign Ministers, viz. the External Affairs Minister of India, the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Minister of External Relations of Brazil, and the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan met in New York on 11 February, 2011, to exchange views on Security Council reform. They noted, with satisfaction, the important contributions being made by their countries to the working of the Security Council, and to the maintenance of international peace and security, and reaffirmed their willingness and capacity to take on major responsibilities in this regard. They stated that the international system would benefit from the expansion of the UN Security Council, which would ensure that the Council is truly reflective of current geopolitical realities, and make it stronger, more representative, legitimate, effective, and efficient. In this context, the G-4 countries reiterated their commitments as aspiring new permanent members of the UNSC, as well as their support for each other's candidatures. The G-4 countries also reaffirmed their view of the importance of Africa to be represented in the permanent membership of an enlarged Council. They also reconfirmed the need for additional non-permanent members and improvement in the Council's working methods. The Ministers recognised that there is widespread support for a member-States-driven initiative to take the process of much-needed reform of the Security Council towards a concrete outcome, and they agreed to press ahead, with all necessary steps, to achieve at the earliest, an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent membership categories of the Security Council. Towards this goal, the G-4 countries reaffirmed their readiness to reach out to other countries, and to work in close cooperation with them, in a spirit of flexibility.

The External Affairs Minister of India and the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Germany and Japan again met in New York, on 23 September, 2011, on the margins of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly, to exchange views on Security Council reform. At this meeting, they agreed that the strong support for their proposal on expansion of the Security Council in both categories of membership, and an improvement of its working methods, "should be considered as the basis for further discussions in the on-going inter-governmental negotiations to create the momentum needed for real negotiations." The Ministers also "welcomed the decision by the General Assembly to immediately continue the process of intergovernmental negotiations in the informal plenary of the 66th Session. They reaffirmed their full support to the negotiations and expressed their determination to

work in close cooperation with other member-states in a spirit of flexibility and press ahead with all the necessary steps to achieve a concrete outcome in the current session of the UN General Assembly." The first exchange of the Eighth Round of Intergovernmental Negotiations was held in New York on 28 November, 2011. At that meeting, two out of every three delegations that took the floor called for a reform model based on the expansion of the Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories.

Peacekeeping

India continues to be one of the largest and most consistent contributors to the UN peacekeeping operations. In 2011, India was the third largest troop contributor, with 8,093 troops and police peacekeepers, located in 10 UN Peacekeeping Missions, in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), Golan Heights on the Syria-Israel border (UNDOF), Liberia (UNMIL), South Sudan (UNMISS), Cote d' Ivoire (UNOCI), Cyprus (UNFICYP), East Timor (UNMIT), Haiti (MINUSTAH) and Abyei in Sudan (UNISFA). The largest Indian presence was in the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (4,023), followed by the UN Mission in South Sudan (2,244).

Non Aligned Movement (NAM)

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, led the Indian delegation to the XVI Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in Bali, Indonesia from 25-27 May, 2011. Shri Ahamed also participated in a Commemorative Meeting on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of NAM and a meeting of the 13-member NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine. The Conference was attended by 93 member-countries, 15 observers, and 20 guests and invitees of the host Government. The NAM Ministerial Conference adopted a Final Document, reflecting the common positions of NAM member-countries on international issues, a 'Commemorative Declaration on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of NAM,' a 'Statement on the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons,' a 'Declaration on Palestine,' and a 'Special Declaration on Palestinian Political Prisoners in Israeli Jails and Detention Centres.'

Speaking at the General Debate of the Conference on the theme of 'Shared vision on the contribution of the NAM for the next 50 years', Shri E Ahamed called, inter alia, for developing countries to support the reform of the UN Security Council to expand it in both permanent and non-permanent categories, reiterated India's support for global, complete, and verifiable disarmament, and urged the Movement to work towards ensuring Africa's pre-eminence

in the global development agenda. On the margins of the Conference, Shri Ahamed had bilateral meetings with Heads of the delegations of Indonesia, Egypt, Vietnam, UAE, South Africa, Iran, Syria, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur, led the Indian delegation to the Commemorative Meeting of NAM, held at Belgrade from 5-6 September, 2011, to observe the 50th anniversary of the historic meeting of the founding fathers of NAM. India being one of the former Chairs of the NAM, Smt. Kaur was invited to make her statement at the inaugural session in the National Assembly Hall of Serbia. In her statement, she criticised the growing predilection for intervention, including military intervention, in the internal affairs of countries, even when there was no manifest threat to international peace and security. She stressed that the international community must act through engagement and capacity building, and its actions should be premised on respect for national sovereignty. During her visit, Smt Kaur called on the Serbian Prime Minister, Mr Mirko Cvetkovic, and met the Foreign Minister, Mr Vuk Jeremic, and the Minister of Economy and Regional Development, Mr Nebojsa Ciric. She also had an opportunity to meet the President of Serbia, Mr Boris Tadic, at the official banquet hosted by him on the occasion. In addition, on the margins of the Conference, the Minister had bilateral meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Bulgaria, Mauritius and El Salvador and the Head of the delegation of Morocco.

The Commonwealth

India, which is the largest member-State of the Commonwealth, with nearly 60 per cent of the total population of the Association, continued its extensive engagement in the activities of the organisation. India is the fourth-largest contributor to the Commonwealth budgets and programmes, and the fifth-largest contributor to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC). After the UK, India provides the largest number of technical experts engaged by CFTC, extending assistance to developing Commonwealth countries.

The Commonwealth Secretary General, Shri Kamalesh Sharma, visited New Delhi from 7-12 February, 2011, and called on the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister and the Minister of State for Finance, among others, for discussions on Commonwealth related issues. The Commonwealth Secretary General again visited New Delhi, from 26 August-1 September, 2011, to discuss matters relating to the Commonwealth ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth from 28-30 October, 2011. During his visit, Shri Sharma had

meetings with the Vice President, the Prime Minister, the Minister for External Affairs, the Minister for Commerce and Industry, the Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, the National Security Advisor and the Foreign Secretary.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2011

The Vice-President of India, Shri M Hamid Ansari, led the official Indian delegation to Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), in Perth from 28-30 October, 2011. The theme of CHOGM 2011 was 'Building National Resilience, Building Global Resilience'.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, participated in the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting from 26-27 October, 2011, preceding the CHOGM. The meetings of the Committee of the Whole (CoW), at Senior Officials level, were held from 24-25 October. During this period, meetings of the Commonwealth Business Forum (25-27 October), Commonwealth Youth Forum (23-27 October) and the Commonwealth People's Forum (25-27 October) were also held in Perth. At CHOGM, the Heads of Government reviewed developments within the Commonwealth and globally. They discussed a whole gamut of issues, ranging from the promotion and protection of fundamental political values in the Commonwealth, the global economic situation, international trade and the Commonwealth's engagement with the G-20, to climate change and sustainable development, and initiatives to deal with the concerns of the youth and women. A discussion on the special vulnerabilities of small States, which comprise 32 of the 54 Commonwealth nations, was also held.

At the end of CHOGM, the leaders adopted a communiqué, which spelt out the position of the Commonwealth on major international issues such as the global economic system and trade, terrorism, piracy, climate change, sustainable development, migration, healthcare, gender equality and women's empowerment, youth, security, and other issues of importance. The Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles was also adopted at the meeting, reflecting the Commonwealth's shared approach to address the challenge of food insecurity.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shri Kamallesh Sharma, was re-elected at Perth for a 2nd four-year term beginning 1 April, 2012.

Community of Democracies

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur, led the Indian delegation to the VI Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies (CoD), in

Vilnius, Lithuania, on 1 July, 2011. The Conference approved a new governing structure of the CoD, with the Governing Council replacing the Convening Group as the main decision-making body. On the margins of the Ministerial Conference, Smt Kaur met the Foreign Ministers of Mongolia, and Albania, among others. During the Conference, Mongolia assumed the Presidency of the CoD for the next two years.

Visits of PM, EAM, MoS (PK), MoS (EA), and MPs

High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS: The Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, led the Indian delegation to the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on HIV and AIDS, in New York, from 8-10 June, 2011. In his statement, the Minister underscored India's efforts on prevention, treatment, care, and support of HIV and AIDS.

High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases: Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, represented India at the high-level meeting on Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) held in New York on September 19, 2011. In his statement, the Minister reaffirmed India's firm resolve to prevent and combat NCDs by improving accessibility and affordability of healthcare in a concerted and collaborative manner.

High-Level Meeting on Youth Affairs: Shri Ajay Maken, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, represented India at the high-level meeting on Youth in New York on 26 July, 2011. In his statement, the Minister underscored India's special efforts to ensure a high degree of skills development among the country's youth.

High-Level Meeting on Desertification: India participated in the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on Addressing Desertification, Land degradation and Drought, in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication in New York on 20 September, 2011. Shri Dilip Sinha, Additional Secretary (IO&ED), made a statement on behalf of India at the meeting, reaffirming its commitment to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

Elections

In the course of 2011, India was elected to the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council), Human Rights Council, UNICEF, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In addition, India's candidates were elected, with impressive margins of victory, to the International

Law Commission (134 out of 190 votes), the Joint Inspection Unit (106 out of 183 votes), as well as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (147 out of 167 votes). India was also instrumental in ensuring the smooth conduct of the elections (within the Asian Group) of the President of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly.

Economic and Development Issues

Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (UNLDC-IV): The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, led the Indian delegation to the 4th UN Conference on Least Developed Countries in Istanbul from 9-13 May, 2011. Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister for HRD and IT, was also part of the delegation. Speaking in the general debate, the External Affairs Minister conveyed India's highest commitment to the cause of LDCs and announced a new Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million for implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA). With this, India's total offer of Lines of Credit for IPOA went up to US\$ 1 billion. Earlier, during the India-LDC Ministerial Conference held in New Delhi from 18-19 February, 2011, India had announced an LoC of US\$ 500 million, 240 additional ITEC slots for the 48 LDCs and a grant of US\$ 5 million for follow-up activities of the IPOA. India also contributed US\$ 250,000 to the UN Trust Fund to facilitate travel of participants from LDCs to the conference.

Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC]: The 2011 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held in Geneva from 4-29 July, 2011. Shri A Gopinathan, Permanent Representative of India to the UN Offices in Geneva, led the Indian delegation to the high-level session from 4-8 July, 2011 and addressed the Annual Ministerial Review on the theme 'Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education'. Officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and Human Resource Development also participated in the session.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU): The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) held the World Summit on the Information Society-WSIS Forum 2011 in Geneva from 16-20 May, 2011. Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, led the Indian delegation. Shri Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Prime Minister, attended the Forum.

During WSIS, an India workshop was held on 16 May, 2011, on 'implementation of WSIS action Lines'. The Minister released a report, 'Journey from Knowledge Economy to inclusive Information Society', at the workshop. Shri Pitroda received the 2011 ITU World Telecommunication and

Information Society Award, for using Information and Communications Technology for social development to unleash the digital revolution. Shri Pitroda is the first Indian to receive this prestigious award.

An Indian delegation, led by the Minister of Communications and IT, participated in the ITU Telecom World 2011 from 24-27 October, 2011.

World Health Organisation (WHO): India participated in the 64th World Health Assembly from 16-24 May, 2011. India called for strengthening public health through focus on primary healthcare, access to essential medicines and upgradation of health infrastructure. India encouraged focus on non-communicable diseases, including mental health, at the UN Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-Communicable Diseases held from 28-29 April, 2011, in Moscow and at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases from 19-20 September, 2011, in New York. India contributed to the successful conclusion of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework (PIPF), ensuring equitable access to medicines and vaccines for all.

World Meteorological Organisation: The 16th Congress of the WMO was held from 16 May-3 June, 2011. The Congress adopted a Resolution on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). The Indian delegation was led by Shri Pawan Bansal, Minister for Earth Sciences. India's role was pivotal in ensuring the centrality of all governments' role in the GFCS, through its proposed Governance Mechanism of the Intergovernmental Board. Dr. Ajit Tyagi, Director-General, India Meteorological Department, was re-elected as a member of the Executive Committee of WMO, that set up a task team (ECTT) to finalise the draft terms of reference of the Board and the GFCS's Implementation Plan. India made a voluntary contribution of US\$ 125,000 to the GFCS Secretariat in September 2011.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP): India participated in the 67th Annual Session of UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) held in Bangkok from 19-25 May, 2011. The theme of the Session was 'Beyond the Crises: Long-Term Perspectives on Social Protection and Development in Asia and the Pacific'. The Indian delegation was led by India's Ambassador to Thailand and Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Shri Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty.

UN-ESCAP organised the Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in Seoul from 19-20 October, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Rajneesh Dube, Joint Secretary,

Ministry of Environment & Forests, along with other officials from the MEA and the Planning Commission.

The opening ceremony of UN-ESCAP's Sub-regional Office for South and South-West Asia (SRO-SSWA) in New Delhi took place on 15 December, 2011, along with a high-level Policy Dialogue on Development Challenges facing the sub-region that saw the participation of Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and senior policy-makers from the countries represented by SRO. The Keynote Address at the inaugural was delivered by Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation. The Executive Secretary, Ms Noeleen Heyzer, travelled to India for this event and also called on several Ministers during her visit.

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC): In May 2011, India ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its three protocols.

An Indian delegation, led by Shri K Jose Cyriac, Special Secretary (Revenue), participated in the 54th Session of Commission on Narcotics and Drugs from 20-26 March, 2011. The 20th Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) was held in Vienna from 11-15 April, 2011. The main theme of the 20th session was 'Protecting children in a digital age: the misuse of technology in the abuse and exploitation of children'. The session was attended by a five-member delegation from India, headed by Smt B Bhamathi, Additional Secretary (CS), Ministry of Home Affairs.

Ms Alka Sirohi, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, visited Vienna to attend the Implementation Review Group Meeting (resumed second session) of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) from 6-9 September, 2011.

International Labour Organisation (ILO): India participated in the historic 100th session of the International Labour Conference of the ILO from 1-17 June, 2011. India's progressive schemes of socio-economic upliftment of the poor and the marginalised, including the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), the Rashtriya Swashta Bima Yojana (RSBY), the National Skills Development Policy (NSDP) and the New Pension Scheme (NPS) were acknowledged. India remained engaged in the ongoing reform process in the ILO, including in its governing body and the International Labour Conference.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU): The 125th General Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was held at Berne from 16-19 October, 2011. Morocco was elected as

Chair of the IPU. The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt Meira Kumar, and the Deputy Speaker of the Rajya Sabha, Shri K Rahman Khan, and other Members of Parliament participated in the 125th Assembly.

A three-member delegation of Members of Parliament visited Geneva from 23-27 May, 2011, for the Fourth Parliamentary Forum on 'Shaping the Information Society on the Triple Challenge of Cyber-Security: Information, Citizens and Infrastructure'. Shri T K Vishwanathan, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, participated in the information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, organised by the IPU Secretariat, Geneva.

UN-HABITAT: The 23rd session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT was held in Nairobi from 11-15 April, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by the High Commissioner and Permanent Representative to UN-HABITAT.

Dr Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, visited India from 23-30 September, 2011. This was his first official visit to India since he took over as the Executive Director in October 2010. During the visit, he met the Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA), Smt Kumari Selja, and the Minister for Urban Development, Shri Kamal Nath, and Member, Planning Commission, Shri Arun Maira. Dr Clos also addressed a meeting of professionals in Mumbai organised by the Ministry of HUPA.

Environmental Issues

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: The 17th Conference of Parties (COP-17) to the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) along with the 7th Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol was held in Durban from 28 November-9 December, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Smt Jayanthi Natarajan.

Several significant decisions were taken in Durban. Most importantly, the 2nd Commitment Period to the Kyoto Protocol was agreed upon for developed countries. In addition, the Conference adopted decisions relating to the operationalisation of structures agreed to at Cancun in 2010. This includes the Green Climate Fund for financing of efforts of developing countries as also the Adaptation Committee and the Technology Mechanism.

At Durban, an agreement was also reached on launching a new process to negotiate on the future arrangements for enhanced actions under the Convention. The work on this

process, the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, will start in the first half of 2012 and be completed in 2015, and it is aimed at developing 'a protocol, another legal instrument, or agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention, applicable to all parties'. The new arrangement is to come into effect from 2020.

In the run-up to the Durban Conference, a series of meetings and preparatory conferences were held through the year. This included four negotiating sessions of the Ad-hoc Working Groups on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) and Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) in Bangkok (April 2011), Bonn (June 2011) and Panama (September-October 2011) respectively. India actively participated in these meetings and played an important role in advancing discussions in several key areas.

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 Durban Conference, with meetings in New Delhi (February 2011), Durban (May 2011), Inhotim (July 2011), and Beijing (October 2011).

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 the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. A composite delegation, led by Shri T Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, and comprising officials of the Ministries of External Affairs and Ministry of Environment and Forests, represented India at the 19th session of the Commission held in New York, from 2-13 May, 2010. This was the policy session of the two-year implementation cycle and thematic discussions on waste management, chemicals, transport, mining, and sustainable pattern of consumption and production were held. Due to a major disagreement between the G-77 and developed countries on the question of means of Implementation, no outcome document could be adopted.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): India was the global host for the World Environment Day, 2011. The week-long events to mark the occasion were inaugurated in New Delhi by the Minister for Environment and Forests, Shri Jairam Ramesh, along with the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr Achim Steiner, on 5 June, 2011. The theme of this year's activities was 'Forests: Nature at your Service'. The series of events included a workshop on journalism and the environment, a green bazaar of non-timber forest products (at the Dilli Haat), a special session on 'Building a Green Economy' (hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industries)

in New Delhi, Green Marathons and walkathons, and a conference on 'Nature and Livelihoods: Women's Perspective' (in New Delhi). The UNEP's report on 'Green Economy and Forests' was also released on 5 June in New Delhi.

The 1st session of the Plenary on Inter-governmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was held in Nairobi from 3-7 October, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by the High Commissioner and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

The 3rd Session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on Mercury (INC3) was held in Nairobi from 31 October-4 November, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Smt Mira Mehrishi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Global Sustainability Panel (GSP): Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister for Rural Development, is a member of the Global Sustainability Panel (GSP). He visited New York to attend the Fourth meeting of the GSP held from 18-19 September, 2011. The Panel is co-chaired by the Presidents of South Africa and Finland, and was set up by the UN Secretary General in 2010. The report of the Panel will provide recommendations on strengthening the global sustainable development agenda that will be considered at the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the period 20-22 June, 2012.

High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All: Shri Farooq Abdullah, Minister for New and Renewable Energy, is a member of the High-level Group, and visited New York to attend the launch and the first meeting of the High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, on 20 September, 2011. The Group, comprising leaders from governments, business and civil society, has been set up by the UN Secretary General, to catalyse global action on universal access to energy. The recommendations of the Group will feed into the proposed outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in June 2012 in Brazil.

Social and Human Rights Issues

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC): India continued to play an active role in the Human Rights Council (UNHRC), with the resumption of its membership after a mandatory one-year break from June 2010 to June 2011. India was a member of the Consultative Group responsible for making recommendations to the President of the Council on the appointment of Special Procedures Mandate Holders.

Besides its three regular sessions, the Council held four Special Sessions in 2011: one on the 'situation of human rights in

the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya' in February 2011, and three on the 'situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic' in April 2011, August 2011, and December 2011, respectively. The Council also concluded its first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review at the 12th UPR Session in October, completing the review of the human rights record of 192 UN member states in four years.

India served as a member of the Troika for the UPR of Antigua and Barbuda. Eminent Indians continued to serve as members of important treaty monitoring bodies and human rights mechanisms, including Shri Dilip Lahiri (Member, Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination); Smt Indira Jaisingh (Member, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women); and Shri Chandrashekhara Dasgupta (Member of the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights). Shri Anand Grover continued his mandate as Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health, while Shri Kishore Singh continued his mandate as Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education.

Ms Margaret Sekaggya, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, visited India from 10-21 January, 2011. She travelled to Orissa, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, and Jammu & Kashmir. She met the Foreign Secretary, the Chairperson of the NHRC, the Home Secretary, Chairpersons of State Human Rights Commissions, Chief Secretaries of the five States she visited and other officials.

Humanitarian Affairs

India continued to engage actively in the deliberations at the Plenary of the 66th UNGA on humanitarian issues. India underscored the importance of the role of the United Nations in coordinating international emergency humanitarian assistance and providing support to national authorities in responding to humanitarian emergencies while adhering to humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law. India also highlighted its regular contributions to international humanitarian assistance as well as bilateral assistance to countries affected by natural disasters.

India contributed cash assistance of US\$ 1 million to OCHA efforts in Libya. Assistance of US\$ 1 million was also provided to UNRWA to provide daily supplement of food assistance to more than 76,000 students attending UNRWA schools in Gaza for 50 school days.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): The third Open-Ended Bilateral Meeting between UNHCR and India was held, on 24 May, 2011, in Geneva. Issues discussed were

the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, International Protection, UNHCR Reform, Refugee Protection and Solutions (Indian Context) and Regional Issues in Asia. Additional Secretary (IO&ED) led the talks on behalf of India while the High Commissioner, Mr Antonio Guterres, led the talks on behalf of UNHCR.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM): Mr William Lacy Swing, Director-General, IOM, visited India for the first time from 14-17 June, 2011, to discuss matters of common interest. He met Foreign Secretary, AS (IO & ED), Secretary (Labour and Employment), Secretary (Women and Child Development), Secretary (Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), Protector-General of Emigrants, and the Deputy Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. Mr Swing also called on the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs.

The Secretary (MOIA), visited IOM Headquarters, Geneva, from 27-29 July, 2011, to discuss ongoing and future projects with IOM under the 2007 MoU between the IOM and MOIA.

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD): The Swiss Chair of the 2011 GFMD hosted meetings of the Steering Group, the Assessment Team and the Friends of the Forum. India, as a member of these mechanisms, maintained its position that migration should be viewed through a developmental paradigm. The Indian Mission representatives, including HoMs, participated in the thematic meetings of GFMD organised in Abuja, El Salvador, Dhaka, Accra and Rabat. As a member of the Colombo Process, India participated in its Fourth Ministerial Meeting held in Dhaka from 20-21 April, 2011. The concluding debate of GFMD was held from 1-2 December, 2011, in Geneva in which representatives of the Permanent Mission of India and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs participated.

International Day of Non-violence: The United Nations observed the 5th International Day of Non-Violence on 30 September, 2011, (since 2 October was a weekend) with a function at UN Headquarters in New York. The UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, was the Chief Guest at the event where the Keynote Address was delivered by Dr Ramachandra Guha, who spoke on 'Non-Violence as an Instrument of Social Change - Why Gandhi Matters'.

Alliance of Civilisations: The Fourth Annual Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC) was held in Doha from 11-13 December, 2011. An Indian delegation headed by Shri E Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, participated in this Forum. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ahamed supported the initiatives of the Alliance to build bridges of understanding between nations, peoples, religions

and cultures. He also highlighted the unparalleled diversity and richness of Indian culture as also its willingness to share its experience of centuries of peaceful co-existence of traditions, religions, and cultures.

UNCLOS: The Meeting of the Ad hoc Open-Ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction was held at the UN Headquarters from 31 May-3 June, 2011. The Indian delegation was instrumental in the Working Group meeting, adopting resolution A/66/119, which contains recommendations for initiating a process for having a legal framework and ensures the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

At the 21st Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, from 13-17 June, 2011, the Indian delegation highlighted the importance of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, which regulates all aspects of the oceans, from delimitation to environmental control, scientific research, economic and commercial activities, technology and settlement of disputes. The Indian delegation also actively participated in the 12th Meeting of the United Nations' open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea held between 20 and 24 June 2011.

UNESCO

36th Session of the General Conference: The 36th Session of the General Conference was held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 25 October to 10 November 2011. The Indian delegation was led by the Minister for Human Resource, Communication and IT, Shri Kapil Sibal, with representatives from the Ministries of Human Resource Development, Culture, Science, Information and Broadcasting, and External Affairs in it. The Minister, in his address during the General Policy debate, made an emphatic appeal to empower the youth by giving them the tools of education. The Minister also referred to the historic milestone achieved by India, when it enacted an enabling legislation to constitutionally guarantee the Right to Elementary Education. The Minister presented to the Director General of UNESCO the US\$ 35 PC Tablet developed by India for distribution to every student pursuing higher education in India.

India's election to the World Heritage Committee, securing the second highest number of votes after a year-long campaign, was one of the highlights during the year.

In a historic development, the General Conference decided, by voting, the admission of Palestine as a member state of UNESCO, raising the total number of member-States to 195.

Sessions of the Executive Board: The 186th, 187th and 188th Sessions of the Executive Board met in May, September and November 2011, respectively. Dr Karan Singh, MP, led the Indian delegation in the 186th and 187th sessions. Dr Karan Singh, in his address to the Plenary, referred to the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore and the establishment of the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development in Delhi. He proposed that UNESCO should also celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of the renowned scholar, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. Dr Karan Singh announced a special contribution of US\$ 1,00,000 to the World Heritage Fund. In 2011, the Executive Board also elected India as one of the six Vice-Chairs of the Board.

India elected Chair of the Group of 77+China: During the calendar year 2011, India was the Chair of the Group of 77+China. During the year the Group, under India's stewardship, took up large number of issues at different platforms and fora in UNESCO. Amongst the major areas of attention were the accession of Palestine to UNESCO, the decision-making process within UNESCO, reform initiatives, and the greater involvement of member-States in the programmes and activities of UNESCO. In addition, there were several sector-specific initiatives that the Group took up successfully. In all of these, the Group evolved common decision and was an effective platform for dialogue and debate and for pursuing common agendas of its Members. The leadership of India was widely appreciated.

India was re-elected to the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, at the 26th Session of the IOC Assembly, held in Paris, from 22 June to 5 July, 2011.

60th anniversary of UNESCO Kalinga Prize: The 60th anniversary of UNESCO Kalinga Prize, instituted by the Government of India, together with the State Government of Orissa and the Kalinga Foundation, and administered by UNESCO, for the popularisation of science, was held in Bhubaneswar from 4-5 January, 2012. This event took place in conjunction with the 99th Indian Science Congress, held from 3 January, 2012. An International symposium for the popularisation of Science was also held in Bhubaneswar from 4-5 January, 2012.

Legal and Treaties Division

The important activities of the Legal and Treaties Division for the year 2011 are as follows:

UN and International Law

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism: As part of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, the UN General

Assembly urged the States to intensify, where appropriate, the exchange of information about facts related to terrorism in order to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information. The UN General Assembly further urged States to ensure full prosecution of nationals, or persons in their territories, who funded, or financially supported, terrorist acts. As regards the meeting of the ad hoc Committee on Terrorism, it was decided that the Committee would meet in April 2012, to continue the elaboration of various provisions of the Comprehensive Convention 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.

Elections of Members to the International Law Commission: The elections for the term 2012-2016 were held on 17 November, 2011, at the UN Headquarters, New York, during the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. From the Asian region, 13 countries, including India, had presented candidatures, against eight seats allocated to the region, and therefore it was a tough competition. As a result of tireless efforts and proper handling of the Mission, the Indian candidate got elected to the ILC.

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 Organisation' is considering several proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security; and coordination with other committees/bodies that are 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 and 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 on its work at its March 2010 session, adopted resolution 65/31. The Assembly has requested the Special Committee to continue to consider the subject as a priority with 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 66th Session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted two resolutions, 66/37 and 66/38, on the agenda items about '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', respectively. This Division was actively involved in advising on various legal issues which came up during the finalisation of the resolutions.

The 21st 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. In view of the increased workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), it has been agreed to extend the period of functioning of CLCS from 21 to 26 weeks a year, against the existing period of 15 weeks a year.

The Legal and 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 14-18 February, 2011, which focused inter-alia on defining the specific scope and objectives and modalities for implementing the first cycle of the Regular Process in order to ensure their relevance and usefulness for target audiences.

India became a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its three Protocols. The Convention is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organised crime. It is supplemented by three Protocols, which target specific areas and manifestations of organised crime: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and, the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components, and Ammunition. India also became a Party to the United Nations Convention

against Corruption 2003, which criminalises a wide range of acts of corruption.

Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO): This Division participated in the Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) held at Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 27 June-1 July, 2011. AALCO is an inter-governmental body, established to promote mutual cooperation and consultations among the Asian-African States, in the field of international law. This Division also participated in some of the meetings/conferences organised by AALCO during the current year which included those on Trafficking of Women and Children/Migrant Workers, and Protection of Children, and International Commercial Arbitration. One of the Officers of this Division participated in a training programme organised by AALCO for its Member States, early this year.

International Criminal Court (ICC): This Division followed the work of the International Criminal Court and gave legal opinion on requests for cooperation in investigations by the Court as well as briefs on cases in its docket.

Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia: The Division continued to participate in the Working Group II on legal issues of the Contract 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 of the possibility of establishing additional mechanism for prosecution of suspected pirates, establishment of an international legal network consisting of legal experts, developing a 'legal tool box' containing the check-lists of steps States may take to ensure that they are able to prosecute suspected pirates and 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. The recent 9th Meeting of the Working Group held in Seychelles deliberated on the issue of the use of privately contracted armed guard personnel on board ships and agreement on trial and incarceration of pirates in different countries.

This Division has also formulated a free-standing comprehensive anti-piracy draft legislation.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL): The 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. The 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Online Dispute Resolution was held in Vienna from 14-18 November, 2011. The Working Group is mandated to prepare legal standards on online dispute resolution mechanism for e-commerce disputes, as the traditional means of dispute settlement are time consuming and expensive, and e-commerce cross-border disputes require tailored, early and cost-effective settlement that does not impose costs, delays and burdens that are disproportionate to the economic value at stake.

UNIDROIT: This Division participated in the Committee of Governmental Experts for the Preparation of a draft protocol (space assets) to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment held in Rome from 21-25 February, 2011. The space assets protocol aims to facilitate the privatisation and commercialisation of space activities and services across nations by protecting private investments in order to promote the growth of the space industry. Further, it is expected to enhance the availability of space-based services to many other countries, which presently do not pursue space activities of their own.

Hague Conference: The 6th Meeting of the Special Commission of the Hague Conference to review the practical operation of the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, 1980, was held from 1-10 June, 2011, at The Hague. The Division participated in the meeting, which reviewed the practical operation of the Convention, identified difficulties and proposed remedial measures for its better implementation.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF): The Legal and Treaties Division participated in meetings on legal and institutional mechanisms, and administrative procedures for compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards and guidelines, especially in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance, and for prevention of terrorist financing and money laundering. It also participated in the intersessional meeting of the Working Group on Terrorism and Money Laundering (WGTML), held in Paris from 7-9 September, 2011.

Legal Issues in Disarmament: The Division participated in the negotiations of the proposed 6th Protocol (on cluster munitions) to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Prepcom on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Antarctica: This Division participated in the Legal and Institutional Group Meeting of the XXXIV Antarctic Treaty Consultative Committee Meeting (ATCM) from 20 June-1 July, 2011, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Tobacco Protocol: The Division participated in the first meeting of the Informal Working Group on a protocol on

Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, held in September 2010 in Geneva to facilitate the adoption of the Protocol in 2012.

Water Resources: The 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.

The Division participated in the site visit at the Kishenganga Hydro Electric Project in Kashmir and the Neelum Hydro Electric Project in POK in which all the judges of the International Tribunal as well as experts from India and Pakistan participated. This Division also participated in the proceedings for interim measures sought by Pakistan and finalisation of India's response in this matter and the counter-memorial in the main proceedings.

Dispute with Bangladesh on Maritime Delimitation: Bangladesh has initiated arbitration on delimitation of the maritime boundary with India, in the Bay of Bengal, under Article 287, and Article 1 of Annexure VII, of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In February 2010, an arbitration panel comprising five members was constituted in accordance with Article 3 of Annexure VII of UNCLOS. This Division is actively involved in preparatory meetings with the legal counsels and other experts towards preparation of India's response to Bangladesh's case.

Free Trade Agreements: The Free Trade Agreements with Malaysia and Japan have entered into force. This Division participated in negotiations with ASEAN, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and the Europe Zone.

Bilateral Investment Agreements: During the current year, bilateral investments promotion and protection agreements (BIPA) were initiated with the United States.

Nalanda University: Beginning with an understanding at the East Asia Summit at Cebu, Philippines, in January, 2007, support to the Nalanda University project was expressed at the 4th East Asia Summit Meeting at Hua Hin, Thailand, on October 24-25, 2009. In a joint press statement, the Summit, inter-alia, supported the establishment of Nalanda University as a non-State, non-profit, secular and self-governing international institution, with a continental focus, that will bring together the brightest and the most dedicated students from all the countries of Asia. The Nalanda University Act, 2010, came into force on November 25, 2010.

To turn vision into reality, six meetings of the Nalanda Mentor Group, one meeting of the Steering Committee and three meetings of the Governing Board have been held. The Vice Chancellor-Designate of the University was appointed

on October 8, 2010, and the University has begun functioning from offices in Delhi and Rajgir. Its website was launched on October 7, 2011, the logo unveiled on November 15, 2011, and construction on the boundary wall began at Rajgir on December 21, 2011. Apart from India, which is the major contributor, China, Singapore, Australia, Thailand and Laos have pledged contributions to the University.

Extradition and other International Judicial Assistance

This Division participated in various bilateral negotiations for concluding extradition treaties and agreements on mutual legal assistance in criminal and in civil matters and transfer of sentenced persons with foreign countries. As a result of successful negotiations, the text of the Extradition Treaty with Italy and the text of the Treaty of Transfer of Sentenced Persons with Turkey was finalised. The negotiation on the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters was initiated with Italy. This Division examined drafts of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters from Poland, Cambodia, Norway, Turkmenistan, and Maldives and drafts Agreements on Transfer of Sentenced Persons from Cuba, Russian Federation, Qatar, Zambia, and Hong Kong. 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 gave a presentation to Interpol liaison officers and International Police Cooperation Unit on the Extradition Act and Extradition Treaties.

Vetting

The Division has examined a number of defence cooperation agreements and agreements on international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, cooperation in outer space issues science and technology, those on international terrorism, transnational organised crime and drug trafficking/narcotics, and confidentiality agreements, and sharing of hydrological data, gas and energy agreements bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation, tourism, climate change, protection of natural resources, and gainful employment agreements, agreements on hydrography, and customs cooperation agreements.

India signed/ratified many multilateral/bilateral treaties/agreements with foreign countries during the year. A comprehensive list is given at Appendix I (Page 179). A list of Instruments of Full Powers issued during the year 2010 is at Appendix II (Page 189) and a List of Instruments of Ratification processed during the year can be seen at Appendix III (Page 192).



Disarmament and International Security Affairs

Introduction

India continued active participation in various disarmament and non-proliferation-related bodies and meetings, including the UN First Committee, UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC), Conference on Disarmament (CD), Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). India also held consultations with various countries on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, and with multilateral export control regimes. The Ministry continued to carry out its responsibilities in the implementation of India's export control laws and Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2005. India participated actively in the meetings of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). Regular contacts were maintained with Indian and international civil society organisations in the field of disarmament and international security affairs.

UN

India continued to support the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. In his statement to the 66th session of the UN General Assembly on 24 September, 2011, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, stated that nuclear proliferation continues to remain a threat to international security. The Action Plan put forward by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for a nuclear weapons-free and non-violent world provides a concrete road map for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. He commended the United Nations for its efforts in focusing world attention on nuclear safety and supporting international efforts under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance levels of safety and security.

India actively participated in the First Committee Session of the General Assembly held from 3-31 October, 2011. India reiterated its support for global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. India emphasised that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-

discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all States possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence, and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. The progressive de-legitimisation of nuclear weapons is essential to the goal of their complete elimination.

India reaffirmed its support to the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament, of a universal, non-discriminatory, and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that meets India's national security interests.

As in recent years, India tabled three resolutions in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. India's resolution on 'Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction' was co-sponsored by 67 countries and adopted by consensus, showing the importance the international community accorded to the resolution. 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. India's resolution 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons' reiterated the request to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach an 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 also adopted a draft decision proposed by India on the 'Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament'.

UN Disarmament Commission

India participated actively in the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) session held in April 2011 in New York. India underlined its call for universal, non-discriminatory, and total nuclear disarmament, highlighting the universal nature of UNDC.

Conference on Disarmament

During 2011, India continued its participation in the deliberations of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the single multilateral disarmament treaty negotiating body. India supported negotiation in the CD for a multilateral, non-discriminatory, and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), which meets India's national security interests. In the context of the continuing impasse in the CD, India said that the UN General Assembly's First Committee should send a strong and clear signal of support for the Conference on Disarmament and provide political impetus to the multilateral agenda, which includes early commencement of negotiations on FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament on the basis of the agreed mandate.

India attended the follow-up meeting to the 2010 high-level gathering on Revitalising the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament at New York on 27 July, 2011.

Nuclear Safety and Security

The Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai, attended the high-level meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security convened by the UN Secretary General in New York on 22 September, 2011. India viewed nuclear energy as an essential element of its national energy basket, and attached high priority to the safety of its nuclear power plants. India also underlined that nuclear safety and security are national responsibilities. A new international safety regime should be evolved on the basis of consultations and consensus, through an inclusive and transparent process, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has a central role to play in taking forward this process.

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 4th Review Conference of the CCW, held in Geneva, from 14-25 November, 2011. Before the Review Conference, a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) held three meetings over a year in Geneva to negotiate a protocol on cluster munitions. The draft Protocol on Cluster Munition under negotiation over the last four years could not be adopted at the Review Conference due to the lack of consensus. The 4th Review Conference agreed to hold deliberations on issues related to Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

The 5th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties of the Protocol V (Explosive Remnants of War) of the CCW, was held in Geneva from 9-10 November, 2011. The number of high contracting parties to the protocol increased from 69 in 2010 to 76 in 2011. The Conference discussed the issues of universalisation of the protocol, national reporting, generic preventive measures, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, etc.

India attended the 13th 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 11 November, 2011, in Geneva. The issues in focus included Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), universalisation of AP-II, status 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 11th Meeting of State Parties of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention (Ottawa Convention) in Phnom Penh from 28 November to 2 December, 2011, as an observer.

Arms Trade Treaty

India participated in the Preparatory Committee meetings held during the year for the proposed 2012 UN Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty. India shared its views on various aspects of the proposed Treaty and underlined that prospects for a viable and effective Treaty of universal acceptance would be enhanced only if the interests of all the stakeholders are addressed in a consensus-based process and outcome without artificial deadlines.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

India participated in the Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE) on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action (UNPOA) on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) held in New York in May 2011. India continued to underline 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. India participated in the preparatory meeting for the 7th Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in April 2011 and the 7th Review Conference, which took place in Geneva from 5-22 December, 2011. India expressed support for improving the effectiveness of the Convention, strengthening its implementation, and efforts for its universalisation. India presented a Working Paper to the Conference on review of scientific and technological developments under the BWC. India also emphasised the importance of national implementation as the bedrock of the Convention, and the need for full and effective implementation of various provisions of the Convention. India contributed to the successful conclusion of the 7th Review Conference and adoption of its report.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

India continued to participate actively in the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at The Hague and fulfil its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). India participated in the 64th, 65th, and 66th sessions of the Executive Council during the year as well as the 16th Conference of States Party to the CWC held in The Hague from 28 November-2 December, 2011. During the meetings, India underlined its views on various aspects of the implementation of the CWC, particularly the completion of destruction of chemical weapons by remaining possessor states, industry verification measures, international cooperation and assistance, and national implementation measures. India also contributed to various subsidiary bodies of the OPCW, including the Scientific Advisory Board, and Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters, and held the OPCW designation for three chemical laboratories. India hosted and contributed to various programmes and activities in the area of assistance, implementation and international cooperation. India contributed to the successful conclusion and adoption of important decisions by the 16th Conference of States Parties.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

India participated in the 55th IAEA General Conference held in Vienna from 19-23 September, 2011. The General

Conference adopted an Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, and resolutions in the area of safeguards and nuclear applications, and elected India as the External Auditor of the IAEA for the period 2012-13. India also signed a tripartite agreement with IAEA and Namibia to donate a Bhabhatron Telecobalt unit to a hospital in Oshakati, Namibia. During her visit to Vienna, from 13-15 June, 2011, the Foreign Secretary met the Director-General of the IAEA, Mr Yukiya Amano, to discuss developments and issues relating to the Agency.

UNCOPUOS

India participated in the 54th Session of the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) held in Vienna from 1-10 June, 2011, as well as its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and Legal Sub-committee meetings. The UNCOPUOS discussed various issues related to the peaceful uses of outer space, such as space debris mitigation. A commemorative session of UNCOPUOS was held on 1 June, 2011, to mark the 50th anniversary of human space flight, and the 50th anniversary of the first session of UNCOPUOS.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

The ASEAN Regional Forum is a platform for dialogue, cooperation, and confidence building, on political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The Minister of External Affairs, Shri S M Krishna, participated in the 18th ARF Ministerial meeting held in Bali on 23 July, 2011. During the meeting, the Ministers underlined the role of ASEAN as the main driving force within the ARF to uphold its significant role in the evolving regional architecture. The meeting also underscored the need to pursue actively the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement 2020, in a consistent and comprehensive manner. The meeting adopted a Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan. The Minister of External Affairs underlined that ASEAN is the core around which regional processes should be built and this spirit will continue to guide India's engagement in the evolution and strengthening of the regional architecture. India also participated in ARF's Senior Officials Meeting, two Inter-Sessional Group meetings and four Inter-Sessional Meetings on disaster relief, maritime security, counter-terrorism and transnational crimes, and non-proliferation and disarmament, and took part various cooperation activities and seminars.

The first ASEAN Plus 8 Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM Plus) was held in Hanoi on 12-13 October, 2010, and it was attended by the Defence Minister, Shri A K Antony. The meeting marked the expansion of the ADMM mechanism of ASEAN Defence Ministers to include eight dialogue partners,

including India. The meeting adopted a Joint Declaration and agreed on a Senior Officials' meeting and Expert Working Groups on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security, counter-terrorism, peacekeeping operations, and military medicine.

India continued its participation in and contribution to multilateral projects under the ambit of the International Maritime Organisation for enhancing safety of navigation and marine environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a 24-member regional forum for dialogue and cooperation to promote peace, security and prosperity in the Asian region. During the year, India participated in the CICA Special Working Group and Senior Officials' Committee meetings, and cooperation activities under the CICA framework in areas such as economic cooperation, environment, drug trafficking, transportation corridors, and promoting democracy. India also attended

the informal meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs at New York on 26 September, 2011, on the sidelines of the 66th UN General Assembly Session. During the meeting, India underlined its support to the implementation and further consolidation of confidence building measures (CBMs) in the existing agreed areas, based on consensus and developing step by-step approach rooted in Asian realities.

Other Issues

The India-US Strategic Security Dialogue led by the then Foreign Secretary, Smt Nirupama Rao, and the US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Ms Ellen Tauscher, was held in Vienna on 14 June, 2011. The dialogue covered a range of global and regional security issues of mutual interest and multilateral developments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

During the year, India held working-level consultations on disarmament and non-proliferation issues with various countries, including Australia, Brazil, Germany, Israel, Japan, Russia, Switzerland, UK, and US. India hosted a meeting of the Sherpas of the Nuclear Security Summit in New Delhi from 16-17 January, 2012, as a preparatory to the Second Nuclear Security Summit to be held in March 2012.



BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)

Building upon the concept introduced by the economists of Goldman Sachs, BRIC(S), which brings together Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, serves as a useful platform for consultation, and coordination, and promotes mutual trust and understanding amongst its members, on global issues.

Starting as BRIC, from the first meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Russia, India and China in September 2006, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, the Grouping has come a long way and has evolved a number of mechanisms for consultation and cooperation in a number of sectors. South Africa joined the grouping with the consensus of all countries at the third Summit in Sanya in April 2011, making it BRICS.

The Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the third Summit of BRICS held at Sanya, China, on 14 April, 2011. The Prime Minister's delegation included the Commerce and Industry Minister, the National Security Adviser, and other officials.

At the Summit, the leaders exchanged views on issues of common concern, including reform of the UN, the international financial institutions and the international monetary system, commodity price volatility, sustainable development, Millennium Development Goals, climate change, WTO, the Doha Round, developments in the West Asian and the North African region, etc.

A Sanya Declaration was issued after the Summit. A Framework Agreement on Financial Cooperation within the BRICS Inter-bank Cooperation Mechanism was also signed. The Framework Agreement envisages grant of credits in local currencies, and cooperation in capital markets, and other financial services. During the Business Forum, FICCI also signed an MoU on 'Establishment of a Long-Term Business Contact Point' for coordinating all BRICS Business Forums and other BRICS business-related activities.

The meetings, held in the runup to the Sanya Summit, included those of BRICS Trade Ministers, BRICS Development Banks (EXIM Bank attended from India), and the BRICS Business Forum. A meeting of BRICS think-tanks was held in Beijing in March 2011.

Other important BRICS meetings during the year 2011 included, a consultation meeting of BRICS leaders on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Cannes on 3 November, 2011; the Health Ministers' meeting in July 2011 in Beijing; the Foreign Ministers' meeting on the sidelines of the 66th Session of UNGA in New York on 23 September, 2011; the Economic/Finance Ministers' meeting hosted by India on 22 September, 2011 in Washington DC; the Agriculture Ministers' meeting in Chengdu, China, on 28 October-1

November, 2011; the Trade Ministers' meeting on the sidelines of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva in December 2011; the first meeting of the Science and Technology Senior Officials on 14-16 September, 2011 in Dalian, China; the Competition Authorities' meeting in Beijing on 20-22 September, 2011; and the 1st Friendship Cities meeting in Sanya, China, on 1-3 December, 2011.

IBSA [India, Brazil and South Africa]

Set up in 2003, the IBSA Dialogue Forum is a unique forum which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, the three developing, pluralistic, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious democracies from three different continents, facing common challenges.

IBSA cooperation is on three broad fronts: as a forum for consultation and coordination on significant political issues, e.g., the reform of the UN, including that of the Security Council, international political developments, WTO negotiations, civilian nuclear cooperation (both Brazil and South Africa are members of NSG), climate change, terrorism, etc.; trilateral collaboration, with regard to concrete areas/projects, through 16 working groups for the common benefit of three countries; and assisting other developing countries by taking up projects in the latter through the IBSA Trust Fund.

The Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the fifth IBSA Summit held in Pretoria on 18 October, 2011. The Summit was preceded by meetings of IBSA Foreign Ministers, Trade Ministers, focal points and meetings of 10 out of the 16 IBSA Joint Working Groups and six people-to-people fora.

The Summit focused on consultations, coordination and cooperation among IBSA countries in multilateral organisations, global governance reforms, peace building commission, with reference to the global financial and



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, with other leaders at the BRICS Summit, at Sanya in China, on 14 April, 2011.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the President of South Africa, Mr. Jacob Zuma, and the President of Brazil, Ms. Dilma Rousseff, at the 5th IBSA Summit, in Pretoria, South Africa, on 18 October, 2011.

economic crisis, social dimensions of global governance, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), international trade, sustainable development, climate change, bio-diversity, global food security, South-South Cooperation, human rights, disarmament and non-proliferation, terrorism, developments in the Middle East and North Africa, and other regional issues.

A Tshwane Declaration was issued at the Summit. A trilateral MoU on cooperation among IBSA diplomatic academies was signed. The MoU aims at enhancing cooperation in capacity building of diplomats of IBSA countries.

The seventh IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission meeting was held in New Delhi on 8 March, 2011. The meeting was preceded by a meeting of IBSA focal points and joint working groups. Reforms in the United Nations and the Security Council, international terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, international situation, including the situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa, climate change, international financial and economic crisis, multilateral trade negotiations and South-South cooperation figured in the discussions at the meeting. A Ministerial Communiqué and a Declaration on the situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa were issued.

Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)

The Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), established in 1997, is the largest grouping of countries in the Indian Ocean region, with 19 members (Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE, and Yemen, five Dialogue Partners (China, Japan, UK, Egypt and France) and two Observers (Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation and Indian Ocean Research Group).

The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, chaired the 11th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of IOR-ARC held in Bengaluru on 15 November, 2011. The meeting was preceded by meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), the IOR Academic Group, Working Group on Trade and Investment and the Business Forum.

India assumed the Chair of IOR-ARC taking over from Yemen for a period of two years for the first time in the 14 years of the Association's existence. Seychelles, which had left the Association in 2003, rejoined the Association at the Bengaluru meeting. A Bengaluru Communiqué was issued on the conclusion of the 11th COM meeting.

India worked with other members to build consensus on six broad themes of contemporary relevance to all members for IOR-ARC to focus on in the coming years. These were: (i) Maritime Safety and Security; (ii) Trade and Investment Facilitation; (iii) Fisheries Management and Sustainable Harvesting of Marine Food Resources; (iv) Disaster Risk Reduction; (v) Academic and S&T Cooperation; and (vi) Tourism Promotion and Cultural Exchanges.

The meeting brought out the shared concern of IOR-ARC members on piracy at sea as well as on the issues of maritime security in the Indian Ocean. The External Affairs Minister stressed the need for building functional relationships between the Navies and Coast Guards of member States to enhance cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean Region. The Minister also touched upon the issue of growth of intra-regional trade and investment, and called upon the port and customs authorities as well as shipping companies of member States to address issues of transport infrastructure and connectivity which hamper the growth of intra-regional trade and investment. The External Affairs Minister announced a contribution of US\$ 1 million to the IOR-ARC Special Fund. The Fund was established in 2006 with a small corpus, financed through voluntary contributions by members, to provide bridge finance for the Association's members' initiatives aimed at further deepening of cooperation within the Association.

Shri K V Bhagirath, India's former High Commissioner to Tanzania, was elected as the next Secretary General of IOR-ARC with effect from 1 January, 2012.

The Group of 20 (G-20)

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the Sixth G-20 Summit held on 3-4 November 2011 at Cannes, France. The Summit reviewed the global economic position and the Eurozone/Greek crises as well as progress under the framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth. The G-20 continued to discuss strengthening of global financial regulation. India emphasised that the developmental needs of developing countries should be kept in mind.

The decisions taken at the Cannes Summit, *inter alia*, included reinvigorating economic growth, creating jobs, ensuring financial stability, promoting social inclusion and making globalisation serve the needs of the world at large. Three documents, *i.e.*, The Communiqué, The Cannes Action Plan for Growth and Jobs, and the Cannes Summit Final Declaration were issued at the Summit.

India along with member countries is committed to narrow the development gap, reduce poverty and promote shared growth as a part of G-20 Development Agenda. India along

with Canada co-chairs the G-20 Framework Working Group on Strong Sustainable and Balanced Growth.

India-ASEAN/East Asian Summit

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, visited Bali, Indonesia, from 17-19 November, 2011, for the 9th ASEAN-India Summit and the sixth East Asia Summit (EAS). At the ASEAN-India Summit, the leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in functional cooperation in a range of sectors such as information and communication technology, science and technology, space co-operation, agriculture, environment, trade and commerce, human resource development, capacity building, new and renewable energy, and institutional and people-to-people connectivity. They reiterated their collective commitment to further strengthen ASEAN-India relations through the implementation of the Plan of Action 2010-2015. The EAS reviewed cooperation in the five identified areas, i.e., energy and environment, finance, disaster management, education and global health issues and pandemic diseases. The leaders also exchanged views on key regional and international issues.

The Summits were preceded by a series of high-level meetings conducted at the Ministerial and official-level during the year. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, visited Bali on 21-23 July, 2011, for the ASEAN-India Post Ministerial Conference, EAS Foreign Ministers meeting and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial meeting. Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles, visited Manado, Indonesia, on 11-13 August, 2011, for the ASEAN-India and EAS Economic Ministers meeting. Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture, visited Jakarta on 6-8 October, 2011, for the first ASEAN-India Agriculture Ministers meeting. Dr D Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, attended the 1st EAS Education Ministers Meeting in Bali on 18 July, 2011. Shri R P N Singh, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, led the Indian delegation to the fifth EAS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Brunei Darussalam on 20-21 September, 2011. A delegation from the Parliament, led by Shri Ninong Ering, participated in the 32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) on 18-24 September, 2011, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, visited Nyi Pyi Taw, Myanmar, for the ASEAN-India Telecommunications Ministers meeting on 7-9 December, 2011. Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Minister of Tourism, visited Manado, Indonesia, on January 12, 2012, for the third ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers' meeting, where the ASEAN-India MoU on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation was signed. The ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group

(AIEPG) held two meetings in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and New Delhi in August 2011 and October 2011, respectively.

India and ASEAN are marking 2012 as the commemorative year of 20 years of dialogue relations and 10 years of Summit-level partnership. India will be hosting a commemorative summit in December 2012 on the theme 'India and ASEAN: Partners in Progress and Prosperity'. As part of the Commemorative Events, the Ministry of External Affairs, in partnership with Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Institute of South East Asia Studies (ISEAS), Singapore, Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Indonesia, and the SAEA Research Group, Singapore, hosted the Delhi Dialogue-IV on February 13-14, 2012, in New Delhi on the theme of 'India and ASEAN: Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability'.

Total trade between India and ASEAN reached US\$ 57.87 billion in the year 2010-11, an increase of 30 per cent over the previous year. The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods FTA has paved the way for the creation of one of the largest FTAs. India is now working with ASEAN countries for the early conclusion of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investments Agreement.

India offers 637 scholarships to ASEAN countries, bilaterally and multilaterally, under its ITEC programme. Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs) and Centres for English Language Training (CELTs) have been set up in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. India hosted a group of 100 students from ASEAN countries in two groups from September 18-24, 2011, in Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi and Agra. The Foreign Service Institute of India conducted a special training course for 50 ASEAN diplomats from 16 November-15 December, 2011, in New Delhi.

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

The Minister for External Affairs, Shri S M Krishna, attended the 10th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting on 6 June, 2011 at Godollo, Hungary. India will be hosting the 11th Meeting of ASEM Foreign Ministers in 2013. India increased its contribution to the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) by 20 per cent from 2011, providing US\$120,000 towards the organisation. The Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri C P Joshi, participated in second ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting from 24-26 October, 2011, in Chengdu, China.

Official/expert level participation in ASEM related activities during 2011 included the following: (i) ASEM Forum on Social Safety Nets: Enhanced Cooperation to Adopt to Post

Crisis Challenges, 18-19 April, 2011, Hanoi, Vietnam; (ii) ASEM Symposium on Forest Management to Address Climate Change, 28-30 June, 2011, Lin'an, China; (iii) first Preparatory SOM for fifth ASEM Cultural Ministers Meeting, 12-14 July, 2011, Lombok, Indonesia; (iv) ASEM Water Resources Research & Development Centre, Inauguration and Seminar on Water Resources, 22-23 August, 2011, Changsha City, China; (v) 10th Asia Europe Young Volunteers Exchange Programme; Health on Stage, 20 August-1 October, 2011, Bengaluru and Chennai, India; (vi) ASEM Green Growth Forum Meeting, 3-4 October, 2011, Hanoi, Vietnam; (v) ninth ASEM Customs Director-General/Commissioners' Meeting, 11-12 October, 2011, Hua Hin, Thailand; (vi) Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Conference on the Harmonisation of Bio-fuels Standards and Application to Vehicle Technologies, 10-11 November, 2011, Manila, Philippines; (vii) third ASEM Forum on Marine Fisheries on 'Green Growth and Cooperation in Fisheries and Aquaculture', 16-17 November, 2011, Busan, Korea; (viii) ASEM Meetings on Employment and Social Policy, 24-25 November, 2011, Hanoi, Vietnam; and (ix) ninth ASEM Conference on Counter-terrorism, 12-13 November, 2011, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

The Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Sisir Adhikari, attended the second BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation on 16 January, 2012, in Kathmandu, Nepal. India organised two workshops in New Delhi on 'Seasonal Prediction and Application to Society' on 22-23 June, 2011, in association with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and on 'IPR and Regulatory Issues in

Traditional Medicine' on 10-13 October, 2011, in association with the Department of AYUSH. India also has been extending 15 AYUSH scholarships for member countries on an annual basis.

India participated in the fourth JWG Meeting on 30-31 May, 2011, and Special Senior Officials' Meeting on 23-24 November, 2011, in Dhaka on the early operationalisation of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat, which is to be set up in Dhaka. India also participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Technology Transfer Facility in Sri Lanka on 9-10 May, 2011, the third meeting of the Task Force on Trans Power Exchange in Dhaka on 23-24 August, 2011, and the fifth JWG on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime in Kathmandu on 24-25 November, 2011.

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)

The construction of MGC Asian Traditional Textiles Museum building in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with India's financial contribution was completed in December 2011. India has an ongoing annual scheme of extending 50 scholarships to MGC member countries.

Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD):

The Minister of State for External Affairs and Human Resource Development, Shri E Ahamed, attended the 10th ACD Ministerial Meeting held in Kuwait from 10-11 October, 2011. The meeting was inaugurated by Sheikh Sabah, Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait. The meeting adopted the Kuwait Declaration 'Towards a better future for Asian cooperation'. India also participated in the first Senior Officials Meeting on Cultural Cooperation hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran on 9-10 May, 2011.





Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, addressing a press conference at G-20 summit, in France, on 4 November, 2011.



The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, with the leaders of ASEAN, at the inauguration of Delhi Dialogue IV, in New Delhi, on 13 February 2012.

During 2011-12, India focused on themes of common importance to all eight SAARC States, namely connectivity, trade, economic cooperation, social development, environment, security and agriculture. The centrepiece of the year's activity in the Association was the convening of the 17th SAARC Summit in the southernmost atolls of the Maldives, in Addu Atoll, on November 10-11, 2011. The theme of the Summit was 'Building Bridges'.

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, led the Indian delegation to the SAARC Summit, thereby attending his fifth Summit meeting of the Association. Four Agreements were signed at the Summit, including one to establish a rapid response mechanism for natural disasters in the region, one to create a SAARC Seed Bank, and two Agreements on the recognition of standards in the region.

At this Summit, the Prime Minister reaffirmed India's vision of regional economic integration based on enhanced intra-regional trade in goods and services, investment flows and enhanced regional transport and communication links. He also announced new initiatives for capacity-building and to enhance the sense of a South Asian identity. India announced a further 100 scholarships for the South Asian University, building upon scholarships announced at the 16th Summit in 2010. Scholarships were also offered at the Forest Research Institute (Deemed) University, Dehradun.

During the Summit, India also announced several measures to enhance regional cooperation, the most significant of which was the virtual elimination of the Sensitive List of items exported to India by five States considered to be Least Developed Countries (LDCs) within SAARC, namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives. In doing so, India has reduced its Sensitive List from 480 Tariff Lines to 25 Tariff Lines, for SAARC LDCs. Zero Basic Customs Duty access has now been given to all items removed from this list.

In fulfilment of the Prime Minister's earlier proposal to establish an India Endowment for Climate Change in South Asia (IECC-SA), India announced the establishment of this Endowment, with an initial corpus of Rs 25 crore, and to invite proposals for capacity-building and adaptation projects from countries of the region. In line with the importance attached by India to enhancing intra-regional connectivity, the Prime Minister announced a number of initiatives, including to initiate work to conclude a Regional

Air Services Agreement, to host a Conclave of Tour Operators to boost intra-regional tourism exchanges, develop telecommunications infrastructure to improve the connectivity among SAARC countries, and to enhance people-to-people ties through a travelling exhibition on the ancient history of the South Asian people.

Apart from the Summit, during the year, progress has been achieved in finalising the text of a SAARC Regional Railway Agreement. A project to organise a demonstration run of a Container Train from Bangladesh to Nepal via India is also being undertaken. Another sub-regional initiative to link India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives under the India Ocean Cargo and Passenger Service has also registered progress, with an assistance from ADB, having been finalised.

Also, the Protocol of Accession (POA) of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area entered into force on 7 August, 2011, thereby further integrating Afghanistan's economy into the SAARC region. An inception workshop for the SAARC States on Trade, Economy and Finances was held in Kathmandu in July 2011. The process of bringing together experts and senior officials of Central Banks of SAARC has also moved forward with Reserve Bank of India hosting a meeting of experts under SAARCFINANCE in July 2011.

The process of establishing the South Asian University (SAU), created on the basis of an Inter-Governmental Agreement concluded in 2007, gained momentum during the year. Of the estimated cost of US\$ 303 million for fully establishing the SAU by 2014, India will contribute US\$ 239.9 million, which includes 100 per cent of the capital cost. After opening its doors to students from the region in 2010 with two courses, in July 2011 the number of courses was increased to six, and nearly 200 students have been enrolled from all eight SAARC States. The first meeting of the Governing Body of SAU was held in March 2011 in New Delhi, thereby establishing a solid basis for the operational management of SAU.

As endorsed by the 16th SAARC Summit in April 2010, the first meeting of the South Asia Forum was held in New Delhi in September 2011, on the theme 'Integration in South Asia: Moving towards a South Asian Economic Union'. The Conference was the first instance in SAARC of an event bringing governments, academics and business-persons on



The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, addressing the inaugural session of the 17th SAARC Summit, at Addu Atoll, in the Maldives, on November 10, 2011.

the same platform to discuss the future of SAARC. The Report of the Chairman was presented at the 17th SAARC Summit in the Maldives, to contribute to thinking on the future direction of SAARC.

Also during the year, the permanent Secretariat of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) has been operationalised with its headquarters in Thimphu, Bhutan, under the first CEO of the Secretariat of SDF. Currently, SDF is funding

the project under its social window. Efforts are on to speed up opening of projects under the economic and infrastructural window also.

SAARC Ministerial meetings were held in areas ranging from power and electricity to security (Home Ministers), trade and commerce to environment, thereby expanding the range of governmental agencies involved in regional cooperation across South Asia.



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, aimed at capacity building, skills development, transfer of technology, and sharing of experiences, formed an integral part of India's development partnership and cooperation with the developing world. These programmes have gained enormous popularity, resulting in a steady increase in the number of participants over the years.

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 161 ITEC/SCAAP partner countries (for list, see Appendix IV Page 194). ITEC and SCAAP programmes continue to draw large numbers of participants to the training courses conducted by institutions in India, both in the Government and the private sector, under the civilian training programmes. The ITEC website, at www.itec.mea.gov.in, is 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 for downloading forms, etc. An annual compendium of ITEC/SCAAP courses and the training institutions in brochure form was brought out in English and in 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. ITEC has acquired a strong brand name in the field of development partnership. Engagement with Alumni networks has continued to strengthen through the annual ITEC Day functions organised at Headquarters and in Missions abroad, as well as other social network tools like Facebook.

During 2011-12, 7,400 civilian training slots under ITEC/SCAAP were allotted to 161 developing countries in areas

of interest and advantage to them. The civilian training programme, fully sponsored by the Government of India, with 47 institutions on the panel, conducted around 280 courses, primarily short-term, for working professionals, concerned with a wide and diverse range of skills and disciplines. Some of the most sought after courses were in the fields of Information Technology, and English language. Training was imparted to Government officials and others, in areas such as finance and accounts, audit, banking, education, planning and 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 given at Appendix V Page 197).

The ITEC Programme, though essentially bilateral, has expanded in recent years, with regional and multilateral organisations also associated with the Programme. These organisations and groupings include the Association of South East Asia 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 Organisation (AARDO), Pan African Parliament, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Commonwealth, and 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 2011-12:

- Special Training Programme for a six-member team from the Kenyan National Assembly for their training in the bicameral parliamentary system at BPST, Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, on 18-29 July, 2011;
- Capacity Building Programme on WTO issues (with Special Emphasis on Least Developed Countries) at the Centre for WTO Studies (CWTOS) at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, from 1-12 August, 2011;
- Specialised Course on Select WTO Issues: Agriculture, Services, TRIPS, and RTAs (including Rules of Origin

and WTO plus Provisions) at the Centre for WTO Studies (CWTOS) at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, on 23 January-1 February, 2012;

- Specialised Course on WTO Rules (Anti-Dumping, Subsidies, Safeguards), Dispute Settlement, and RTAs (including Rules of Origin and WTO (plus Provisions) at the Centre for WTO Studies (CWTOS) at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, on 12-21 March, 2012;
- Special course for two Bhutanese nationals on Conservation of Artifacts for Museums, at NRCL, Lucknow from 1 September, 2011 to 28 February, 2012;
- Hands-on training for two Armenian Surgeons, in the field of Thoracic Surgery, at LRS Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, for eight weeks;
- Special training course in Rubber Cultivation and Rubber Products Manufacture, for engineers in rubber technology and production process from Myanmar, at Rubber Training Institute, Rubber Board, Kottayam, from 12 September-1 October, 2011;
- Special Training Course for one batch of 40 Master Trainers from Sri Lanka, at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, from 19 September to 16 December, 2011;
- Special Course on Jaipur Foot Technology, for Colombian Technicians at BMVSS, Jaipur, from 1-31 October, 2011; and,
- Special course for 20 journalists from South Africa on International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP), at RIS, New Delhi.

(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 organisation, 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 to the Colombo Plan. 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 2011-12, 500 training slots were allocated for scholars of the Colombo Plan member countries. These

included 90 slots placed at the disposal of the Colombo Plan Secretariat, for allocation to participants from 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.

Technical and financial assistance to the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC), Manila is an important component of the Colombo Plan cooperation. During 2010-11, 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'. In respect of engagement with Bhutan, the Government of India approved the request of the Royal Government of Bhutan for increasing the number of the Colombo Plan lecturers to 30.

Defence Training

Defence training under the ITEC Programme in the three wings of the Defence Services, i.e. Army, Navy, and Air Force, in various Defence training institutions, continued to be popular with defence establishments in partner countries. During 2011-12, 1,100 Defence training slots were allocated to partner countries. The courses were both of general and specialised nature, and included security and strategic studies, defence 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 defence courses at the National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi, and the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, were oversubscribed and also attracted officers from developed countries on self-financing basis.

Deputation of Experts

At the request of Governments and international organisations, 38 experts in various civilian and defence fields were sent on deputation to advise and provide expertise in areas including information technology, auditing, legal expertise, diverse agricultural fields, pharmacology, statistics and demography, public administration, and textiles. The services of defence teams were availed of by Ethiopia, Laos, Lesotho, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Uganda, in training, and advisory capacities. Deputation of experts has helped contribute towards building institutions of national importance in partner countries.

Projects and Project-related Activities

A number of bilateral projects were taken up during the period April-November, 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 on various sites of the temple advanced further.
- (ii) **Lao PDR:** Conservation and Restoration work, at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Wat Phou, is continuing by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- (iii) **El Salvador and Nicaragua:** Additional one-year training in ICT completed in May-June 2011.
- (iv) **Syria:** Installation and commissioning of the ICT Centre has been completed.
- (v) **Grenada:** The Centre was officially inaugurated on 15 April, 2011, and an expert from C-DAC started 1st year training at ICT Centre, Grenada.
- (vi) **Vietnam:** (a) The procurement procedure for IT equipment and books concluded and supply orders were issued to the respective suppliers by C-DAC. The concerned firms completed the installation and commissioning of IT Infrastructure in September 2011. The ARC was formally inaugurated on 17 September, 2011. Experts from C-DAC joined for a period of six months as centre coordinators and for assisting course delivery by the Vietnamese experts, who have been trained in India. (b) A project for the conservation of

Cham Monuments of My Son Province is under consideration.

- (vii) **Zimbabwe:** A project, commenced in 2007, in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises, is in the advanced stage of completion. The last phase of on-the-job training to the Zimbabweans has commenced.
- (viii) **Indonesia:** An agreement was signed with the implementing agency for taking up the project on setting up a Vocational Training Centre in the Construction Sector work in Aceh, Indonesia. Shipments of machinery, tools and equipments have been completed at Aceh. The project was inaugurated on 26 July, 2011. The phase of the on-the-job training has commenced.
- (ix) **Dominican Republic:** The project of an IT Centre, at Santiago has been awarded to C-DAC. The Centre was officially inaugurated on 15 April, 2011. Experts from C-DAC have already reached Santiago (Dominican Republic), for installation and commissioning of the IT infrastructure.

Aid for Disaster Relief

Under Aid for Disaster Relief assistance, India rendered immediate relief assistance to countries affected by natural calamities during the period April-November 2011. Relief assistance in the form of cash donations were rendered to Bangladesh, Bolivia, DPRK, El Salvador, Libya, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Senegal, St. Vincent & Grenadines, and Turkey.

Feasibility Studies

A feasibility study for the upgrading and expansion of facilities at the Rajiv Gandhi Art and Production School (RGAPS) at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, has been carried out by M/s HMT(I) in May 2011.



Lines of Credit

Lines of Credit (LoCs) have become an essential component and an effective tool of India's economic diplomacy strategy in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These loans, offered on concessional terms, enable the borrowing countries to secure essential supplies and project credit for infrastructure development and capacity building. LoCs have contributed to the socio-economic development of the recipient countries, while at the same time, generating considerable amount of goodwill for India, helping to project India's strength in various sectors and enabling Indian companies to get project-based and supply contracts in niche markets of the developing world.

At the India-Africa Forum Summit in May 2011 at Addis Ababa, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, announced that India would extend Lines of Credit worth US\$ 5 billion over the next three years to support the developmental requirements of India's African partners. He also announced India's commitment to extend credit for US\$ 500 million to Myanmar during the visit of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 12-15 October, 2011. This will be for projects mutually decided in due course by the two governments. The utilisation of the LoC of US\$ 1 billion announced in the previous year for the Government of Bangladesh for various infrastructure projects including railways, port connectivity, road sector, progressed during the year.

In view of the increasing importance of LoCs as an instrument of India's economic diplomacy in Africa, the ITP Division organised a Conference, titled 'Indian Lines of Credit: An instrument to Enhance India-Africa Partnership' on 22-23 November, 2011, in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and EXIM Bank of India, with the objectives of making our economic engagement with Africa more meaningful, briefing our African partners about the LoC guidelines and procedures and taking a pro-active and professional approach to fast-track the decision-making process. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, inaugurated the two-day Conference on 22 November, 2011. This was the first such Conference, which brought together foreign delegates, the Heads of African Missions in India and Indian stakeholders on LoCs on a common platform for consultations and discussions. Delegates from 40 African countries participated in the Conference. Senior officers

from the Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Economic Affairs and EXIM Bank of India interacted with the African guests and delegates and dwelt on the operational procedures of LoCs, the requirements of documentation that would smoothen the processes of project appraisal, approval, implementation and evaluation, and, the need for following transparent procedures for the selection of project suppliers under LoCs.

The Conference also provided an opportunity to project the strengths of India in selected important sectors to the delegates from Africa. In interactive sessions, Ministries/PSUs made presentations to the delegates, projecting India's technological advantages in sectors including power generation and transmission, renewable energy, railways, agriculture and information technology. On the second day of the Conference, CII held a session for Indian business entities with the African delegates.

During the year, 16 Lines of Credit amounting to US\$ 614.2 million were approved to 14 countries under the India Development & Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS). These include: the LoC of US\$ 67.2 million to Gabon for upgradation of its broadcasting facilities; two LoCs of US\$ 15 million and US\$ 13.1 million to Togo for rural electrification and agricultural projects, respectively; US\$ 70 million to Republic of Congo for rural electrification; US\$ 13 million to Mozambique for solar photovoltaic module manufacturing; two LoCs of US\$ 20 million and US\$ 39.7 million to Central African Republic for limestone mining and power generation, respectively; US\$ 40.3 million to Chad for various projects; US\$ 35 million to Tanzania for bio-diesel project; US\$ 47 million to Ethiopia for development of its sugar industry; US\$ 50 million to Zambia for setting up of pre-fabricated health posts; US\$ 42 million to Cameroon for cassava plantation project; US\$ 37.9 million to Swaziland for an agricultural project; US\$ 100 million to Mali for a power transmission project; US\$ 5 million for Cuba for milk processing; and, US\$ 19 million for Guyana for a multi-specialty hospital.

During the year, ITP Division has carried forward its initiative of supporting feasibility studies and evaluation studies related to LoC proposals and projects by utilising the Consultancy Fund of the Ministry and by channelising the sectoral expertise of Indian entities, to supplement the resources of our development partners.



Tractors supplied to Tanzania under a Line of Credit during the year 2011.



The Solar Electrification Project implemented under a Line of Credit to the Government of Sudan during the year 2011.

Investment and Trade Promotion

With a view to enabling Missions to effectively respond to the growing demands of Indian Industry and business, it was decided to allocate funds for carrying out market expansion activities from 2009-10. During 2011-12, funds to the tune of Rs 8.5 crore was allocated to various Missions. The market expansion activities funds will enable the Commercial Wings to respond effectively and in a time-bound manner to the expectations of the Indian private sector in handling of trade and investment enquiries, providing information on economic and business climate in the countries of their accreditation.

ITP Division remained actively engaged in meetings of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), Reserve Bank of India, WAPCOS, EXIM Bank, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), other trade bodies and Ministry of Civil Aviation in respect of bilateral civil aviation talks. The Division actively participated in the discussions on bilateral civil aviation matters with various countries at the ICAN 2011 held in

Mumbai in October 2011. On the initiative of Ministry of External Affairs, a special session on Africa was also held in the ICAN Conference, as part of the Prime Minister's emphasis at India-Africa Forum Summit, on improvement of air connectivity between India and Africa.

ITP Division's annual publication entitled 'India in Business: Preferred Investment Destination' was brought out for circulation to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The publication has been brought out with the keen intent of providing an overview of India's economic growth, sectoral developments, legal and regulatory framework, and potential business and investment opportunities that India offers to the global community.

The ITP Division's website, www.indiainbusiness.nic.in, hosts comprehensive information on commercial and investment opportunities in India. The website provides detailed information on the status of the Indian economy, and trade and investment opportunities in various sectors. Weekly and monthly updates on the state of the Indian economy are provided to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad.



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 (which was formed in September 2007) to a full-fledged division. The period 2011-12 saw the Division grow in terms of its responsibilities.

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; tracking of technological innovations, and expansion of the knowledge-base, in the field of energy.

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), the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI), and JODI-Gas, and has enhanced its engagement with the International Energy Agency (IEA). Lead participation in these platforms is from the nodal Ministries, along with the representation from the Energy Security (ES) Division. The Division continued its representation of the Ministry of External Affairs at the IPEEC Policy Committee Meetings, IEF, and IRENA. It may be recalled that the Energy Security Division had played a major role in the process of India joining the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which was established on 26 January, 2009 and is headquartered in Abu Dhabi.

In the IEF, given its position as the fourth largest oil-consumer, India is a permanent member of the Executive Board of the IEF. In the IEA, India is pursuing sectoral cooperation with the IEA, through the instrument of MoU/Agreements, including in its global emergency response system, without becoming a member. In IRENA, India was elected to the

IRENA Council for a two-year term. The ES Division has been supporting the work of the nodal Ministries in all these and other international fora.

A decision to hold a Resources and Energy Security (RES) Dialogue, at the Head of Department level with Australia was taken this year, and Joint Secretary (Energy Security) visited Canberra for the first RES dialogue. The Division also participated in the sixth India-EU Energy Panel meeting (held on 18 November, 2011 at New Delhi).

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, BRICS, ASEM, IBSA, East Asian Energy Ministers Meeting, CICA, Commonwealth, SCO, etc. Inputs were also provided to the respective Territorial Divisions and Ministries for their engagements with energy-rich 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. One major initiative was the third India Africa Hydrocarbon Conference held in New Delhi from 9-10 December, 2011, which was organised by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. ES Division played a major role in the successful outcome of the Conference, especially in terms of reaching to key partner African countries. The Foreign Secretary delivered the valedictory speech at the Conference.

The Energy Security Division continued to take part in the Technical Working Group (TWG), and Steering Committee Meetings, of the proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline project.

In addition to energy-security, food-security has also been brought into the mandate of the Energy Security Division. In keeping with this mandate, the ES Division now also handles all matters relating to fertiliser cooperation, and is the nodal point in the Ministry for all initiatives by the Government of India and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), for the acquisition of raw material assets abroad.



Policy Planning and Reserach

In the domain of policy planning and research, the Division strengthened its interface with the academia, think-tanks, research organisations, and foreign policy institutes across the country, and through its financial assistance, enabled them to organise seminars, conferences and studies, etc., to deliberate on the various facets of India's external relations. Through such outreach activities of the Division, the Ministry received new perspectives and informed opinion of experts on several areas of foreign policy and global affairs. The Division prepared draft speeches for the External Affairs Minister, Minister of State, and Foreign Secretary, when required. It continued to prepare and despatch a Monthly Summary of important developments for the Cabinet and senior officials of Government of India.

The Division has been tasked with compiling, printing and distributing the Ministry of External Affairs' Annual Report in a time-bound manner. The Report serves as a compendium of India's global relations, highlighting the perspective of the Government on contemporary global developments. The Division also collates and compiles material for 'India and Abroad' chapter of India, the annual publication of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The Division intensified its co-operation with the Institute of Foreign Policy, which has been established, under the aegis of University of Calcutta, with the active support and financial assistance of the Ministry of External Affairs. The Institute has expanded its enrolment of M.Phil. students, and increased the number of its projects on India's foreign policy, primarily centred around East Asia and South Asian countries.

A list of Seminars, Conferences, Meetings and Studies partly/fully funded by the Division is given at Appendix VI (Page 199).

The Division also monitors the functioning of the 'Situation Room', and the 'Boundary Cell', which are under its administrative control. The Division is responsible for scrutinising the depiction of India's external boundaries in foreign publications, imported into the country, and offers its advice to the Ministries, dealing with this matter. Requests of research scholars for access to old records of the Ministry are also processed.

Situation Room

The Situation Room is a multi-faceted, multi-facility, state-of-the-art complex of the Ministry. Since its establishment in

2007, it has functioned as a Crisis Management Cell of the Ministry, and has served as a communication hub for holding conferences, briefings, video/teleconferences with Heads of Missions, as also for discussions on maps and images that are required by various Divisions of the Ministry.

Situation Room As A Crisis Management Centre:

Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan: Earthquake and Tsunami hit Japan on 13 March, 2011, causing widespread damage across the country. To safeguard the interests of the sizeable Indian population residing in Japan, a round-the-clock Crisis Management Centre was operationalised in the Situation Room from 13 March-7 April, 2011.

National Crisis in Yemen: During the deteriorating internal situation in Yemen in June 2011, a Control Room was established from 4-17 June, 2011 to ensure the well-being of the Indian community in Yemen.

Crisis in Italy: The Situation Room was activated as a Control Room from 16-19 January, 2012 to facilitate dissemination of information to the relatives of the passengers of Cruise Costa Concordia, which had run aground near Tuscan Island, Italy.

Boundary Cell

The Boundary Cell, established as part of the Division, performs the following functions:

- Examination, in co-ordination with the Survey of India, of all aspects of India's external boundaries and the scrutiny of map sheets involving international boundaries of India, for publication.
- Providing cartographic advice and technical support on border related matters to Territorial Divisions.
- Assistance in the collection and digitisation of the available cartographic strip/basis maps.
- Liaison with the Survey of India/State Governments regarding joint boundary survey work, including maintenance/repairs of boundary pillars and reports of any encroachments into Indian Territory (maintaining database, etc.)
- Assistance in the collection and digitisation of information pertaining to the Maritime Boundary, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and also the delineation of the Continental Shelf.

- Scrutiny of restricted map sheets, in coordination with the Ministry of Defence, which are required by various Government and semi-Government organisations, for the purpose of development work.
- Liaison with the Naval Hydrographic Office and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Being a repository of all maps/documents/information pertaining to India's international borders.
- Scrutiny of inaccurate maps published in foreign magazines, journals and atlases and taking necessary action for getting these maps corrected.

During the year, the Boundary Cell participated in various internal/inter-Ministerial meetings on the International Land and Maritime Boundaries of India, as given below:

- Provided cartographic and technical inputs to all Territorial Divisions on various aspects of the International Boundary (Land and Maritime).
- Provided inputs for Inter-Ministerial meetings organised by various Territorial Divisions.
- Provided cartographic inputs on the Protocol 2011 to the Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh, signed in September 2011.
- Provided cartographic inputs on the boundary conferences/meetings on India-Bangladesh International Boundary with the concerned State Governments.
- Inputs provided to the Legal & Treaties Division on the India Bangladesh Maritime and Land Boundaries.
- Provided inputs to the Policy Planning Division concerning wrong depictions of external boundary of India by various agencies, on the internet.
- Scrutinised and approved International Boundary on 76 Open Series Map (OSM), being published by the Survey of India.
- Participated in various bilateral meetings with neighbouring countries on International Boundary Matters.



Protocol

The Protocol Division of the Ministry of External Affairs coordinated 33 incoming and 36 outgoing visits at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government, and Foreign Minister during April-November 2011. The Conference Cell of the Protocol Division coordinated the 11th Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation Conference at Bengaluru (Karnataka), on 14-

15 November, 2011. During the same period, the People's Republic of Bangladesh opened its Deputy High Commission in Mumbai, two Consulates General were opened by Sweden and Ecuador in Mumbai, 25 Honorary Consulates were opened in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata, and 83 new posts were created by foreign diplomatic missions in New Delhi.

Incoming State/Official Working Visits at the Level of President/Vice President/Prime Minister during April- November, 2011

Sl. No	Name of Dignitary and Details	Dates
1.	Mr Milan Stech, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic (Official)	8-13 May, 2011
2.	Mr Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (State)	17-18 May, 2011
3.	Dr Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany (Working)	31 May-1 June, 2011
4.	Mr Borut Pahor, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia (Official)	13-16 June, 2011
5.	Field Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim, First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (State)	16-18 June, 2011
6.	Mr John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand and Mrs Bronagh Key (State)	26-30 June, 2011
7.	Mr Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Official)	4-5 October, 2011
8.	Mr Truong Tan Sang, President of Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Madam Mai Thi Hanh (State)	11-13 October, 2011
9.	U Thein Sein, President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Daw Khin Khin Win (State)	12-15 October, 2011
10.	Dr Baburam Bhattarai, Prime Minister of Nepal and Ms Hisila Yami (Official)	20-23 October, 2011
11.	His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan and Her Majesty, the Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck (State)	23-31 October, 2011

Incoming Visits at the Level of Foreign Minister, during the period April - November 2011

S. No	Name of Dignitary and Details	Dates
1.	Mr Taib Fassi Fihri, Foreign Minister of Morocco	7-8 April, 2011
2.	Mr Ahmed Naseem, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Maldives	24-26 April, 2011
3.	Dr Ossur Skarphedinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs, of Iceland	25 April-3 May, 2011
4.	Mr Ali Ahmed Karti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, of the Republic of Sudan	26-28 April, 2011
5.	Prof. G L Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	15-17 May, 2011
6.	Dr Nabil Elaraby, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt	27-31 May, 2011
7.	Dr Guido Westerwelle, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Vice Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany	29-30 May, 2011
8.	Mr Osman Saleh Mohammed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea	6-8 June, 2011
9.	Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates	26-27 June, 2011

10.	Mr Radoslaw Sikorski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland	11-14 July, 2011
11.	Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton Secretary of State of the United State of America	18-21 July, 2011
12.	Mr Abdul Ati-Al-Obeidi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	21-22 July, 2011
13.	Ms Hina Rabbani Khar, Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan	26-28 July, 2011
14.	Mr Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden	18-22 October, 2011
15.	Mr Alain Juppe, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Republic of France	20-22 October, 2011
16.	Mr Kevin Rudd, Foreign Minister of Australia (11th IOR-ARC Conference)	14-15 November, 2011
17.	Dr Arvin Boolell Gosk, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius (11th IOR-ARC Conference)	14-16 November 2011
18.	Dr Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Yemen (11th IOR-ARC Conference)	15-16 November, 2011
19.	Dr Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister of People's Republic of Bangladesh (11th IOR-ARC Conference)	15-16 November, 2011
20.	Mr Jean Paul Adams, Foreign Minister of Seychelles (11th IOR-ARC Conference)	15-16 November, 2011
21.	Mr Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine	24-27 November, 2011
22.	Dr Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago	25-30 November 2011

Conferences held during April-November 2011

Sl No.	Name of Conference	Date
1.	11th IOR-ARC Conference	14-15 November, 2011

Private / Transit Visits at the Level of President / Vice President / Prime Minister during April 2011-January 2012

Sl No	Name of Dignitary and Details	Dates
1.	Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (Private)	1-2 April, 2011
2.	Dr Stephen Kalonza Musyoka, EGH, Vice President of the Republic of Kenya (Private)	27 April-3 May, 2011
3.	Mr Boediono, Vice President of the Republic Indonesia (Transit)	06 June, 2011
4.	Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia (Transit)	15 June, 2011
5.	Mr Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda (Private visit)	21-29 September, 2011
6.	His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan and Her Majesty the Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck (Transit)	5-6 November, 2011
7.	Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha of the Kingdom of Thailand (Private)	6-12 November, 2011
8.	Ms Maria Da Luz Guebuza, First Lady of Mozambique (Private)	7-12 November, 2011
9.	Dr Baburam Bhattarai, Prime Minister of Nepal (Transit)	08 November, 2011
10.	Dr Baburam Bhattarai, Prime Minister of Nepal (Transit)	12 November, 2011

Outgoing Visits of President, Vice President and Prime Minister during April 2011-November 2011

Sl No	Name of Dignitary and Details	Dates
1.	Prime Minister to China and Kazakhstan	12-15 April, 2011
2.	President to Mauritius	24-28 April, 2011
3.	Vice-President to Bangladesh	6-7 May, 2011
4.	Prime Minister to Afghanistan	12-13 May, 2011

5.	Prime Minister to Ethiopia and Tanzania	23-28 May, 2011
6.	Vice-President of India to Sudan and Uganda	6-8 July, 2011
7.	President to the Republic of Korea and Mongolia	24-30 July, 2011
8.	Prime Minister to Dhaka	6-7 September, 2011
9.	Prime Minister to New York	21-27 September, 2011
10.	President to Switzerland and Austria	30 Sep-7 October, 2011
11.	Vice-President to Turkey	10-15 October, 2011
12.	Prime Minister to South Africa	17-19 October, 2011
13.	Vice-President to Australia	27-31 October, 2011
14.	Prime Minister to Cannes, France	2-5 November, 2011
15.	Prime Minister to Addu and Male, Maldives	9-12 November, 2011
16.	Prime Minister to Bali, Indonesia and Singapore	17-20 November, 2011

Outgoing visits of Minister of External Affairs during April-November 2011

Sl No	Name of Dignitary and Details	Dates
1	Minister of External Affairs to Nepal	20-22 April, 2011
2	Minister of External Affairs to Malaysia	2-4 May, 2011
3	Minister of External Affairs to Singapore	05 May, 2011
4	Minister of External Affairs to Istanbul	11-12 May, 2011
5	Minister of External Affairs to Addis Ababa, Dar-es-Salaam and Nairobi	22-28 May, 2011
6	Minister of External Affairs to Rome, London and Hungary	2-7 June, 2011
7	Minister of External Affairs to Republic of Kazakhstan	14-16 June, 2011
8	Minister of External Affairs to Union of Myanmar	20-22 June, 2011
9	Minister of External Affairs to London	30 June-1 July, 2011
10	Minister of External Affairs to Bangladesh	6-8 July 2011
11	Minister of External Affairs to Bali, Indonesia	20-23 July, 2011
12	Minister of External Affairs to Maldives	28-30 July, 2011
13	Minister of External Affairs to Bangladesh	6-7 September, 2011
14	Minister of External Affairs to Vietnam	15-17 September, 2011
15	Minister of External Affairs to New York	21-29 September, 2011
16	Minister of External Affairs to South Africa	17-19 October, 2011
17	Minister of External Affairs to Perth	25-27 October, 2011
18	Minister of External Affairs to Tokyo	28-30 October, 2011
19	Minister of External Affairs to Istanbul	2 November, 2011
20	Minister of External Affairs to Maldives	8-11 November, 2011

List of Foreign Ambassadors / High Commissioners who presented their Credentials during April-November 2011

Sl No	Name of Country	Name of the HOM	Presentation of Credentials
1	Spain	Mr Francisco Javier Elorza Cavengt	1 April, 2011
2	Portugal	Mr Jorge Ayres Roza de Olivera	1 April, 2011
3	Zambia	Mr Darius Steinbeck Bubala	1 April, 2011
4	Syrian Arab Republic	Dr Riad Kamel Abbas	1 April, 2011
5	Japan	Mr Akitaka Saiki	1 April, 2011
6	Thailand	Mr Pisan Manawapat	1 April, 2011
7	Botswana	Ms Lesego Ethel Motsumi	12 August, 2011

8	Myanmar	U Zin Yaw	12 August, 2011
9	Costa Rica	Mr Juan Fernando Cordero Arias	12 August, 2011
10	Israel	Mr Alon Ushpiz	12 August, 2011
11	Turkey	Mr Burak Akcapar	12 August, 2011
12	Nigeria	Mr Oyebola Kuku	1 November 2011
13	Belarus	Mr Vladimir Goshin	1 November 2011
14	Cote d'Ivoire	Mr Sainy Tiemele	1 November 2011
15	Luxembourg	Mr Gaston Stronck	1 November 2011
16	Hungary	Dr Janos Terenyi	1 November 2011
17	Fiji	Mr Yogesh Karan	1 November 2011
18	Tunisia	Mr Tarek Azouz	1 November 2011
19	Cuba	Mr Abelardo Rafael Cueto Sosa	1 November 2011
20	Macedonia	Mr Slobodan Tasovski	1 November 2011
21	Azerbaijan	Mr Ibrahim Asad oglu Hajiyeve	1 November 2011
22	France	Mr Francois Richier	1 November 2011

List of the Heads of Missions who left India during April-November 2011

Sl No	Name of the HOM	Country	Date of Departure
1	Mr Krishnedat Bajnath	Suriname	27 April, 2011
2	Mr Khaled Salman	Lebanon	21 May, 2011
3	Mr Petar Jovanovski	Macedonia	15 June, 2011
4	Mr Timothy J. Roemer	USA	1 July, 2011
5	Dr Geza Palmai	Hungary	15 July, 2011
6	Mr Mark Sofer	Israel	18 July, 2011
7	Mr Faisal Hassan Trad	Saudi Arabia	23 July, 2011
8	Mr Zady Gbaka Richard	Cote d'Ivoire	28 July, 2011
9	Dr Shabbir H. Peerbhai	Lesotho	30 July, 2011
10	Mr Antonio Da Costa Fernandes	Angola	6 August, 2011
11	Mr Rukma Shumsher Rana	Nepal	10 August, 2011
12	Mr Marc Courte	Luxembourg	12 August, 2011
13	Mr M. A. Ramirez Ramos	Cuba	15 August, 2011
14	Mr Jerome Bonnafont	France	25 September, 2011
15	Ms Daniele Smadja	Delegation of EU	28 October, 2011
16	Mr Khidir Haroun Ahmed	Sudan	18 November, 2011
17	Sir Charles Richard Vernon Stagg	United Kingdom	24 November, 2011

Republic of Bangladesh has opened its Deputy High Commission in Mumbai during April-November 2011

List of Consulates General / Honorary Consulates of Foreign Countries in India approved during April-November 2011

Consulates General

1	Sweden	Mumbai
2	Ecuador	Mumbai

Honorary Consulates

1	Antigua and Barbuda	New Delhi
2	Moldova	New Delhi
3	Ireland	Chennai
4	Malta	Kolkata
5	Paraguay	Chennai
6	Cyprus	Kolkata
7	Peru	Bengaluru
8	Croatia	Kolkata
9	Indonesia	Kolkata
10	Djibouti	Bengaluru
11	Mauritius	Chennai
12	Switzerland	Kolkata
13	Slovenia	Kolkata
14	Uzbekistan	Mumbai
15	Romania	Chennai
16	Sri Lanka	Bengaluru
17	Slovenia	Mumbai
18	Kyrgyz Republic	Mumbai
19	Sweden	Kolkata
20	Maldives	Mumbai
21	Cote d'Ivoire	Bengaluru
22	Lesotho	Mumbai
23	Slovenia	Chennai
24	Slovenia	Bengaluru
25	El Salvador	Mumbai

Month-wise list of newly created posts in Foreign Diplomatic Missions/ Posts, in India, during April-November 2011

Sl No.	Month	No. of Posts Created
1	April	3
2	May	10
3	June	21
4	July	7
5	August	8
6	September	15
7	October	10
8	November	9
	Total	83



Passport Offices

Indian passports are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs through a network of 37 Passport Offices, the CPV Division which issues only Diplomatic and Official passports, and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This network is being expanded considerably under the Passport Seva Project. Under this transformative e-Governance initiative, 77 Passport Seva Kendras are being established all over India. For Indians living abroad, passport, consular and other miscellaneous services are rendered by 178 Indian Missions/Posts. All Passport Offices are computerised and they issue machine-readable passports as per the guidelines laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation. Passport applications are being scanned, and stored, electronically.

Rising Demand for Passports

Over the last five decades, there has been considerable expansion in the number of services rendered by Passport Offices. The growth in the number of passports issued is enumerated in the table below:

	1979-80	1989-90	1999-2000	Jan-Dec 2011
No. of Passports Issued (in lakhs)	8.51	15.58	25.80	58.69
Percent increase over the previous period		83	66	127.48

In 2011, 37 Passport Offices, Headquarters, and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, issued 58.69 lakh passports (inclusive of 2,840 Diplomatic passports, and 28,067 Official passports), and rendered 4.68 lakh passports-related miscellaneous services. The 178 Indian Missions/Posts issued 10.27 lakh passports. Thus, the Government of India, in total, rendered 73.65 lakh passport services. The total revenue generated from all Passport Offices in 2011 was Rs 728.99 crore, compared to the total revenue of Rs. 679.11 crore in 2010. An amount of Rs 380.41 crore was allocated to the Central Passport Organisation in the financial year 2011-12.

Central Passport Organisation

The total strength of the Central Passport Organisation, which was created in 1959 as a Subordinate Office of the

Ministry, was 2,697 as on 31 December, 2011. The Ministry has taken several steps to improve the service conditions of the CPO personnel, by re-structuring of the cadre, faster promotion, and introduction of productivity-linked incentive scheme. All regular and retired employees of the Central Passport Organisation, their spouses, and children, as applicable, are being issued lifelong gratis passport services.

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) Decentralisation 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 passports. Passport applications are also received through the network of 1,096 Speed Post Centres. Wherever Passport Seva Kendras have been opened, the role of DPCs and SPCs is being reviewed.

(b) Online Applications:

Online submission of passport applications has been introduced in all Passport Offices. The District Passport Cells and Speed Post Centres have also been allowed to file online applications and transfer the data to the Passport Offices, which facilitates quicker issuance of passports.

(c) Passport Adalats:

Under the directions of the External Affairs Minister, an Action Plan to bring down the pendency initiated in November 2010 was implemented by the Ministry in 2011 in all Passport Offices in India. Passport Offices held Passport Adalats periodically to redress the grievances of passport applicants. These Adalats have been very useful in disposing of old cases. Passport Adalats are now being held once a month all over India as a part of the pendency clearance drive.

(d) Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism:

There is a public grievance redressal mechanism in all Passport Offices. Facilitation Counters, PG cell and Help Desks, manned by PROs, have been set up to assist applicants and to attend to grievances/complaints expeditiously. Members of the public can also approach the Regional Passport Officer if their grievances remain unsolved.

A public grievance redressal mechanism has also been set up in the CPV Division under the supervision of the Joint Secretary and Chief Passport Officer. It deals with grievances received through telephone, email, and post, as also references from various Government offices such as President's Secretariat, PMO, CVC, CAG, MHA, etc. In addition, all Passport Offices and the CPV Division handle public grievances through the CPGRAM website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, in which 5,024 grievances were received in the year 2011, out of which 4,418 have been disposed. The latest position on their applications, along with directions for further action, is posted on this website, which can be easily accessed by the public, for its benefit. In total 51,782 public grievance petitions were received by the CPV Division in 2011, out of which 48,091 have been disposed.

The CPV Division was one of the initial 10 Departments, chosen by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), for the implementation of Quality Management system (QMS) Sevottam- a pilot project of GoI for improving public service delivery in all Government offices.

Apart from this, in the Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs), as part of Passport Seva Project (PSP) implementation, a National Call centre has been set up, which at present works on a central system platform. Also a help-desk has been set up, which can be accessed by citizens through the passportindia.gov.in portal, and where suggestions and grievances can be sent. The PSP call centre, and help-desk cater to the dissemination of information about various services, grievances handling, and citizens feedback. Citizen dial, toll free, number 1800-258-1800, can be used to reach these call centres. The call centre operates on a 24x7 basis. The call centre commenced operations from 23 May, 2010, and has, till date, received over 1.5 million calls. It currently handles 6,000 calls per day.

(e) 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. A Central Public

Information Officer has also been appointed in the CPV Division. Joint Secretary (PSP) and the CPO is the First Appellate Authority in respect of all Passport Offices, and also for the CPV Division. A total of 1,127 RTI applications and 731 appeals, were received and disposed by the Division, during the year 2011.

(f) 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. Under the PSP, a new online portal, passportindia.gov.in, has been created, to offer passport services.

Infrastructure

Out of 37 Passport offices, 15 are operating from their own buildings, five are running from GoI buildings, and the remaining 17 are operating from rented buildings. In line with the policy of the Ministry to shift all Passport Offices to their own buildings, efforts are being made to acquire plots of land to construct state-of-the-art buildings. The Ministry has, so far, acquired plots of land at eight places viz. Srinagar, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Dehradun, Surat, Mumbai, Pune and Guwahati. The Madhya Pradesh Government has allotted a plot of land at Bhopal, for which payment is being made by the Ministry. The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has also reserved a plot of land, which is under consideration in the Ministry. In the remaining seven places, Passport Officers are in contact with State Governments, for allotment of plots of land on priority. Recently, Passport Offices at Chennai and Vishakapatnam have been shifted to new buildings. PO, Chennai shifted to built-up area on the fourth floor of Towers II & III in Rayala Towers, purchased by the Ministry. PO, Vishakapatnam shifted to a building constructed by the Ministry, on the land purchased. The construction of new PO buildings is at advanced stages in Surat and Mumbai.

New Projects

The latest position on projects which were introduced to modernise and upgrade the Passport/visa issuance system is as under:

(a) Centralised Printing of Passports:

Apart from 140 non-computerised Missions/Posts abroad, Office of Assistant Secretary (Passport), Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Port Blair, was also added to the list (since 19.7.2011), for the printing of Machine-Readable Passports (MRPs), at the Central

Indian Passport Printing System (CIPPS) of the CPV Division, New Delhi. The CIPPS printed 1,05,577 passports during the period 1 January, 2011 to 31 December, 2011.

(b) Issuance of E-Passports:

The issuance of e-passports (also known as biometric passports), was launched by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, on 25 June, 2008. 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 receipt of technical and security clearance from the concerned agencies. Consultations are still going on to devise a passport which would be tamper-proof and could not be forged. During the year 2011, 726 e-Official and 843 e-Diplomatic passports were issued by the Ministry.

(c) Outsourcing of Passport/Visa Work by Missions/Posts:

As of 31 December, 2011, 63 Indian Missions/Posts had outsourced passport/visa applications and collection work, including 15 Missions/Posts where passport services have also been outsourced.

(d) Passport Seva Project:

The Ministry of External Affairs is engaged in a comprehensive overhaul of the passport delivery system, through the Passport Seva Project. The Project is bringing 'Public Service Closer Home' and will definitely contribute towards good governance in the country.

Despite extensive computerisation, opening of new Passport Offices, and reforms in the Central Passport Organisation (CPO), a need was felt for change in the existing system, due to the rapidly growing number of passport seekers. To address this need, a Mission Mode Project (MMP) was identified under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). The MMP on Passports, named Passport Seva Project (PSP), aims "to deliver all Passport-related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner and in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes and committed, trained and motivated workforce".

The Ministry of External Affairs obtained the approval of the Cabinet, on 6 September, 2007, to establish 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs), on Public-Private Partnership basis. Following a two-bid process, M/s Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) were selected as Service Providers in May 2008. A

Master Service Agreement was signed by the Ministry with M/s TCS, in October 2008.

Salient features of Passport Seva Project (PSP): The PSP incorporates the global best practices in the passport issuance system, including inter alia establishing Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) for delivering all front-end citizen services, creation of online Passport Portal for offering Passport services, providing links to designated points in the Police department, introduction of a multi-modal Information and grievance-handling system, creating a centralised IT system linking all PSKs, Passport Offices, Police, and Postal Department, and establishing a proper Programme Governance Structure, for managing the implementation and operation of the aforesaid.

The benefits to the citizens would be service provisioning in a transparent manner within defined service levels, closer and larger numbers of access points for services, easy availability of a portfolio of online services with real-time status tracking and enquiry, availability of good public facilities at PSKs, and an effective system of grievance redressal.

The benefits for the Central Passport Organisation personnel would be productivity linked incentive, increased promotion opportunities, uniform and well-defined work procedures, improved performance due to state-of-the-art infrastructure and system deployment, centralised Application and Databases ensuring better availability and uniformity, skill enhancement through training and audit trails ensuring the legality of the task performed by the user.

Timeline of roll out: The pilot project was launched in Bengaluru and Chandigarh in May 2010 and August 2010, respectively. After certification of the Project by the Standardisation, Testing, & Quality Certification (STQC), the Third Part Audit Agency under the Department of IT, in January 2011, the Passport Seva Project was cleared for launch across the country. Out of the 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs), 50 PSKs have been operationalised, as on 4 February, 2012, in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat, UP, Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Delhi. The remaining 27 PSKs are expected to be functional by March 2012. Over 12.3 lakh passport applications have been processed under the new system, as on 31 December, 2011.

Important Events/Developments

- (a) A Passport Officers' Conference was held in New Delhi on 29-30 November, 2011, which was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister. The Foreign Secretary also addressed the Conference.
- (b) The Committee on Estimates of Lok Sabha, led by Shri Francisco Sardinha, undertook an on-the-spot study

tour of the RPO, Mumbai, on 9 February, 2011, and RPO, Kochi, on 10 February, 2011. The Committee focused on "Customer Services in Passport Offices".

- (c) The External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, visited RPO, Kochi, on 1 February, 2011.
- (d) RPO, Mumbai, acted as the nodal agency to oversee the return of Indian citizens from Libya, via Mumbai, because of disturbed domestic conditions in Libya. Services of more than 25 officers and staff from RPO, Mumbai, were utilised for this operation and manned operations at the airport round-the-clock.
- (e) To facilitate the expeditious issuance of passports to Haj pilgrims, RPO/PO undertook measures viz. opening of separate counters, conducting passport adalats, requesting police authorities to send police reports of Haj pilgrims on priority, and giving Haj pilgrims selected by Haj Committee of India, eight months-validity passports without police verification (in case, report about the same was not received in time)
- (f) Passport Mela was organised at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, in August 2011, where nearly 10,000 people turned up to file applications.
- (g) The Standing Committee on External Affairs was briefed by Foreign Secretary, on 'PSP: Targets and Achievements', on 27 January, 2012.

Visas

(a) Visa Issuance by Missions/Posts abroad:

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issue 5 million visas approximately every year. The procedure for grant of visas by Missions/Posts has been further simplified, which includes computerisation of the issuance system, and outsourcing of visa services. The outsourcing of visa work was commenced in 2006. At present, the visa work has been outsourced in 63 Missions/Posts abroad.

(b) Visa Issuance by CPV Division:

The CPV Division issued 7,431 visas, to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders, from 1 January, 2011 till 31 December, 2011. The CPV Division also issued 15,732 notes verbale for visas, for Indian Government officials, who were going to join Indian Missions/Posts on transfer and official engagements.

(c) Visa-Waiver Agreements:

India has visa waiver agreements with 52 countries, by which Diplomatic/Official passport holders are exempt from the requirements of visas. In the year 2011, an

agreement with Ukraine on visa-free travel for Diplomatic passport-holders, was signed on 25 November, 2011.

Consular Services

Launch of Apostille Convention Project: 2,78,210 personal and educational documents, and 3,83,757 commercial documents, were attested by the Ministry, in the year 2011. In addition, 1,66,886 documents were apostilled for use abroad, in the apostille member countries. The attestation of consular documents is also done by Indian Missions/Posts, for Indian citizens living abroad.

Extradition Cases and Legal Assistance

The Ministry has been actively pursuing with various countries for negotiating bilateral agreements to provide a legal and institutional framework to combat international terrorism, and organised crime, including financial frauds and drugs 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.

The Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and Socialist Republic of Vietnam was signed on 12 October, 2011, during the State Visit of the President of Vietnam, to India. The Treaty will come into force after the exchange of Ratification by both sides.

During the year, an Italian official delegation visited New Delhi on 27-29 September, 2011, to negotiate an Extradition Treaty, and a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters. The draft Extradition Treaty has been finalised, and initialled at official level, on 29 September, 2011.

During this period, the Extradition Treaties between Government of India and the Governments of Australia, Malaysia, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, came into force. Also during this period, Government of India entered into a reciprocal agreement, under the Indian Extradition Act, 1962, with the Republic of Peru.

Also during this period, Government of India received 13 requests for extradition, from various countries, and request for local prosecution in respect of 27 nationals from countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The Government of India made 11 requests for extradition to various countries. Also, one person each was extradited from Canada and Peru. India extradited 7 persons to the USA, Australia, Croatia, and Germany.



The Administration Division is tasked with the management of the necessary human resource capacity, for optimally meeting the diverse functional needs of the Ministry, both at the Headquarters and in over 178 Missions/Posts abroad. The Cadre Management exercise involves recruitment, training, postings/transfers, deputations, career progression, settlement of post retirement dues, etc. The Division also deals with the formulation, amendments, and reforms of all the relevant rules and regulations relating to personnel, as also the establishment of new Missions/Posts abroad.

In keeping with the expanding global profile and engagement of India, a comprehensive IFS Cadre expansion exercise has been underway since the year 2008 and is expected to last till 2018. Under the Plan, every year around 50 posts are added at different levels and the Ministry has already gone through four phases of this exercise. Another important development in this regard has been the approval of the IFS 'B' Cadre Review proposal, which, in addition to addressing the career aspirations of the concerned officers, also aims to cater to the growing need for better and faster delivery of services.

The current sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 3,530 (for details, see Appendix IX Page 203). Personnel posted against these posts are deployed in India and in 178 Missions/Posts abroad. This includes officers from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and officials of the Indian Foreign Service, Branch 'B' (IFS 'B'), Interpreters Cadre, Legal and Treaties Cadre, and the Library Cadre, but excludes Group 'D' and ex-cadre posts.

Details of the recruitments made to various groups in the Ministry from 1 April-30 December 2011 through Direct Recruitment (DR), Departmental Promotion (DP), and Limited Departmental Examinations (LDE), including against reserved vacancies, are given at Appendix X (Page 204).

Given the nature of its functioning, the Ministry of External Affairs has always placed on high priority, the appropriate training and development of linguistic skills. Over the years, this has resulted in the creation of a sufficiently large and diverse pool of those with foreign language skills within the Service, so that these officers are able to discharge their diplomatic responsibility more effectively. Appendix XI (Page 205) gives details of the language proficiency of the officers of the Ministry.

The Ministry of External Affairs pays extra care towards ensuring gender equality amongst its personnel. Equal opportunities are provided to the lady officers, who are encouraged and supported in taking up challenging assignments

both at the Headquarters and at Missions/Posts abroad. With a view to addressing the problem of sexual harassment against women, a high-level Committee has been set up under the leadership of a Joint Secretary-level lady officer.

The Ministry is also fully committed to providing adequate opportunities to the persons with disabilities, for ensuring their appropriate representation amongst its personnel. Towards achieving this goal, the Ministry has identified suitable positions for those with various disabilities as prescribed under the relevant GoI Rules.

The year 2011-12 also witnessed the establishment of three new Indian Diplomatic Posts abroad, with full fledged resident Consulates General of India becoming operational in Perth (Australia), in Atlanta (USA) and in Bali (Indonesia). The Indian Mission in Lilongwe (Malawi) is also scheduled to re-open shortly.

Establishment Division

After completion of the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, offices of the Ministry located in Akbar Bhawan were shifted into this new building. The Od'A Committee of the Ministry carefully selected Od'A installations for the new Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, which included a replica of Ashoka's 12th Edict of Girnar, a bust of Jawaharlal Nehru, marble diyas, Indian language alphabet tree, a metallic peacock, a wooden Buddha statue, wooden jaali work including a map of the world, wall mural with Dhokra trees, wall murals with butterfly and fauna themes, and lotus flowers with stone stems and titanium petals.

For the convenience of the residents of Ministry hostels and housing complexes, facilities like wiremesh doors, emergency alarms in the lifts, additional road signages, enhanced water supply, piped gas connections, insulation on overhead water tanks, fibre glass sheds on the balconies, and new flower and fruit saplings, were provided. To facilitate renting of better residential accommodation for officials working abroad, rental ceilings for several Missions/Posts were revised, and proposals for renting and maintenance of properties were cleared expeditiously.

Keeping in view several requests received from Missions and Posts abroad, for pre-mature replacement of furniture/furnishings and office and electrical equipment items, a thorough review of prescribed life span of these items was undertaken, and the same suitably revised wherever found

reasonable in keeping with available product quality, durability, and market trend. Arrangements were finalised with M/s Daimler Chrysler, Germany, and the framework sales agreement was renewed with them to secure 25 per cent diplomatic discount on purchase of vehicles for Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Additional vehicles were also sanctioned for some Indian Missions/Posts, and similar arrangements were put in place for the newly opened Missions and Posts.

A joint Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Finance team visited New York and London for the 14th Annual Review of Foreign Allowance which was revised on the recommendations of the team for the period, 1 September, 2011 to 31 August, 2012. To protect employees serving abroad from the vagaries of currency fluctuations, some additional options were worked out for payment of emoluments in hard currency countries.



Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office

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A total of 811 applications, seeking information under the RTI Act, 2005, were received in the Ministry (other than those in the CPV Division which maintains its own records separately), during the period 1 April-10 December, 2011. The applications covered subjects such as administration, personal grievances, the Haj pilgrimage, the Kailash-

Manasarovar Yatra, foreign policy and economic issues, bilateral visits and expenditure incurred on the same. During the same period, 143 appeals were filed by applicants with the First Appellate Authority of the Ministry. 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 worldwide phenomenon of growing cyber-security threats, the Ministry continued to provide special emphasis on the training of officers, and staff, at Headquarters, and officers going on foreign posting abroad.

The Ministry also formulated draft guidelines for the safe use of social media by its officers, which would supplement existing IT security instructions.

Visa online component of Immigration, Visa, and Foreigners Registration and Tracking Project (IVFRT), spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs was implemented in 34 Missions/Posts, raising the total number of Missions/Posts where such facility has been introduced to 48. The Integrated

Missions Accounting Software (I-MAS) software has been implemented in 172 Missions/Posts, which has streamlined reporting of accounts by these Indian Missions. The outsourcing of visa/passport/consular services was completed in four Missions (Bogotá, Helsinki, Muscat, and Tehran) bringing the total number of such Missions/Posts to 63. The Indian Technical Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training management information system (MIS), and the Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) Colombo Plan MIS, were extended to cover all respective partner countries.

The Ministry has established a 24x7 Mission support centre to address problems faced by Missions/ Posts relating to these projects.



Coordination Division is the link between Indian Missions and Posts on the one side, and Union Ministries and State Governments on the other. It coordinates work when more than one Division in the Ministry is involved. It collects and disseminates information between the Cabinet Secretariat and other Ministries and Indian Missions/ Posts abroad.

Officers of the Coordination Division also represent the Ministry in numerous inter-Ministerial Committees in other Ministries, and act as ex-officio Directors in PSUs. The Division is also the administrative office for the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), and its Branch Secretariats in Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Kolkata.

The Division processes proposals for political clearances for the foreign visits of Governors, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Union Ministers, Ministers in 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/Posts concerned. During April- November 2011, The Division issued 1,909 political clearances for such visits.

The Division 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 Division 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 Division 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 Division coordinates the work relating to the grant of Padma Awards to foreign nationals. The nominations are obtained by the Coordination Division from Indian Missions/Posts abroad, and the recommendations of the Ministry are conveyed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The observance of Anti-Terrorism Day (21 May), 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, this year too.

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 and 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.



The External Publicity (XP) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), which is designated to engage with the media, continued to articulate the views / positions of the Government of India, on various national and international issues, and publicise in both Indian and international media the achievements and successes in meeting our foreign policy objectives. This was done through regular and special press briefings, statements, background interactions, and by postings on the Ministry's website. The main activities of the Division were focused on the dissemination of information on India's relations with countries in its immediate and extended neighbourhood, as also, with major countries of the world. Important areas of endeavour in the foreign policy arena were also highlighted through publicising the speeches and statements of the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister, Ministers of State and Foreign Secretary delivered on various occasions during the year.

There were important occasions, during the course of the year, when Indian foreign policy parameters were articulated by our leaders. Thus, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's statements at the BRICS Summit in China, India-Africa Forum Summit in Ethiopia, UNGA in New York, at the fifth IBSA Summit in Pretoria, at the G-20 Summit in Cannes (France), at the 17th SAARC Summit in Maldives, at the ninth India-ASEAN Summit and the sixth East Asia Summit in Bali, all served to showcase diverse aspects of our foreign policy, and were widely disseminated by the Division.

Press Coverage of VVIP Visits Abroad

All logistical arrangements, including the setting up of and operating 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 visit, are made by the Division. During the year, media delegations accompanied the President on her visits to Mauritius, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Austria, and Switzerland; the Vice-President during his visits to Bangladesh, South Sudan, Uganda, Australia (Perth, for CHOGM) and Turkey; and the Prime Minister during the course of his visits to China (for BRICS Summit), Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia (for India-Africa Forum Summit), Tanzania, Bangladesh, USA (for UNGA),

Pretoria (for fifth IBSA Summit), Cannes (for G-20 Summit), the Maldives (for the 17th SAARC Summit), Bali (for ninth India-ASEAN Summit and sixth East Asia Summit), Singapore and Russia. Important areas of endeavour in the foreign policy arena were also highlighted through publicising the speeches and statements of the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, delivered on various occasions during the year, notably during his visits to Nepal, Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Indonesia, Maldives, Bangladesh, Turkey, Hungary, Kazakhstan, UK and Israel.

Press Coverage of incoming VVIP Visits

The press facilitation work is also done by this Division in terms of extending logistical and liaison support to foreign media delegations accompanying Heads of State/ Government (HOS/G) visiting India. 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 to India by the Presidents of Vietnam, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, the King of Bhutan, the Vice-President of Afghanistan, the Prime Ministers of Nepal, Thailand, Slovenia, New Zealand, Japan, the Chancellor of Germany, and the President of the Senate of the Czech Parliament. Other important dignitaries who visited India during the year were US Secretary of State Mrs Hilary Clinton, Chairman High Peace Council of Afghanistan, and the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Brazil, Netherlands, Cyprus, Morocco, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Syria, UAE, Ukraine, Thailand, Iceland and Poland. The XP Division arranged joint press conferences with the visiting dignitaries, and assisted the visiting mediapersons and foreign media personnel based in India, in the suitable coverage of these visits.

The Official Spokesperson's Office

The Official Spokesperson's Office functioned as the interface between the Ministry and the media, disseminating information on day-to-day developments related to the conduct of India's foreign policy. The Official Spokesperson's office liaised with Indian and foreign media personnel throughout the year, by conducting regular briefings on major developments having a bearing on India's foreign policy, incoming and outgoing high-level visits, and

important day-to-day developments. During the year, 197 press releases, 109 press briefings, 32 Joint press statements and 82 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 mediapersons. Interviews with the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, 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.

Ministry of External Affairs Website

The Ministry's website (<http://mea.gov.in/>) continued to play a very useful role in the dissemination efforts of the Division. The press section of the website is updated on a real-time basis, with speeches/interviews/statements on foreign policy by the Prime Minister, and Minister(s), and press releases, and briefings by the Official Spokesperson, and other senior officials. The Ministry's website is widely accessed both inside and outside India, and has hyperlinks to the websites of Indian Missions/Posts abroad, and various Ministries.

The Division continued to use the Ministry's Notice Board to provide our Missions/Posts across the world with professionally written features on various aspects of India. From this year onwards, op-ed clippings of interest from national newspapers were also uploaded on a daily basis on the Board for use by our Missions.

Hindi, Urdu & Arabic website

The Hindi section of the website is being continuously updated and it has been appreciated by the general public, and representatives of Indian media. 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.

Ministry of External Affairs Web Portal

The XP Division is in the process of completing the development of the Ministry Integrated Web portal. Once launched, the web portal would have advanced features including more user-friendly and more aesthetic appeal with an effective and advanced search engine, besides having common template (homepage) for all Ministry's websites, including those of Missions and Posts abroad.

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 special emphasis on development cooperation. The website can be accessed at <http://www.indiaafricaconnect.in> and is being updated on a daily basis.

Familiarisation Visits of Foreign Journalists

Familiarisation visits by foreign journalists to India are a key element of the Division's efforts to bring about a more accurate and contemporary depiction of India in the foreign media, as journalists obtain a unique, first-hand impression of developments in India's politics, foreign policy, economy, culture, and science and technology. The Division, based on recommendations of Indian Missions abroad, continued to organise several such visits to important institutions and centres of excellence in India. During the year, the Division was able to systematise the familiarisation visits by advance planning and organising them on the basis of regional groups. Meetings for visiting journalists were also organised with Ministers, senior officials, intellectuals, academicians, and business representatives. During the year, nearly 240 foreign journalists visited India from different parts of the world, including from India's neighbouring countries. These included delegations of senior journalists and editors from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Taiwan, China, Kazakhstan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, West Asia (Israel, Jordan, and Palestine), Kuwait, BRICS countries, Tanzania, Francophone Africa, Central European countries, countries of Latin America and from the member-states of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation.

Training, Workshops and Conferences

In collaboration with the Foreign Service Institute, the Division organised a Special Course for Diplomatic Correspondents/Ministry's beat media, including foreign journalists based in India in July 2011. There were participants from media organisations and foreign countries such as Nepal, Spain, Germany, US, Japan, France, and UK besides several of those from India.

The Division undertook activities aimed at capacity building among media organisations in neighbouring countries, and arranged training for 25 journalists from ASEAN countries (Vietnam, Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Cambodia), at Indian

Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC). Furthermore, the visiting journalists met with senior officials, academics, and the Indian media, and also visited historical places and centres of excellence. The Division has also been extending assistance to PTI and IANS, for the placement of stringers in select African countries, to enhance mutual understanding and bridge the information gap.

Documentaries by foreign audio-visual agencies

A major area of work of the Division is the processing and issuance of clearances for documentaries by foreign audio-visual agencies. During the period April-December 2011, more than 260 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.

Logistical Support to Foreign Media Representatives Based in India

Over 300 foreign media representatives based in India were provided necessary facilitation to enable them to function smoothly, through provision of relevant information on various issues of interest, as well as assistance in matters of credential documents, visas, and residence permits. Due to the robust engagements of India with the rest of the world, a new phenomenon of foreigners working for Indian media organisations has emerged.



Since its establishment in 2006, the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry in fulfilment of its mandate, organised and participated in focused activities and programmes designed to stimulate interest in foreign policy issues and creating and fostering a greater awareness of India and India's foreign policy. The Division now has its own logo and website www.indiandiplomacy.in. The target audience of the Public Diplomacy Division includes a wide cross-section ranging from the student community in colleges to experts in think-tanks. Special initiatives to reach out to the youth through digital diplomacy efforts have yielded very encouraging results.

Outreach Activities

PD Division attempted to reach out to diverse and influential groups, in India and abroad, by creatively engaging with them through a range of activities. These include:

- i. The first ever conference of International Relations (IR) experts was organised on 22-23 October, 2011 in partnership with the Centre for Policy Research. Different IR themes were addressed among others by the National Security Adviser, Foreign Secretary and leading experts;
- ii. Visits to India of:
 - a) A group of 23 young Parliamentarians from Africa, from 22-30 April, 2011;
 - b) A delegation, comprising 14 women members of the Constituent Assembly of Nepal representing eight political parties, from 7-12 August, 2011;
 - c) A delegation from the United Kingdom, comprising nine Members of Parliament belonging to the Conservative Friends of India Group, from 17-24 September, 2011;
 - d) A five-member delegation of Indigenous Australians led by Mr. Warren Mundine, Chair of the Australian Indigenous Chamber of Commerce and senior leader of the Australian Labour Party, from 5-12 November, 2011;
 - e) A group of 18 PIO journalists who attended the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas events held in Jaipur, from 7-9 January, 2012.

Seminars and Conferences supported by Public Diplomacy Division

- Monthly Forum on Foreign Policy in collaboration with FICCI.
- Foreign Policy Conclaves organised, in various cities, in partnership with FICCI;
- An International Conference on 'Public Diplomacy in Theory and Practice: Culture, Information and Interpretation in Australia-India Relations' in New Delhi;
- An International Conference on Sufism organised by Federation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL), an apex body of SAARC;
- National Security Seminar organised by the United Services Institution;
- National Convention on the theme 'India's Constructive Role in Asia and Africa in the 21st Century' organised by the Jadavpur Association of International Relations, in collaboration with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Academy for International Studies (MAKAAS), in Kolkata;
- A special course on India-Bangladesh relations organised by Jamia Milia Islamia and Manipur Central University in collaboration with University of Dhaka in September 2011.

Dialogue with International Think-Tanks

The India-Australia Roundtable was held at the Lowy Institute in Sydney on 19-20 September, 2011; and the fourth Annual Dialogue with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), the London-based think-tank, organised in partnership with Institute for Strategic Studies and Analyses (IDSA).

Outgoing Visits

The Division also supported several outgoing visits for events that are aligned with the objectives of the PD Division.

Track II Initiatives on India-Pakistan Process

The Neemrana Initiative, headed by Amb. M K Rasgotra and comprising former diplomats, bureaucrats and political leaders from two sides meet twice a year, in Pakistan and in

Neemrana, India, to discuss the status of relations and suggest a way forward.

Participation in Second India-Africa Forum Summit

PD Division played an active role at the second India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa (24-25th May, 2011).

- The Division produced a coffee table book, titled 'Two Billion Dreams' that celebrates the resurgence of Africa and highlights diverse facets of India's partnership with Africa;
- A major event themed 'Handcrafting Hope' was organised, which focused on financial empowerment of women through handicrafts;
- An Indian Film Festival featuring 14 popular Bollywood films, was organised at the National Theatre of Addis Ababa from 20-27 May, 2011;
- PD Division also coordinated the 'Release Event' during the closing plenary of the Summit.

Indiafrica: A Shared Future Initiative

'Indiafrica: A Shared Future', a novel initiative, aimed at engaging the young African population was launched in Nairobi on 23 August, 2011. The initiative includes a series of contests (business plan, poster design, photography and essay writing) and a Young Visionaries programme in which promising young entrepreneurs in India and Africa will be given the opportunity to engage in collaborative projects. A separate campus interaction was also organised at the Lagos Business School in Lagos, Nigeria.

Ministry's Distinguished Lecture Series

The programme, launched in February 2010, continued to grow from strength to strength. The Division organised 16 lectures during the year by former Ambassadors in various central and state universities:

Publications and Materials

The Division continued the task of commissioning high quality publications for presentation to dignitaries by our Ambassadors and senior officials. Multi-language translation has been made an integral part of these efforts so that we can reach out beyond the English-speaking world.

The coffee table books commissioned during the year in foreign languages included: (a) Great India Yoga Masters in 9 languages; (b) India: Spirit of Enterprise in 6 languages; (c) India: Timeless Splendour in 6 languages; and, (d) The India Idea in English.

The Division also published specialised material for distribution which included: (a) the Ministry's Achievement booklet 2010; (b) Rare Books Catalogue for the Ministry's library; and, (c) Booklet on India Bangladesh land boundary agreements in English, Hindi, Bengali and Assamese.

India Perspectives: The Division continued with its flagship monthly publication India Perspectives in 17 languages and introduced a web edition. The publication has become quite popular.

India-China Encyclopaedia of Cultural Contacts

The proposal to compile an encyclopaedia of India-China cultural contacts, as mooted in the Joint Communiqué of the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China issued on 16 December, 2010, during the Chinese Premier, Mr Wen Jiabao's visit to India, was carried forward with the PD Division coordinating the activities. An MoU was signed between the two Governments in May 2011, laying down the parameters of the Encyclopaedia project.

Documentaries and Audio-Visual

The Division commissioned documentaries on topics of contemporary interest about India from well known film makers. These have been very well received and broadcast through television channels in many countries.

- Concluded a five-year agreement with Public Service Broadcasting Trust to produce documentary films for the Ministry;
- A catalogue was produced of all films commissioned by the Ministry in the past 30 years for distribution to interested TV channels. Short versions of the films have also been put up on the Division's YouTube (www.youtube.com/indiandiplomacy), which has recorded 180,000+ views;
- Documentary films were screened at various film festivals in India and abroad, viz. Persistence Resistance at New Delhi and London, Black Movies Film Festival at Geneva, 3rd Samsung International Film Festival at Chennai, and Madurai International Film Festival etc;
- All documentary films have begun to be sub-titled in at least five foreign languages to make them accessible to a wider global audience.

Digital Diplomacy

During the year, India made significant strides in the emerging arena of digital diplomacy. The PD Division received Gov 2.in Award 2011 for exceptional achievement in Gov2.0 from the Governance Now magazine.

Over 50 Indian Missions/ Posts opened accounts on the social media platform, Facebook, to engage the young and the influential in cyberspace.

The PD Division's Twitter account proved to be a useful tool in successful evacuation of Indian nationals from Libya in February 2011. The followers of the Division's Twitter account (www.twitter.com/indiandiplomacy) had crossed 20,000 at the end of 2011. The Facebook account (www.facebook.com/indiandiplomacy) of the PD Division has more than 25,000 followers at the end of 2011, with many hailing from the neighbouring South Asian, South East and West Asian countries. Over 52 per cent are in the 18-24 years age group. It has become a vital tool to engage

with the youth from this region and advance conversations about diverse facets of India with them.

The 'India is' Global Video Challenge organised by the Division in October-December 2011 is a unique initiative aimed at engaging with young people around the world. The programme invites participants to submit three-minute videos on the themes 'India is Colourful, India is Creative and India is Wherever You Are'. This proved to be a successful endeavour with 256 video entries received from across the world at the end of the year. The Facebook page of 'India Is' has built a remarkable following of over 50,000 fans during this period. A respected six-member jury has evaluated the entries and short-listed the best 30, which have been opened up for an online vote to select the top five.



Foreign Service Institute

Training of the 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 the 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.

At the completion of 25 years, since its foundation, the Foreign Service Institute celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 2011. As a part of these celebrations, the Institute established the External Affairs Minister's Gold Medal for the Best Probationer. The Valedictory Function for the 2009 batch was held on 29 June, 2011. Ms. Vidisha Maitra was awarded the first External Affairs Minister's Gold Medal for the Best Probationer while the Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Dissertation was awarded to Shri Ashish Middha. A Silver Jubilee Commemorative Volume on FSI was also released by Shri E Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, who was the chief guest at the Valedictory Function.

After the completion of their training programme, the 2009 batch IFS Probationers started their language postings abroad, in July-August 2011. Twenty-five IFS Probationers, of the 2010 batch, have completed their training at FSI in January 2012. The year-long training programme was implemented 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, defence and security, economic diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, and social development, etc. The programme also included modules on administration, establishment, accounts, protocol, consular matters, reporting skills, official language policy, external publicity, representational skills, India's cultural heritage, etc.

The Probationers were also given training in 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 included to develop creative thinking among the Probationers. A special module on public speaking was introduced, to develop effective communication skills.

The Probationers also visited Mumbai in December 2011, where they participated in an interactive session with experts from leading financial institutions, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Exim Bank, and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). A six-week course was organised for the Probationers in June-July 2011, at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), in New Delhi, to develop their skills in management and economic issues.

The Probationers visited China, and Uzbekistan, in two groups, in September, and November 2011, respectively, in order to familiarise themselves with the work of Indian Missions abroad, and enhance their knowledge of India's neighbourhood. Training in multilateral diplomacy was introduced, and the Probationers visited New York, in November 2011, to get a first-hand experience of the functioning of the Permanent Mission of India, New York, and the United Nations.

A 'Bharat Darshan' tour was organised in October 2011, with a view to acquaint Probationers with the rich cultural diversity, heritage, and economic and tourism potentials of the country. During their District Training, in December 2011, the Probationers got the opportunity to learn about grassroots level administration and the problems faced by rural communities. The Probationers were also sent on attachments to the Indian Army, and the Indian Air Force. After the completion of their FSI training, the IFS Probationers of the 2010 batch began their Desk Attachments in the Ministry in February 2012.

The IFS Probationers of the 2011 batch comprising 34 Probationers, joined the Institute in December 2011 and their training programme has commenced.

Training of Officers and Staff of the Ministry

An important aspect of the FSI's functioning is to strengthen and update the knowledge and skill of the officers, and staff of the Ministry of External Affairs, on a regular basis. The 3rd mandatory Mid-Career Training Programme (MCTP) for Joint Secretary-level officers was conducted in collaboration with the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, from 9-13 May, 2011, in which 31 officers of the Ministry of External Affairs took part. The e-mail based MCTP for Director-level officers, of the 1993 batch, was completed in April 2011, and for the 1994 batch, in

September 2011. The Training Programme for the 1996 batch has been initiated even as the MCTP for the 1995 batch is moving towards completion.

Two Refresher Courses for Section Officers of the Ministry were conducted from 11-25 April, 2011, and 31 October-11 November, 2011, in which officers were briefed on communication skills, and various functions in Missions abroad. In addition, the Section Officers underwent training in Integrated Mission Accounting Software (IMAS). Two Basic Professional Courses for Assistants, UDCs, and LDCs were conducted from 28 April-6 May, and 1-9 September, 2011 in which the officials were trained in office procedure, consular matters, passport and visa matters, accounting, protocol, cyber security, etc. These officials were also trained in IMAS. The FSI, for the very first time, conducted a training programme for 46 departmentally promoted clerks (promoted from group 'D' to group 'C') from 1-23 August, 2011, which included various modules like office procedure, basic accounting, basic computer skills, and basic communication skills.

A one-day workshop, on the 'RTI Act', in collaboration with the office of the Chief Information Commissioner, was held on 9 February, 2012.

Promotion of Links with Other Organisations and Training Institutes

A five-day training programme for 38 diplomatic correspondents was conducted on 18-22 July, 2011, on 'Diplomacy and Indian Foreign Policy'. One of the Joint Secretaries represented FSI at the 12th Conference of Central Training Institutions, held at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, from 10-11 October, 2011.

Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

The Institute continued to conduct various training programmes for foreign diplomats, in its efforts at building

bridges of friendship and cooperation, with countries around the world. The courses for foreign diplomats conducted by the FSI have been greatly appreciated.

The 51st and 52nd Professional Courses for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) were successfully organised by the FSI, from 23 March to 21 April, and from 24 August to 23 September, 2011, respectively. Each course was attended by 20 diplomats from 20 different countries. The 53rd PCFD was organised at FSI from 4 January-3 February, 2012. A one-day special briefing for diplomats from Japan was organised on 27 July, 2011. The 6th Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats was organised from 16 November to 15 December, 2011, in which 38 diplomats from 10 ASEAN countries participated. The foreign diplomats were taken to various places of historical, cultural, and industrial importance, in Delhi, Agra, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, etc.

Linkages with Counterpart Institutes Abroad

Visiting foreign delegations discussed the possibility of initiating/strengthening bilateral cooperation between the FSI and their respective diplomatic academies. A five-member delegation from Iraq led by Mr Labid Majeed Abbawi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, held a meeting with the Dean (FSI) in May 2011. Mr Nurlan Aitmurzaev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, leading a four-member delegation, met the Dean (FSI) in August 2011. A two-member delegation led by Mr Leslie Flick, Head of Human Resource Department, Department of Trade and Industry, of the Republic of South Africa visited the FSI in October, 2011. Subsequently, a 12-member Vietnamese delegation from the Ho Chi Minh National Institute of Administration explored the possibility of bilateral cooperation in its discussions with the FSI in November 2011.

A Trilateral MoU on Mutual Cooperation among Diplomatic Academies was signed during the IBSA Summit held in Pretoria on 18 October, 2011.



Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

The Ministry has a well-structured programme for the promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad, with the involvement of our Missions/Posts. The Ministry regularly provides Hindi teaching material, and aids, to the relevant institutions in a whole range of countries, besides supporting foreign universities and other educational institutions in organising Hindi-related activities. During the year 2011-12, Hindi magazines were supplied to over 100 Missions/Posts abroad, and software and teaching materials were supplied to 55 of them.

The Ministry also regularly supports the organisation of Regional Hindi Conferences abroad, and during the year, three such conferences were organised in Birmingham (UK), University of Valladolid (Spain), and Tokyo (Japan), respectively.

A World Hindi Secretariat has been set up in Port Louis, under a bilateral agreement between India and Mauritius. The new Secretary-General of the World Hindi Secretariat from the Indian side has taken over charge, starting August 2011.

The Ministry also facilitates foreign students who have been granted scholarships in their admissions to study Hindi, at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. Against 100 scholarships offered, 95 students have joined during 2011-2012.

To mark the Hindi Pakhwara, and the Hindi Diwas, the Ministry organised a whole range of activities, including an essay competition, a quiz, poetry recitation, a noting and drafting exercise, etc. The response was overwhelming. Similar activities were also organised by various RPOs, and many of our Missions/Posts abroad.

The Hindi edition of the monthly 'India Perspectives' (Bharat Sandarsh), brought out by the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs was awarded the second prize by the President of India on the occasion of Hindi Diwas on 14 September, 2011.

World Hindi Day is celebrated every year at the Headquarters and in all our Missions/Posts abroad on, 10 January. As many as 53 Missions/Posts abroad were sanctioned special grants for celebrating World Hindi Day, on 10 January, 2012. At Headquarters, World Hindi Day was celebrated at the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi.

The Parliamentary Committee on Official Language reviewed the progress on the use of Hindi at the Regional Passport Office, New Delhi. For the same purpose, during the period of the report, 25 sections of the Ministry, and three RPOs at Delhi, Kochi and Patna, were inspected by the officers responsible for the use of Hindi in official work.

Archives and Record Management Division

The A&RM Division diligently pursued its mandated task of Records Management (RM), during the period beginning 1 April-30 November, 2011.

The following RM Activities were undertaken:

i)	Digitisation of records	3238
ii)	Declassification of records	544
iii)	Referral of records identified for destruction, during appraisal, to Divisions concerned	554



A new Division - Parliament & VIP - was established in January 2011. The Parliament Section of the Division has been tasked to look after the entire Parliament work of the Ministry, which includes coordination of replies to Parliament Questions, implementation of assurances given by the Ministers in Parliament, organisation of meetings of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry, work pertaining to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry, work pertaining to the visits of parliamentary delegations to foreign countries, procurement of passes for entry into the Parliament in respect of officers and staff of the Ministry, work relating to laying of reports/papers on the Table of the Houses of the Parliament and other miscellaneous work related with Parliament matters.

During this year, the Parliament Section of the Division performed well during the Budget Session, Monsoon Session and Winter Parliamentary Session. Four meetings of the Consultative Committee of the Parliament of Ministry of External Affairs were successfully organised.

The VIP Section of the Division has been tasked to attend promptly to the requests/representations received from

Members of Parliament and other VIPs. As of date, the section has received 765 requests/representations from MPs and other VIPs on issues pertaining to passports, visas, OCI/PIO Cards, bringing back of mortal remains of Indians died abroad, death compensation matters pending with foreign companies/entities, release of Indians from foreign jails and repatriation to India, whereabouts of Indians in foreign countries, evacuation of Indians in emergency situations from foreign countries, Haj related matters, etc. The section was able to take prompt action on all requests. However, action on about 100 requests/representations is still continuing and expected to be completed soon. As most of the issues pertain to Indians living/working in foreign countries, the cooperation of foreign authorities is most important in tackling any problems. Release of Indians in jails in Gulf countries and payments by the foreign companies to Indian workers are difficult issues belying an early solution. However, the Parliament & VIP Division is constantly following with our Missions abroad for an amicable solution as early as possible. The Division is also dealing with matters pertaining to political clearance to foreign visits of Indian dignitaries, International Conferences held in India, flight clearance to foreign air-crafts, etc.



Indian Council for Cultural Relations

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; exchange of exhibitions; organisation of and participation in international seminars and symposia; participation in major cultural festivals abroad; organisation of 'Festival of India' in countries abroad; exchange of groups of performing artistes; organisation of lecture-demonstration by performing artistes abroad; Distinguished Visitors Programme under which eminent personalities from abroad are invited to visit India, and the outgoing visitor's 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; organisation of the annual Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture, conducting 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 digitisation of rare manuscripts.

Regional Offices

The Council now has 16 Regional Offices in Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cuttack, Goa, Guwahati,

Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, Shillong, Thiruvananthapuram, Varanasi and Bhopal. The regional offices in Jammu and Ahmedabad are scheduled to be inaugurated in March and May 2012, respectively.

The activities of the regional offices include coordination with local bodies / organisations 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. Greater emphasis is placed on increasing the number of activities by the Regional Offices of ICCR and also on enhancing ICCR's outreach in different parts of India.

Indian Cultural Centres

The Council is at present maintaining 37 Indian Cultural Centres abroad in Abu Dhabi (UAE), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Bangkok (Thailand), Beijing (China), Berlin (Germany), Cairo (Egypt), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Durban and Johannesburg (South Africa), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Georgetown (Guyana), Jakarta (Indonesia), Kabul (Afghanistan), Kathmandu (Nepal), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), London (UK), Mexico City, Moscow (Russian Federation), Paramaribo (Suriname), Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago), Port Louis (Mauritius), Suva (Fiji), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Tokyo (Japan), Astana (Kazakhstan), Yangon (Myanmar), Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania), Seoul (South Korea), Prague (Czech Republic), Thimphu (Bhutan), Budapest (Hungary), Male (Maldives), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Sao Paulo (Brazil) and The Hague (Netherlands). Additionally there are 2 sub-centres at Bali (Indonesia) and Lautoka (Fiji).

The establishment of cultural centres at Washington, Sydney, Paris, Buenos Aires, Toronto, Hanoi and Lagos is under active consideration of the Council.

Indian Chairs Abroad

ICCR, under its Chairs programme, deputed Indian academicians/scholars to long-term and short-term chairs covering various India related subjects in foreign universities. These Chairs are established by ICCR in consultation with the relevant Missions. Besides teaching, the deputed academicians are expected to take up other academic activities like research guidance, seminar co-ordination, publications, delivering public lectures, etc.

ICCR has now 91 chairs abroad out of which 17 chairs were established in the financial year 2011-12 (till 31.01.2012). These new chairs are located in Armenia (Contemporary Indian Studies), Australia (Contemporary Indian Studies), Bangladesh (Tagore Chair), Brazil (Indian Studies), China (Tagore Chair), Czech Republic (Hindi and Indian Culture), Denmark (Contemporary Indian Studies), Nepal (Business Studies), Russia (Contemporary Indian Studies), Sweden (Contemporary Indian Studies), Switzerland (Hindi and Indian Culture) Taiwan (Indian Economy/Developmental Studies), Thailand (Contemporary Indian Studies), UK (2 Chairs, Contemporary Indian Studies and Tagore Chair) and USA (two Chairs ~ one in Indo-US Relations and the other in Indian Society and Culture).

The Council has established 17 Chairs during the period under report in countries viz. Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Nepal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand and two Chairs each in UK and USA.

Fellowship Programme

The idea of the Fellowship programme was conceptualised by the Council, keeping in view the great deal of interest scholars have in India and its cultural and intellectual heritage worldwide. It was proposed that 30 Fellowships would be awarded to carefully selected scholars from our Missions abroad who have strong and 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 Rs 1,50,000 per month and is affiliated to one Indian university, think-tank or NGO as desired by him/her. While being in India, the Fellow also interacts with students, teaching faculty, fellows and writers and participates in different talks, conferences, seminars and lectures organised by the Council. In addition to the nine Fellows who were granted fellowship in 2010 and are

continuing as on date, the Council received three more Fellows ~ one Senior Fellow from Sweden and two Junior Fellows, respectively from Slovenia and Nepal.

The total number of fellowships, including those currently going on, granted by the Council has reached 29.

Conferences and Seminars

The Council has organised four Buddhist Conferences namely in Vietnam, India, Taiwan and Singapore in this financial year. The Council also celebrated the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore commencing from 7 May, 2011 and has organised/organising several conferences around the world on this occasion. The Council has organised four Tagore Conferences so far, one each in Nepal, Russia, India and Vietnam.

The Council also organised an International Buddhist Conference in Leh, Ladakh in September 2011 which was a huge success along with an International Tagore Conference at Azad Bhawan, New Delhi on 10-12 October, 2011. The Conference was inaugurated by the Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and the Keynote Address was given by Prof. Amiya Bagchi. The conference was much appreciated by scholars.

Financial Support to Cultural Organization Overseas

As part of the Six-Point Expansion Plan, the Screening Committee constituted by ICCR and headed by President, ICCR shortlisted 19 organisations which are promoting Indian Culture abroad. These organisations are given financial support through the respective Indian Missions.

Scholarship and Welfare of International Students

The Council implements various Scholarship Schemes and other Welfare Activities for foreign students studying in India.

The details of the scholarship schemes administered during 2011-12 are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Scholarship Scheme	Slots 2011-12	Utilisation
1	General Cultural Scholarship Scheme	558	308
2	Bangladesh Scholarship Scheme	100	72
3	Sri Lanka Scholarship Scheme	60	60
4	Mauritius Scholarship Scheme	30	20
5	Special Scholarship Scheme for Mauritius National (TC Division, Ministry of External Affairs)	03	02
6	ICCR Scholarship Scheme	100	57
7	Cultural Exchange Programme	306	123
8	Commonwealth Scholarship / Fellowship Plan	54	24
9	Africa Day	01	01

Agency Work			
10	Aid to the Maldives	20	14
11	SAARC Scholarship / Fellowship / Chair	22	10
12	Ayush Scholarship Scheme for Bimstec Countries	15	11
13	Ayush Scholarship Scheme for Non Bimstec countries on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs & Ayush Department (in Indian Traditional Medicine System such as Ayurveda, Unani Sidha & Homeopathy).	27	6
14	Ayush Scholarship Scheme for Malaysia	20	1
15	Mekong Ganga Cooperation Scholarship Scheme	50	39
16	Scholarship for Pacific Island Countries	14	Nil
17	IOR-ARC Scholarship Scheme	34	8
18	Africa Scholarship Scheme	251	77
19	Nepal Silver Jubilee Scheme	64	53
20	Afghanistan Scholarship Scheme	675	644
TOTAL		2404	1530

The Council also organised Orientation Programmes for ICCR scholarship students, for Diaspora youth under MOIA's Know India Programme, and for IFS probationers. Nine summer camps, which involved around 400 ICCR scholarship students, and 15 winter camps, involving 630 students, were also organised. In addition, the Council organised the International Students Festival, as also a meeting of International Student Advisors from various universities where ICCR scholarship students are studying.

Incoming Cultural Delegations

ICCR organises 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 recommendations of Indian Missions abroad and requests received from foreign diplomatic missions and cultural centres in India. During the period April 2011 to February 2012, the Council hosted the visits of the following cultural groups:

- International Jazz Festival: In this festival, musical groups from Italy, France, Canada, Sweden and Scotland participated.
- Dance and Music groups from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Egypt, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Mexico, China, Laos, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Swaziland, Argentina, Germany, South Africa, U.K. and Vietnam were invited by the Council to give performances in different parts of the country.
- Delhi International Arts Festival (DIAF): The Council also organised DIAF under which musical troupes from Colombia, Hungary, Spain, Bangladesh, South Africa,

Mexico, Egypt, Israel, France, U.K. Italy, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Iran, Russia, Sri Lanka, Canada and Pakistan were hosted by the Council. In the Film Festival under DIAF, groups from Bangladesh, Brazil and Paraguay participated.

- Buddhist International Performing Art Festival: The Council organised this festival from 28 November-1 December, 2011. In this festival, groups from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Cambodia, Korea, Bhutan, Spain and Indian groups from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Delhi and Shillong participated.
- South Asian Band Festival: The Council organised this festival from 2-4 December, 2011 in which musical bands from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar and Malaysia participated. The performances of the groups were arranged at Delhi, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Guwahati, Shillong, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Shantiniketan and Pune.

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).

Busts and Exhibitions

The Council has sent 10 busts of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to different countries (Singapore, Netherlands,

Malaysia, Australia, Suriname, Ireland, Slovenia, Vietnam and Egypt) as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Tagore and 15 busts/ statues/ sculptures of other leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose to different countries.

Twenty exhibitions displaying ICCR's own collection were arranged during the period April 2011-January 2012 in cities/countries such as Algeria, Iran, Ashgabat, Mauritius, Germany, Moscow, Rome, Malaysia, Belgrade, Brazil, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Mexico, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Maldives, Singapore, Kathmandu and Japan. Additionally, the Council provided sponsorship to 22 artists/ exhibitions for doing shows abroad. The Council also provided sponsorship to NGOs/ artists and incoming exhibitions from abroad for shows in India. Under the 'Horizon Series' the Council arranged exhibitions of 40 young/ upcoming artists covering a variety of themes at Azad Bhavan, Art Gallery. An exhibition of Digital Prints of Art Works painted by Tagore was sent to many countries including Tanzania, Malaysia, China, Japan, Nepal, Russia, Germany, Maldives, Hungary, Costa Rica, Mauritius and Bangladesh.

Outgoing Cultural Delegations

As many as 119 cultural delegations were sponsored by ICCR during April 2011-January, 2012.

Festival of India: As part of its effort to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries, the Council organised the following festivals during the period April 2011 to Jan 2012:

- Year of India in Canada from March to October, 2011. In this festival, a seven-member Sarod group, three Bollywood dance groups (two of 15 members and one of 40 members), Kathakali Group (14 members), two Chinh groups (10 and 15 members), Villon group of six members, Kadam group of 15 members and 13 members of Kuchipudi dance participated.
- Festival of India in Brazil from May to June 2011. In this festival, a band group of seven members, Kuchipudi dance group of six members, a 14-member Contemporary dance group, six-member Santoor group and nine-member Villon group participated.
- Festival of India in South Korea from June 2011 and the closing would be in March 2012. In this festival, a 21-member Odissi dance group, 16-member Bharat Natyam group, 16-member Contemporary group, 12-member Rajasthani group and 13-member Bollywood group participated.
- Festival of India Culture in Russia from September to October 2011 (two groups participated in the festival, i.e.

26-member Bollywood group led by Shri Sanjoy Roy and 14- member Halar Lok Kendra Gujrati Folk group.

Celebration of Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary: The celebration of Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary continued in 2011-12, with various events scheduled till May 2012. The ICCR also continued with series of conferences on Buddhism, with two events in Vietnam and China during the year. Some of the programmes started in 2010-11 to celebrate the Birth Anniversary continued in the year 2011-12 as well.

Distinguished Visitors Programme

Under this programme, the Council invites writers, scholars, intellectuals, opinion makers, academics, artists, etc., to India from abroad to experience Indian culture and interact with institutions and audiences in India. Leading representatives from think-tanks and cultural institutions are also invited to share their insight and experiences. Eminent personalities such as Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, Mr Nur Bekri, Governor, Xinjiang Province of China, Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Laureate from Bangladesh, Dr Erhard Busek, Chairman, Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe from Austria were invited for interactive sessions with Indian experts and lectures on a wide range of subjects covering social work, law, politics and religions studies were arranged.

Hindi Section

ICCR regularly organises various Conferences, Mushairahs, Kavi Samelans and many other activities to reach out to people and promote our national language. ICCR also brings out a bi-monthly magazine in Hindi (Gaganchal). The Council has deputed Hindi teachers at our Cultural Centres/ Missions and foreign universities in Romania, Armenia, Surinam and Dhaka.

The ICCR organised a Visit India tour for the Hindi learning students from Tashkent and Armenia in August 2011. It also arranged a Visit India programme for students from Europe selected by the UK Hindi Samiti and HCI, London in August 2011. The Council also organised the All India Kavi Sammelan in collaboration with the Broadcasting Corporation of India. The Council provided financial support of Rs 5 lakh to the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Vardha, to organise a seminar on Hindi. A book release function to release book "180 Degree Ka Mod" by Smt. Pushap Lata Sharma was organised in May 2011. The Council in collaboration with the Udbhav Social, Cultural and Educational Society organised the 'Udbhav Maan Seva Samman Samaroh' in November. 2011. The Council also organised several other book release functions. During the three days of the Indian Diaspora Conference, the inaugural

function was arranged by the Council in collaboration with the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan. The Council also provided a grant of Rs 1 lakh to Mahavir Samta Sandesh, Udaipur for organising a three-day writer's conference.

Presentation Unit

During the period April 2011 to January 2012 the Council presented 30 musical instruments including veena, sitar, mridangam, ghatam and drum to Malaysia. Also art objects viz. wooden elephants and other art works were given to Poland. Thirteen musical instruments which included harmonium, tanpura, sawarmandal, tabla, dholak were presented to High Commission of Dhaka.

Library

The personal collection of books and manuscripts bequeathed by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Founder President of the Council, forms the core of the ICCR Library. A catalogue of the manuscripts and personal books of Maulana Azad has been printed in book form in three languages, Arabic, Urdu and Persian. The Library is largely used by scholars researching on Indian Arts, Culture, History, Literature and International Relations. Over the decades, the library has grown many fold and currently has more than 50,000 volumes. The details of number of visitors, books supplied to visitors, regional offices and HQ library are given in the table.

Financial Year	No. of Visitors	Supply For ICCs		Supply For ROs		Books & Journals for HQ Library			
		Books	Journals	Books	Journals	English	Hindi	Urdu	Journals
2011-12	3808	369	553	135	220	17	4	2	27

Nehru Award

The Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding is conferred on an annual basis and 36 such awards have been given so far. For the year 2009, the award was conferred on German Chancellor Angela Dorothea Merkel who received the award at a ceremony held on 31 May, 2011 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



During the period from 1 April, 2011, to 31 January, 2012, the Indian Council of World Affairs organised, and planned, the events as under:

i) Lectures	9
ii) Seminars	6
iii) Bilateral strategic dialogue	24
iv) Book launch/Release function	3
Total	42

Seminars

Some of the major events included:

- (i) ICWA-IORG International Conference, on 'Reinvigorating Indian Ocean Rim- Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)' [in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Research Group (IORG)] (5-6 May, 2011).
- (ii) Academic Conference on 'India-Africa Academic Forum: Partnership for Enhancing Development and Growth', in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (11-12 May, 2011).
- (iii) Address by Mr Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan, on 'Two Democracies Meet at Sea: for a Better and Safer Asia' (20 September, 2011).
- (iv) Address by Mr Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan, on 'Strategic and Global Partnership Built on People-to-People 'Kizuna' (the Bonds of Friendship)' (28 December, 2011).

Visits of Foreign Dignitaries to ICWA

A number of foreign dignitaries visited ICWA during the year. A few among them were former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, the Nigerian Minister for Planning, Lithuania's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Syrian Deputy Foreigner Minister.

Research

In 2011, 10 Research Fellows were recruited, in two stages. Currently, the Research Wing comprises 12 Research Fellows and a Director (Research). ICWA also recruited Research Interns, for short durations, periodically.

The ICWA scholars engaged in study and research on political, security, and economic trends, and developments, in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States, and the wider global geostrategic and economic environment. In the past

one year, 21 Issue Briefs/ Policy Briefs/Viewpoints were published.

While the ICWA's in-house research capacity is being steadily built, eminent scholars, and former practitioners, of foreign policy, were commissioned to conduct research on specific areas, or projects, in the fields of India's relations with key regions or countries, or major international economic issues.

During the year, the ICWA hosted a number of international conferences, seminars, and workshops, on a variety of issues, including regional and global politico-strategic developments, economic and trade issues, and cross-cultural dialogues. Significantly, these, and similar events, provided academic underpinnings to the ongoing research at the ICWA, served as policy inputs to the government, and created research collaborations, with partners and foreign universities. Important among these include: (a) Delhi Dialogue III with the ASEAN countries in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, FICCI, ISEAS, Singapore, and SAEA, Singapore in March 2011; (b) First Africa-India Academic Conference in partnership with the Africa Union Commission Secretariat and the Ethiopian International Institute for Peace and Development (EIIPD), in Addis Ababa, in May 2011; (c) Conference on 'Reinvigorating IOR-ARC', jointly hosted with Indian Ocean Research Group (IORG), in May 2011; and (d) III India-EU Forum on Effective Multilateralism 2011, in partnership with the EUISS, Paris, and PISM, Warsaw in September 2011.

Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) :

ICWA participated in the 11th Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)-related events, organised from April 2011 to December 2011. The second Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Cyber Security, was organised by the ICWA, in Bengaluru, in October 2011.

ICWA Library

Library automation has been in place, and is fully functional. The collection is now searchable through OPAC, (online public access catalogue), as well as Web OPAC (web link provided on the ICWA's website). The first phase of the digitisation of the valuable collection, comprising rare books, bound volumes of newspapers, and press clippings, has been completed. The contents pages of the entire collection of

India Quarterly (1945-2008), have been digitised and can be browsed on the website. Some documents of the 1st Asian Relations Conference have also been digitised, to preserve them for future.

The ICWA Library membership is open for research in international relations by Parliamentarians, Diplomats, Senior Civil Servants, Journalists, Subject Experts, Academics, and other members of the public, including bonafide Post Graduate / M.Phil. / Ph.D. / Research Scholars in the Social Sciences. The seating capacity has been increased to about 300, and the atmosphere is comfortable and conducive for learning and research work. The library is

now attracting serious scholars. The Sapru House library is a member of 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. The Library collection is also available on the DELNET's union catalogue.

The book and journal collection is being strengthened with the addition of 910 new books. A collection of books written by our diplomats has been created in the Library (Heritage of Diplomacy). More books are being added to this collection, which is highlighted on our website. Addition of new books and documents is a regular feature on our website.



Research and Information System for Developing Countries

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Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, is an organization that specializes in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation. The institute 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 countries, on international economic issues.

The focus of the RIS work programme is to promote South-South cooperation and assist developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various fora. RIS is engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives. RIS is providing analytical support to the Government of India in the negotiations for concluding Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements with partner countries. Through its intensive network of policy think-tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues.

Research and Policy Inputs provided to the Government

RIS undertakes research studies to assist 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-Africa:** A Note on 'India-Africa Economic Relations: New Vistas of Partnership', was prepared and sent to PMO, in May 2011, for the Prime Minister's visit to Ethiopia, for the Africa-India Forum Summit.
- **IBSA Academic Forum:** RIS participated in the IBSA Academic Forum that was held on the sides of the IBSA Summit, in Pretoria, South Africa. RIS has coordinated the IBSA Academic Forum, and Academic Forum for India, regarding policy issues related to IBSA cooperation in the larger context of global governance and South-South cooperation. As India is proposed to host the next IBSA Summit in 2012, RIS is India's representative on the Academic Forum.
- **Rules of Origin:** RIS has been participating in the Workshops on Rules of Origin, being organised by the East Asia Summit (EAS) Members. The Workshops are intended to provide a basis for moving towards harmonisation of rules of origin among EAS Members.
- " **SAARC:** RIS contributed background papers on South Asian Economic Integration and Trade in Services, for the First South Asia Forum meeting, held in New Delhi.
- " **India-Myanmar:** A Note on 'Introducing Rupee in India-Myanmar Trade Transactions' was prepared, and sent to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, in August 2011.

Policy Dialogues, Conferences, Workshops, Capacity Building Programmes

During 2011-12, RIS organised a number of policy dialogues, conferences, workshops, capacity building programmes, etc., to fulfil its mandate of fostering intellectual dialogue and capacity building among developing countries. The select major events organised during the period include the following:

Workshop on India-Norway Relations and Potential for Partnership: RIS, jointly with the Research Council of Norway, and the Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature, ANU, Canberra, organised a Workshop on India-Norway Relations and Potential for Partnership in New Delhi, from 29-30 April, 2011. It took up the following themes for discussion: Do Norwegians have a Responsibility to flight Poverty in India?; Inclusive Growth - Moral Imperatives; the Nature of Moral Obligation and Duties to the Distant Needy; Poverty Alleviation: Aid, Autonomy, and Ethical Agency; Global Poverty: Duties of Assistance versus Duties of Contribution; Threshold Theories of International Obligation; Global Poverty, Inequality, and Aid Flows; Economic Growth, Agrarian Distress, Casualisation of the Workforce, and Family Migration in India; Traditional Resource Rights - There and Yet Not There - Pushing it Forward Through 'Disclosures'; Poverty, Global Regimes, and Norway-India Collaboration: Insights from Agriculture at WTO Negotiations; Tackling Poverty Through International

Connectedness; and, the Role of Civil Society Coalitions in the Fight Against Poverty.

The participants were: Mr Ole Koksvik, CSMN, ANU, Canberra; Dr Rajshree Chandra, IDMC, Delhi University; Shri Amitabh Behar, NSWC, New Delhi; Dr Shashi Motilal, Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi; Prof. S. Subramanian, MIDS, Chennai; Prof. D. Jayaraj, MIDS, Chennai; Dr Rajesh Kumar, Asst. Professor, Delhi College of Arts & Commerce, Delhi University; Dr Ratna M. Sudarshan, Director, Institute of Social Studies Trust, New Delhi; Shri Ajay S. Mehta, E.D., NFI, IHC; Ms. Neelima Khetan, Seva Mandir, Udaipur; Prof. Sanjay G. Reddy, The New School, New York; and, Prof. Neera Chandhoke, Delhi University. From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, and Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, participated.

International Conference on Equity and Access to Medicine- Role of Innovation and Institutions: RIS, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, and UCLAN-University of Central Lancashire, with the support of the European Commission, organised the International Conference on Equity and Access to Medicine: Role of Innovation and Institutions, in New Delhi, from 12-13 May, 2011. Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, Former President of India, delivered the inaugural address. Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS; Dr K. Satynarayana, Deputy Director General, ICMR; and Dr Miltos Ladikas, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK, also spoke at the inaugural session. Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, RIS, extended the vote of thanks.

The conference had sessions on the following broad themes: Public Policy and Access to Health, Pharmaceutical Innovation: Issues and Challenges; Health Impact Fund and Innova Project; Mainstreaming Traditional Medicine in Public Health Discourse; Panel Discussion: Perspectives from Chairs of Different Sessions. Dr T Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, Dr Sun Xiao Yun, Deputy Director General, CASTED, Beijing, and Ms. Anita Das Former Secretary, Department of AYUSH, New Delhi, Chaired the different sessions.

The speakers at the conference included: Dr Andrew Alexendra, University of Melbourne, Prof. Fatima Alvarez-Castillo, Professor of Politics, University of the Philippines, Manila; Dr Miltos Ladikas, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK; Dr David Coles, Wageningen University, The Netherlands; Dr Jon Pedersen, Head of Research and Deputy Managing Director, FAFO Institute for Applied International Studies, Norway; Prof. Gao Zhiqian, CASTED; Dr Sun Xiao Yun, Deputy Director General,

CASTED; Dr Miltos Ladikas, University of Central Lancashire, UK; Dr Vasantha Muthuswamy, Retd. Senior Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Chennai. Dr. K Satynarayana, Deputy Director General, ICMR; Mr Tapan Ray, Director-General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), Mumbai; Dr D G Shah, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, Mumbai; Dr G N Qazi, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi; Dr Swati Bal-Tembe, Vice-President, Piramal Life Sciences, Mumbai; Dr G J Samadhanam, Adviser, Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi; Dr Arvind Chopra, Director, Center for Rheumatic Diseases (CRD), Pune; Dr D C Katoch, Adviser, AYUSH, New Delhi; Dr Dinesh Abrol, NISTADS, New Delhi; and, Dr Nandini Kumar, Consultant, ICMR. From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar (RIS Director-General), Dr Sachin Chaturvedi (Senior Fellow, RIS), Mr T C James (Consultant); and Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas (Associate Fellow, RIS), participated in the conference.

Meeting of the Working Group of ASEAN-India Connectivity: Comprehensive Asian Development Plan, Phase 2, and An Open Dialogue on ASEAN-India Connectivity, 22-23 May, 2011, New Delhi: RIS has been entrusted by the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), to carry out the India country report of India-ASEAN Connectivity (IAC) project. The IAC is the second phase of the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP), which was prepared in response to the request from the East Asia Summit (EAS) leaders. To discuss the initial findings of this study, RIS, in collaboration with ERIA, organised a workshop in New Delhi, from 22-23 May, 2011. The first day (22 May, 2011) of the workshop was devoted to 'ASEAN-India Connectivity: Comprehensive Asian Development Plan, Phase 2', which was attended by the ERIA Research Project FY2010 Working Group Members, while an Open Dialogue on ASEAN-India Connectivity was organised on the second day (23 May, 2011). Ms. Renu Pall, Joint Secretary (ASEAN), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, made special remarks at the Dialogue. The workshop on the second day was attended by selected representatives of the Government of India, and the ERIA Research Project FY2010 Working Group Members. From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar (Director-General), and Dr Prabir De (Fellow) participated.

Conference on Mekong- India Cooperation- Linking Markets, Fostering Trade: RIS has been supporting the process of regional economic integration in Asia, with its studies and research. Besides its pioneering contribution to the process of economic integration in South Asia, and on broader regional cooperation in Asia, it has been supporting

the ASEAN-India economic partnership with special emphasis on India-Mekong cooperation. As its flagship initiative to enhance deeper cooperation between India and Mekong countries, RIS has been implementing a project on Building Capacity through South-South Cooperation: Case of Mekong-India Cooperation since 2007, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen trade and investment related capacity of Mekong countries through information sharing, dissemination of knowledge and experiences, networking, and transfer of skills. Mekong-Ganga Policy Brief has been launched by RIS, within the framework of this project. It seeks to disseminate the policy-related research, news, viewpoints, and information about resources, among the policy circles and think-tanks, to promote the cause of deeper cooperation between India and Mekong countries.

Being a part of this project, RIS organised an international conference on 'Mekong-India Cooperation: Linking Markets, Fostering Trade', at Kolkata, on 23-24 June, 2011, in collaboration with the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies (IFPS), Calcutta University, with participants of think-tanks of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Prof. Saugata Roy, Minister of State for Urban Development, Government of India, delivered a special address at this conference. Shri Shyamal Sen, formerly with the Government of West Bengal, Chief Justice of the State of Uttar Pradesh, and Chairperson of West Bengal Human Rights Commission inaugurated the event. This international conference was attended by senior policy makers, research scholars, and government officials, of the Mekong countries, and India, UNESCAP officials, and students. From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director-General; and Dr Prabir De, Fellow, participated in the conference.

Workshops on South Asian Regional Cooperation: RIS, with support of Asian Development Bank (ADB), organised a Stakeholders Consultation on South Asian Regional Cooperation, in New Delhi, on 13 June, 2011. Similarly, stakeholder consultations were organised jointly: with Centre for Indo-Lanka Studies, and ADB, in Colombo, Sri Lanka; with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 11 July, 2011, in Colombo, Sri Lanka; with the Institute for Policy Research and Development, in Kathmandu, Nepal from 15-16 July, 2011; and with the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), and supported by ADB, Manila, on 23 July, 2011, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. These were parts of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) RETA 6472, titled Strategic Partnership for Policy Development and Action to Foster Regional Cooperation in South Asia, which was

extended to RIS by the ADB. These meetings were attended by research scholars and senior policy makers. From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar (Director-General), Dr S.K. Mohanty (Senior Fellow), Dr Prabir De (Fellow), and Prof. I N Mukherji (Senior Consultant) participated. The detailed agendas of these meetings are available on the RIS website.

Third Workshop on Rules of Origin: RIS, jointly with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, organised the Third Workshop on Rules of Origin, in New Delhi, on 25-26 July, 2011. Dr. Rahul Khullar, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, inaugurated the Workshop. High-level representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Australia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam, and senior officers from the Department of Commerce, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and DGFT, Government of India, took part in the deliberations. From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, and Dr Ram Upendra Das, Senior Fellow, took part. Dr Ram Upendra Das was also the coordinator of the workshop.

Brainstorming Session on Development Cooperation and Emerging Economies: On the eve of HLF4 Busan, RIS organised a Brainstorming Session on Development Cooperation and Emerging Economies, in New Delhi, on 9 November, 2011. The session began with welcome remarks by Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, and former Foreign Secretary, delivered the inaugural address. Prof. W P S Sidhu, Senior Fellow, Center on International Cooperation, New York University, chaired the inaugural session. Shri Prabodh Saxena, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, also addressed the inaugural session.

Ms Elizabeth Warfield, Mission Director, US Agency for International Development (USAID), chaired the session on Emerging Economies and Development Cooperation. The prominent speakers were: Mr Bernd Dunnzloff, Head of Economic Cooperation and Development, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; Mr Sam Sharpe, Head, DFID-India; and, Mr Metasebia Tadesse, Minister Councillor, Embassy of Ethiopia, New Delhi. Mr Navdeep Singh Suri, Joint Secretary (PD), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, chaired the session on New Actors and New Debates. The main speakers were: Mr Nick Langton, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation, New Delhi; Dr Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate and Coordinator, West Asia and Africa, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi; Prof. Thomas De Hoop, GDN 3ie Program, New Delhi; Prof. W P S Sidhu; and, Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, RIS.

International Conference on ASEAN-India Connectivity: Towards Deepening Asian Integration: RIS, jointly with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, and CII, organised the International Conference on ASEAN-India Connectivity: Towards Deepening Asian Integration, in Chennai, on 12 November, 2011. The conference began with opening remarks by Shri B. Ramaswamy, Chairman, Infrastructure Sub-Committee CII Southern Region, and President and Head, Infrastructure and Facilities Management, Feedback Infrastructure Services (Pvt.) Ltd. Prof. Fuku Kimura, Chief Economist, ERIA, and Keio University, Tokyo, made special remarks. Dr Prabir De (Fellow, RIS), and Dr Ramgopal Agarwala (Distinguished Fellow), RIS, also addressed the opening session. The RIS Study on ASEAN-India Connectivity Report: India Country Study was also released during the opening session.

Dr Ramgopal Agarwala, Distinguished Fellow, RIS chaired the first working session, on Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) and ASEAN-India Connectivity. It had lead presentations by Dr So Umezaki, Senior Research Fellow, IDEJETRO, Singapore, and ERIA, Jakarta; and, Dr Prabir De, Fellow, RIS. The panellists included Shri Adil Zaidi, Associate Director, Ernst & Young, New Delhi; Dr M Suresh Babu, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai; Shri Muraleemohan M, Assistant General Manager(Business Development), L&T-Infrastructure Development Projects Limited, Chennai; and, Dr Nilanjan Banik, Associate Professor, Institute of Financial Management and Research (IFMR), Chennai.

The second working session, on ASEAN-India Connectivity: Opportunities for Southern India, was chaired by Prof. N S Siddharthan, Honorary Professor, Madras School of Economics, Chennai, and Member, Research Advisory Council, RIS. In this session, the lead presentation was made by Shri Sanjeev Moholkar, Lead Development Specialist, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) India Office, New Delhi. The panellists were: Shri B Suresh, President and CEO, Mahindra Consulting Engineers Ltd., Chennai; Dr Subash S, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai; and, Dr Madhuri Saripalle, Assistant Professor, Madras School of Economics (MSE), Chennai. The conference concluded with a vote of thanks extended by Dr Prabir De, Fellow, RIS.

Capacity Building for Research and Information Exchange on Socio-Economic Impacts of Living Modified Organisms Under the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety: RIS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, CBD Secretariat, and Government of Norway, organised a three-day workshop

on 'Capacity Building for Research and Information Exchange on Socio-Economic Impacts of Living Modified Organisms Under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety', in New Delhi, on 14-16 November, 2011. This workshop was an outcome of the Decision V/3.IV of COP-MOP 5, held at Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. Dr T Chatterjee, Secretary (E&F), Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Government of India, delivered the inaugural address. Dr Casper Linnestad, Senior Adviser in the Ministry of Environment, Norway, made a statement on behalf of the Minister. Shri Hem Pande, Joint Secretary, MoEF and Mr. Charles Gbedemah, Senior Programme Officer, CBD Secretariat, also addressed the inaugural session. Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS proposed the vote of thanks. Dr P G Chengappa, National Professor ICAR at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru was the co-chair from India. The two themes of the workshop were: exchange and analysis of information on socio-economic considerations, and identification of capacity-building activities, needs, and priorities, regarding socio-economic considerations. Each session involved break-out group discussion. From RIS, Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, and Shri Reji K Joseph, Consultant, participated in the workshop, as members of Indian delegation.

Meeting on Regional Cooperation in South Asia: A Meeting on Regional Cooperation in South Asia was held, in RIS, on 13 April, 2011. Senior officers from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, and the Asian Development Bank, New Delhi office, participated. From RIS, Dr S K Mohanty (Senior Fellow), Prof. I N Mukherji, and Dr Prabir De (Fellow), made presentations.

Discussion Meeting on India 2050: A Discussion Meeting was organised on the RIS study "India 2050" on 24 May, 2011. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, chaired the meeting. Dr Ramgopal Agarwala, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, made a presentation on the study. The members of the RIS faculty took part in the discussion.

Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group: India has assumed the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), in 2011, for the next two years. RIS, being the focal point of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG), which is an integral body of the First Track initiative, has assumed the Chairmanship of the IORAG. In the 17th Meeting of the IORAG, held in Bengaluru, on 11 November, 2011, RIS submitted a study on 'Trade and Investment Prospects of the IOR-ARC in the New Millennium: New Economic Frontiers of the Region'. The report highlights the economic complementarities of the region, and

sketches the roadmap for forging further cooperation among member countries in the region.

The main findings of the study are the following:

- Considering the economic profile of the economies and their engagements with other regions, any form of regional cooperation, including Preferential Trading Arrangement or Free Trade Arrangement, may not be suitable for regional cooperation amongst 19 countries, spread out from Australia in the east to Kenya in the west.
- Taking into account heterogeneity in size of member countries and their diverse economic interests, sectoral cooperation in the framework of 'open regionalism' could be an ideal alternative economic strategy for the region. Various schemes of sectoral cooperation have been identified in the study, for economic cooperation.

As the Chair of the IORAG, RIS has proposed several strategies for making the grouping respond to the challenge of making IOR-ARC a vibrant organisation. IORAG will continue to focus on various streams of research, and other activities relevant for the Association including economic, strategic and science and technology related issues, in the next two years.

Workshop on India and Its Eastern Neighbours: Reviewing the Relationships: RIS, jointly with Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Singapore, and the National University of Singapore, organised the workshop on India and Its Eastern Neighbours: Reviewing the Relationships, in New Delhi, on 5 December, 2011. The workshop began with opening remarks by Prof. Tan Tai Yong, Director, Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Singapore, and Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director General, RIS. The workshop addressed the following themes: India and East Asia: Strategic Overview; India and ASEAN: Issues and Perceptions; and, India and East Asia: Bilateral Relationships. Prof. Tan Tai Yong, Director, ISAS, Singapore; Commodore (Retd.) C Uday Bhaskar, Director, National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi; and, Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS, chaired the different sessions of the workshop. The main speakers included Dr Sinderpal Singh, Research Fellow, ISAS, Singapore; Prof. G V C Naidu, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Prof. S D Muni, Visiting Research Professor, ISAS, Singapore; Dr Pankaj Jha, Research Fellow, Indian Council for World Affairs, New Delhi; and, Dr Amitendu Palit, Head, Development & Programmes and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, Singapore. From RIS, Dr S K Mohanty, (Senior Fellow), Dr Ram Upendra Das, (Senior Fellow), and Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, participated.

Capacity Building Programmes

Capacity-Building Module on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives: RIS, on behalf of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi organised the Capacity-Building Module on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives, as part of the 51st Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), in New Delhi, on 13 April, 2011.

Capacity-Building Module on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives: RIS, on behalf of the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi, organised the Capacity-Building Module on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives for Foreign Diplomats, under the 52nd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), in New Delhi, from 13-14 September, 2011.

Capacity-Building Module on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives: RIS organised the Capacity Building on 'Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives', under the Refresher Course in Economics, in collaboration with UGC-Academic Staff College, Jamia Millia Islamia, in New Delhi, on 26 September, 2011.

ARTNeT/RIS Capacity Building Workshop on Use of Gravity Modelling: RIS organised the ARTNet/RIS Capacity Building Workshop on Use of Gravity Modelling, in New Delhi from 9-11 November, 2011.

Capacity-Building Module on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives: RIS, on behalf of the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi organised the Capacity-Building Module on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives for Foreign Diplomats under, the sixth Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats, in New Delhi, on 13 December, 2011.

Capacity-Building Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP): Organised under ITEC/SCAAP, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi from 13 February-9 March, 2012.

RIS Publications

RIS published one Report, two Policy Briefs, two Discussion Papers, one issue of the *South Asia Economic Journal*, two issues of the *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, one combined issue of the *New Asia Monitor*, and one combined issue of the *RIS Diary*. RIS publications can be downloaded from its website <http://www.ris.org.in>



Library

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 to/receives, and maintains, about 300 Periodicals/Journals, and newspapers titles (including online journals and databases).

The Library has an inhouse 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-printer, and photocopiers.

A Library Committee manages library activities, including the purchase of books, and subscription for journals/periodicals. In March 2011, 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 computerised, using an integrated library software package "LIBSYS", covering all features of library management. LIBSYS follows MARC as well as non-MARC formats. 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 Ministry of External Affairs Library at Patiala House. The Library's information can also be accessed through 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 the 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; and, Chronicle of Events, important news items about international relations, and related subjects.

The Library also regularly issues daily news chronicles, book alerts, and article alerts, and these are sent through group email id to all Foreign Service Officers in the Ministry and Indian Missions abroad.

In addition, the Library also subscribes to "EIU online database / services", "MBIC from Data Monitor", "Business Monitor International," "Keesing's World News Archive," "Newspaper Direct," and "JSTOR", etc., for 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 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 1998-99], 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 on the basis of material available as on 1 January, 2000. This CD can be consulted in the Library at Patiala House, New Delhi.

The Foreign Secretary inaugurated a "Rare Books Library" Section, in Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, in the presence of the External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna, and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed, on 26 July, 2011. One 'Catalogue of Rare Books 1824-1947', containing more than 500 rare books, was published and distributed to the dignitaries.

The Library also provided practical training to the students of Library & Information Science, studying in various institutions of Delhi, from time to time.

Dr S S Dhaka, Director, and Shri Mahesh C Sharma, ALIO, have attended IFLA Committee meetings as members, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Ministry's Library officers and staff members participated in international and national conferences/seminars of various professional organisations and associations, including IASLIC and the SAARC Documentation Center, Kathmandu.

Dr S S Dhaka, Director (Lib & Inf.) has been elected as Chair of Government Information and Official Publications Sections (GIOPS), of IFLA.

On request from HCI, Port of Spain, Shri Sunil Pratap, SLIA, went on a short temporary duty for automation of the HCI Library, in November 2011. The automation exercise and the related training of staff was successful.

The MEA Library fulfils the requirements for categorisation as a Category V Library, as per orders of the Ministry of Finance.

The MEA 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.



Finance and Budget

The major portion of the Budget of the Ministry of External Affairs is under Non-Plan Budget. The Plan portion of The Ministry's Budget caters to certain large developmental projects, undertaken in some of the neighbouring countries of India. These projects are located in Bhutan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. The Government of India has extended loans to the Government of Bhutan, to assist in the implementation of developmental projects. During 2011-12, the loan extended amounts to Rs 791.00 crore (RE).

The 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 Pule-Khumri double circuit transmission line, in Afghanistan, has been completed. Two sub-stations are now being constructed at Doshi and Charikar, in Afghanistan,

as additional components of this project. The work on the construction of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project in Myanmar has been continuing. The establishment of the Nalanda International University in Bihar is also being funded from the Plan allocation. Land for the project site in Nalanda district has been made available to the University for further development and construction thereon.

The revenue of Ministry of External Affairs' from Passport, Visa fees and other receipts up to 31 December, 2011 has been Rs 1,884.05 crore. Receipt on account of Passport fee is Rs 722.65 crore, Visa fee, Rs 928.40 crore and other receipts, Rs 233.00 crore.

Pending Audit Paras: We have 21 paras pending for the period from 2005 to 2010. In addition to this, we have 13 pending paras for 2010-11 and 2011-12. The latest position of outstanding paras is detailed at Appendix XVI (Page 210).



Appendices

Appendix I

Treaties/Conventions/Agreements Concluded or Renewed by India with Other Countries in 2011

A. MULTILATERAL

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
1.	Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007.		Acceded on 10.1.2011	
2.	Protocol of 1996 to Amend the Convention on Limitation for Maritime Claims, 1976		Acceded on 10.1.2011	
3.	United Nations Convention against Corruption	9.12.2005	2.5.2011	
4.	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its 3 Protocols: 1. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; 2. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and 3. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.	12.12.2002	20.4.2011	
5.	SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment SAARC Agreement on Rapid response to Natural Disasters SAARC Agreement on Multilateral Arrangement on Recognition of Conformity Assessment SAARC Agreement on implementation of Regional Standards SAARC Seed Bank Agreement	29.04.2010 11.11.2011 11.11.2011 11.11.2011	07.12.2011	

B. BILATERAL

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
1.	Austria: 1. MoU between the Ministry of Railways of India and Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of Austria regarding Technology-Specific Cooperation in the field of Railways 2. MoU between the Dept. of Science and Technology, GOI and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Vienna, Austria	05.10.2011 05.10.2011		
2.	Argentina: 1. Agreement between India and Argentina on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters	26.04.2011		
3.	Bahamas: 1. Agreement between India and Bahamas for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes	11.02.2011		

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Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
4.	Bangladesh: 1. Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) 2. Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development 3. Protocol to the Agreement Concerning the Demarcation of the Land Boundary between and Related matters 4. Addendum to the MoU between and to facilitate Overland Transit Traffic 5. MoU on Renewable Energy Cooperation 6. MoU on the Conservation of the Sundarbans 7. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Fisheries 8. MoU on Mutual Broadcast of Television Programmes 9. Protocol on Conservation of the Royal Tiger of the Sunderbans 10. Addendum to the MoU between India and Bangladesh to facilitate overland transit traffic between Bangladesh and Nepal 11. MoU between Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India and University of Dhaka, Bangladesh 12. MoU on Academic Cooperation Between National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi, India and BGMEA Institute of Fashion and Technology (BIFT), Dhaka- Bangladesh	09.02.2009 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011	26.03.2009	07.07.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011 06.09.2011
5.	Botswana: 1. Agreement between India and Botswana for establishment of a Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation	14.01.2011		
6.	Bulgaria: 1. Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Health & Medicine 2. Programme of Cooperation in the field of Science & Technology for period 2012-14	28.11.2011 29.11.2011		
7.	Canada: 1. MoU between the Ministry of Mines of the Republic of India and Ministry of Energy and Resources of the Province of Saskatchewan of Canada, regarding cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources.	15.03.2011		

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Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
	2. MoU between the Ministry of Mines of the Republic of India and the British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines Regarding Cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources	17.11.2011		
8.	China: 1. MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Compilation of an Encyclopedia of India-China Cultural Contacts.	10.05.2011		
9.	Czech Republic: 1. Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between India and Czech Republic 2. Ministry conveyed clearance on 10.03.2011 for exchange of note to continue "Agreement between India and Czech in the field of use of Nuclear Energy for peaceful purposes". The agreement was signed on 09.11.1966	10.06.2010 Continue Agreement signed on 10.03.2011	02.08.2010	24.03.2011
10.	Denmark: 1. Social Security Agreement.	17.02.2010		01.05.2011
11.	Dominica: 1. MoU between India and Dominica for setting up an Information Technology Centre for Excellence (CEIT) in Dominica	14.10.2011		
12.	Estonia: 1. Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement	19.09.2011		
13.	Ethiopia: 1. Agreement between India and Ethiopia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income 2. MoU between National Small Industries Corporation, India and Federal Micro and Small Enterprises Development Agency, Ethiopia for mutual cooperation for the development of small industries in Ethiopia	25.05.2011 25.05.2011		
14.	France: 1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic on the Protection of Confidentiality of Technical Data and Information relating to Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. 2. Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of India concerning Intellectual Property Rights on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.	06.12.2010 06.12.2010		

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Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
	<p>3. Agreement on Film Co-production between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of India.</p> <p>4. Cooperation Agreement between the Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique Aux Energies Alternatives (France) and the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India in the Field of Nuclear Science and Technology for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.</p> <p>5. Joint Statement for the continuation and strengthening of cooperation in the roads sector between the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Republic of India</p> <p>6. MoU between the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing Republic of France and Indian Roads Congress</p>	<p>06.12.2010</p> <p>05.01.2011</p> <p>05.01.2011</p>	<p>18.3.2011</p>	<p>05.01.2011</p> <p>05.01.2011</p>
15.	<p>Germany:</p> <p>1. MoU between Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Wissenschaftsgemeinschaft Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Association (LA) for organising Indo-German Symposia on Frontiers of Science and Technology</p> <p>2. Two Umbrella Agreements were signed with Government of Germany for Financial and Technical Cooperation respectively, to formalise the German commitment of Euro 500.3 million (Euro 485.5 million for Financial Cooperation and Euro 14.8 million for Technical Cooperation)</p>	<p>31.05.2011</p> <p>02.02.2011</p>		
16.	<p>Ghana:</p> <p>1. MoU between Govt. of India and Ghana for the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in Information and Communication Technology</p>	<p>30.03.2011</p>		
17.	<p>Greece:</p> <p>1. MoU between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Hellenic Organisation for Standardisation for Mutual Cooperation and Exchange of Information</p>	<p>07.09.2011</p>		
18.	<p>Hungary:</p> <p>1. Agreement on Scientific Cooperation between Indian National Science Academy and Hungarian Academy of Sciences</p>	<p>18.11.2011</p>		
19.	<p>Indonesia :</p> <p>1. Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Indonesia on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters</p>	<p>25.1.2011</p>	<p>14.3.2011</p>	

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Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
	2. Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Indonesia	25.1.2011	24.2.2011	
20.	Iran: 1. Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Iran.	9.7.2010	4.4.2011	
21.	Japan: 1. Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of India and Japan.	16.2.2011	1.4.2011	01.08.2011
22.	Kazakhstan: 1. Treaty signed between India and Kazakhstan in civil matters 2. Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of India for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy	16.04.2011 16.04.2011		
23.	Korea 1. Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Republic of Korea and its Protocol 2. Agreement between India and Republic of Korea for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy 3. MoU between MEA India and Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea on Media Exchanges	16.02.2010 25.07.2011 25.07.2011	2.5.2011	01.11.2011 12.10.2011 25.07.2011
24.	Liberia: 1. Agreement between India and Liberia for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with Respect to Taxes	03.10.2011		
25.	Lithuania: 1. Bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement 2. Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement	31.3.2011 26.07.2011	29.06.2011	01.12.2011
26.	Malaysia: 1. India Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)	18.02.2011		01.07.2011
27.	Maldives: 1. Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development. MoU on Combating International Terrorism, Trans-national Crime, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Enhancing Bilateral Cooperation in Capacity Building, Disaster Management and Coastal Security;	12.11.2011		12.11.2011

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Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
	2. Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons; Agreement on US\$ 100 million Stand-by Credit Facility	12.11.2011		12.11.2011
	3. Memorandum of Understanding on renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Maldives	12.11.2011		12.11.2011
	4. Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture for the years 2012-2015	12.11.2011		12.11.2011
28.	Mauritius : 1. Agreement between MEA and Garden Reach Ship Builders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata for disbursal of Grant towards part payment of cost for Design Construction & delivery of one Offshore Patrol Vessel to Mauritius	19.08.2011		
29.	Mongolia: 1. MoU for Cooperation between the Planning Commission of the Republic of India and the National Development Innovation Committee of Mongolia	28.07.2011		
30.	Montserrat: 1. MoU between India and Montserrat to offer a programme of support in the Caribbean Community area.	30.09.2011		
31.	Mozambique: 1. Exchange programme between India and Mozambique on Cooperation in the Field of Education (EEP)	July 2011		
32.	Myanmar: 1. MoU for the Upgradation of the Yangon Children's Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital 2. Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology for the period of 2012-2015	14.10.2011 14.10.2011		14.10.2011 14.10.2011
33.	Namibia: 1. Agreement between International Atomic Energy Agency and India through the Department of Atomic Energy and Namibia through the Ministry of Health and Social Services on the Donation of a Bhabhatron-II Telecobalt Unit	22.09.2011		
34.	Nepal: 1. Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA)	21.10.2011	23.11.2011	
35.	Netherlands: 1. Social Security Agreement between Republic of India and the Kingdom of Netherlands	22.10.2009	01.12.2011	

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Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
36.	Nigeria 1. MoU for Cooperation in the Pharmaceuticals Sector between the Department of the Government of the Republic of India and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Federal Ministry of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	16.03.2011		
37.	Norway: 1. Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Norway 2. The Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion	29.10.2010 02.02.2011	01.02.2011 21.01.2011	
38.	Pakistan 1. MoU between India and Pakistan on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals and related matters 2. MoU signed between India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)	13.09.2011 28.09.2011		
39.	Romania: 1. Programme of Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Education, Youth and Sports	28.03.2011		
40.	Russia: 1. MoU between Department of Atomic Energy of the Govt. of India and the State Atomic Energy Corporation "ROSATOM" on Cooperation with the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership of India 2. Agreement between India and Russia. Protocol No. 2 (on the Su-30 MKI Aircraft Licensed Production Expansion in India for 42 Units) 3. MoU between the Competition Commission of India and the Federal Antimonopoly Service (Russian Federation) 4. Agreement between India and Russia. Protocol of Intentions on Fly Ash Utilisation and Safe Management between the Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and the Interregional Association "Siberian Accord" Siberian Federal District, Russian Federation 5. Agreement between India and Russia. MoU on Drug Quality and Safety Standards between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (India) and the Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Public Health and Social Development (Russian Federation)	20.06.2011 16.12.2011 16.12.2011 16.12.2011 16.12.2011		

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Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
	6. Educational Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Education and Science, Russian Federation and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, India on Cooperation in the Field of Education	16.12.2011		
41.	Saudi Arabia: 1. Agreement between India and Saudi Arabia on Transfer of Sentenced Persons 2. Extradition Treaty between India and Saudi Arabia	28.02.2010 28.02.2010		17.03.2011 04.03.2011
42.	Slovak Republic: 1. Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture for the years 2011-13	24.03.2011		
43.	Slovenia: 1. The Agreement on Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments	14.06.2011	12.07.2011	
44.	Sri Lanka: 1. MoU between GOI and GoSL on passenger transportation by sea 2. MoU between GOI and GoSL on setting up of facilities at vocational training centres Vantharamoolai and Onthachchimadam, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka 3. MoU between GOI and GoSL on setting up of facilities at vocational training centre at Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka 4. MoU between the GOI and GoSL to establish a centre for Contemporary Indian Studies 5. MoU between GOI and GoSL on the Rehabilitation of the Harbour at Kankesanthurai 6. MoU between GOI and GoSL for setting up of a three-tier English language training system in Sri Lanka	07.01.2011 21.04.2011 11.07.2011 12.07.2011 21.07.2011 13.09.2011		07.01.2011 21.04.2011 11.07.2011 12.07.2011 21.07.2011 13.09.2011
45.	Switzerland: 1. MoU on Financial Dialogue between the Ministry of Finance of India and Federal Dept. of Finance of the Swiss Confederation 2. MoU in consideration of a Chair in Indian Studies (referred to as "Rabindranath Tagore Chair in Indian Studies") at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland in particularly at the Faculty of Arts between Indian Council of Cultural Relations ("ICCR") and University of Lausanne, Switzerland	03.10.2011 04.10.2011		
46.	Tanzania: 1. Agreement between India and Tanzania on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion	27.05.2011		

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Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
47.	Turkmenistan: 1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan on Trade and Economic Cooperation	25.5.2010	14.1.2011	
48.	UAE: 1. MoU on Political Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs, India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UAE 2. Agreement on Security Cooperation between India and UAE 3. Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons between India and UAE	27.06.2011 23.11.2011 23.11.2011		
49.	UK: 1. MoU between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and UK Space Agency (UKSA) regarding Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes 2. Agreement on Cooperation for Trade and Investment in the Roads and Highways Sector in India between the National Highways Authority of India and UK Trade and Investment	25/ 30.03.2011 18.01.2011		
50.	Uruguay: 1. MoU on India-Uruguay Renewable Energy Cooperation	25.02.2011		
51.	USA 1. Agreement between the Department of Atomic Energy of the Republic of India and the Department of Energy of the USA for Cooperation in the Area of Accelerator and Particle Detector Research and Development for Discovery Science	19.07.2011		
52.	Zimbabwe: 1. MoU between India and Zimbabwe for setting up of 3 Hole in the Wall Learning Stations in Zimbabwe 2. Agreement between MEA of India and Hole in the Wall Education Limited (HiWel), New Delhi for Hole in the Wall Education Project in Zimbabwe	14.09.2011 21.11.2011		
53.	African Union: 1. MoU between India and AU for setting up of India-Africa Diamond Institute 2. MoU between India & AU for setting up of the India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade (IAIFT)	24.05.2011 24.05.2011		

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Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
	3. MoU between India and AU for setting up of the India-Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (IAIEPA) in Burundi	24.05.2011		
	4. MoU between India and Africa Union (AU) Commission for establishment of 10 Vocational Training Institute (VTC) in African countries	24.05.2011		
	5. MoU between India and AU Commission for Establishment of India-Africa Information Technology Centre in Ghana	24.05.2011		
54.	European Union: 1. MoU between European Commission and India regarding the Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2011-2013	22.02.2011		
55.	ECOWAS COMMISSION: 1. MoU between the ECOWAS Commission (West African Nations) and the Ministry of External Affairs, India	06.05.2011		06.05.2011

Appendix II

Instruments of Full Powers Issued During the Period January 2011 to December 2011

Sl. No.	Convention/Treaty	Date of Full Powers
1.	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of India and Japan	17.1.2011
2.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Isle of Man for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes	20.1.2011
3.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the British Virgin Islands, for the Exchange of Information Relating to Taxes.	20.1.2011
4.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Mexican States on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters	21.1.2011
5.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology) of the Republic of India and the Communications and Information Agency of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in Information Technology	21.1.2011
6.	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Norway for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital	21.1.2011
7.	Memorandum of Association among the Bay of Bengal initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Member Countries for Establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Centre.	20.1.2011
8.	Agreement and the Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital	17.2.2011
9.	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia.	15.2.2011
10.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income.	23.2.2011
11.	Memorandum of Understanding between the ECOWAS Commission and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India	24.2.2011
13.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Jersey for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with Respect to Taxes	4.3.2010
14.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Cayman for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes	14.3.2011
15.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes	4.2.2011
16.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Argentina on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters	31.3.2011
17.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the Promotion and Protection of Investments	11.2.2011

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Sl. No.	Convention/Treaty	Date of Full Powers
18.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Uruguay for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital.	02.5.2011
19.	Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity	03.5.2011
20.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Colombia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income.	10.5.2011
21.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income.	3.6.2011
22.	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 Investment in APTA Participating States.	10.06.2011
23.	Second Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income.	9.6.2011
24.	Agreement and the Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital.	9.6.2011
25.	Agreement between the Government of India and Botswana on Establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission	For record from E&SA
26.	Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India for the Promotion of Aviation Safety	14.07.2011
27.	MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs International Trade and Cooperation of the Republic of Mauritius for the establishment and Development of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Trade in Mauritius.	For record from E&SA Division.
28.	MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia on Media Exchanges	For record from EA Division
29.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to taxes on Income and on Capital	23.08.2011
30.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals and Related Matters	26.08.2011
31.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Liberia for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with Respect to Taxes	08.09.2011
32.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Estonia DTAA	12.09.2011

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Sl. No.	Convention/Treaty	Date of Full Powers
33.	Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	20.09.2011
34.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Argentine Republic for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes.	11.10.2011
35.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Jersey for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with Respect to Taxes	20.10.2011
36.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Mobility of the Kingdom of Belgium	04.11.2011
37.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Nepal for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income.	25.11.2011
38.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Mexican States on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters	07.12.2011
39.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	07.12.2011
40.	Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of India for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income	09.12.2011
41.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes	14.12.2011
42.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the States of Guernsey for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes	14.12.2011

Appendix III

Instruments of Ratification/Accession Issued during the Period January 2011 to December 2011

Sl. No.	Instruments of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification
1.	Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan on Trade and Economic Cooperation	14.1.2011
2.	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Norway	1.2.2011
3.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Indonesia on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	14.3.2011
4.	Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Indonesia	24.2.2011
5.	Agreement on Film Co-production between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic	18.3.2011
6.	Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil Matters between the Republic of India and the Republic of Kazakhstan	14.3.2011
7.	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of India and Japan	1.4.2011
8.	Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Iran	4.4.2011
9.	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia	3.5.2011
10.	Agreement on Social Security Between the Republic of India and the Republic of Korea	4.5.2011
11.	Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the Promotion of Investments.	4.5.2011
12.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Argentina on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters.	3.6.2011
13.	Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Dominican Republic.	7.6.2011
14.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Republic of Slovenia on the Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments.	14.06.2011
15.	Agreement on Audio-Visual Co-Productions between the Government of the republic of India and the Government of New Zealand.	26.08.2011
16.	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 Yout.	26.08.2011
17.	Protocol of 1997 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) of the International Maritime Organization.	24.10.2011
18.	Amendments to Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund on the Reform of the Executive Board.	27.10.2011

Appendix III

Sl. No.	Instruments of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification
19.	Agreement between The Republic of India and the Federal Republic of Germany on Social Security	27.10.2011
20.	Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal for the Promotion and Protection of Investments	21.11.2011
21	The Agreement Establishing the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV)	03.11.2011
22	IoR regarding the India-Bangladesh Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	13.01.2011
	IoR on the India-Bangladesh on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	13.01.2011
	IoR on the India-Bangladesh Agreement on Combating International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking	13.01.2011
	IoR on the India-Bangladesh Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments (BIPA)	07.07.2011

Appendix IV

List of ITEC and SCAAP Countries

ITEC Countries

S.No.	Country	S.No.	Country
1	Afghanistan	30	Chile
2	Albania	31	Colombia
3	Algeria	32	Commonwealth of Dominica
4	Angola	33	Comoros
5	Anguilla	34	Congo
6	Antigua and Barbuda	35	Cooks Island
7	Argentina	36	Costa Rica
8	Armenia	37	Cote D' Ivoire
9	Azerbaijan	40	Czech Republic
10	Bahamas	41	Democratic Republic of Congo
11	Bahrain	42	Djibouti
12	Bangladesh	43	Dominican Republic
13	Barbados	44	Ecuador
14	Belarus	45	Egypt
15	Belize	46	El-Salvador
16	Benin	47	Equatorial Guinea
17	Bhutan	48	Eritrea
18	Bolivia	49	Estonia
19	Bosnia - Herzegovina	50	Ethiopia
20	Brazil	51	Fiji
21	Brunei Darussalam	52	Gabon
22	Bulgaria	53	Georgia
23	Burkina Faso	54	Grenada
24	Burundi	55	Guatemala
25	Cambodia	56	Guinea
26	Cape Verde Island	57	Guinea Bissau
27	Cayman Island	58	Guyana
28	Central African Republic	59	Haiti
29	Chad	60	Honduras

Appendix IV

S.No.	Country	S.No.	Country
61	Hungary	92	Nauru
62	Indonesia	93	Nepal
63	Iran	94	Nicaragua
64	Iraq	95	Niger
65	Jamaica	96	Oman
66	Jordan	97	Palau
67	Kazakhstan	98	Palestine
68	Kiribati	99	Panama
69	Korea(DPRK)	100	Papua New Guinea
70	Kyrgyzstan	101	Paraguay
71	Laos	102	Peru
72	Latvia	103	Philippines
73	Lebanon	104	Poland
74	Liberia	105	Qatar
75	Libya	106	Republic of Sao Tome
76	Lithuania	107	Romania
77	Macedonia	108	Russia
78	Madagascar	109	Rwanda
79	Malaysia	110	Samoa
80	Maldives	111	Senegal
81	Mali	112	Serbia
82	Marshall Islands	113	Singapore
83	Mauritania	114	Slovak Republic
84	Mexico	115	Solomon Island
85	Micronesia	116	Somalia
86	Moldova	117	Sri Lanka
87	Mongolia	118	St. Kitts & Nevis
88	Montenegro	119	St. Lucia
89	Montserrat	120	St. Vincent & Grenadines
90	Morocco	121	Sudan
91	Myanmar	122	South Sudan

Appendix IV

S.No.	Country	S.No.	Country
123	Suriname	133	Turkmenistan
124	Syria	134	Turks & Caicos Island
125	Tajikistan	135	Tuvalu
126	Thailand	136	Ukraine
127	Timor Leste	137	Uruguay
128	Togo	138	Uzbekistan
129	Tonga	139	Vanuatu
130	Trinidad & Tobago	140	Venezuela
131	Tunisia	141	Vietnam
132	Turkey	142	Yemen

SCAAP Countries

S.No.	Country	S.No.	Country
143	Cameroon	153	Nigeria
144	Cameroon	154	Seychelles
145	Gambia	155	Sierra Leone
146	Ghana	156	South Africa
147	Kenya	157	Swaziland
148	Lesotho	158	Tanzania
149	Malawi	159	Uganda
150	Mauritius	160	Zambia
151	Mozambique	161	Zimbabwe
152	Namibia		

Appendix V

List of ITEC/SCAAP Empanelled Institutes

S.No.	Name of Institute	City
Accounts, Audit, Banking and Finance Courses		
1.	Institute of Government Accounts and Finance	New Delhi
2.	International Center for Information and System Audit	Noida
3.	National Institute of Bank Management	Pune
IT, Telecommunication and English Courses		
4.	Aptech Limited	New Delhi
5.	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing	Mohali
6.	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing	Noida
7.	Centre for Excellence in Telecom Technology and Management	Mumbai
8.	CMC Ltd.	New Delhi
9.	English and Foreign Languages University	Hyderabad
10.	NIIT Ltd	New Delhi
11.	UTL Technologies Ltd.	Bangalore
Management Courses		
12.	Administrative Staff College of India	Hyderabad
13.	Institute of Applied Manpower Research	Delhi
14.	International Management Institute - New Delhi	
SME/Rural Development Courses		
15.	Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India	Ahmedabad
16.	National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development	NOIDA
17.	National Institute for Micro Small & Medium Enterprises	Hyderabad
18.	National Institute of Rural Development	Hyderabad
Specialised Courses		
19.	Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training	New Delhi
20.	Human Settlement Management Institute	New Delhi
21.	Indian Institute of Mass Communication	New Delhi
22.	International Statistical Education Centre	Kolkata
23.	National Crime Records Bureau	New Delhi
24.	National Institute of Training for Standardization (Bureau of Indian Standards)	NOIDA
25.	National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research	Chennai

Appendix V

S.No.	Name of Institute	City
26.	National University of Educational Planning and Administration	New Delhi
27.	Postal Staff College	Ghaziabad
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
36.	Indian Institute of Production Management Kansbahal	Orissa
37.	Indian Institute of Remote Sensing	Dehradun
38.	Indian Institute of Technology	Roorkee, Department of Hydrology
39.	Indian Institute of Technology	Roorkee, Department of Water Resources Development and Management
40.	National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research	SAS Nagar, Punjab
41.	South India Textile Research Association	Coimbatore
Environment and Renewable Energy Courses		
42.	Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, Indian Institute of Technology	Roorkee
43.	Barefoot College	Tilonia, Rajasthan
44.	Centre for Wind Energy Technology	Chennai
45.	Indian Institute of Science	Bengaluru
46.	Solar Energy Centre	Gurgaon
47.	TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute)	New Delhi

Appendix VI

Conferences/Seminars/Study Projects organized/undertaken by Universities/ Institutions, which were funded, partially or wholly, by the Policy Planning and Research Division during 2011-2012.

Sl. No.	Event	Institution / Beneficiary
1	Seminar on "Dealing with Power Centers in Pakistan: Suggested options"2011.	Asia Centre, Bangalore
2	Setting up an Institute of Foreign Policy Studies in Calcutta University Campus, Alipur (Recurring grant)	Calcutta University, Kolkatta
3	Seminar on "India Japan relations: moving from near-stasis to a dynamic and mutually profitable partnership" 2011.	Asia Centre, Bangalore
4	Seminar on "Coping with China as World's Number 2" 2011.	Asia Centre, Bangalore
5	Seminar on "India's Energy Outlook" 2011.	Asia Centre, Bangalore
6	Seminar on "Arab Spring: Region and India" February, 2012	The Centre for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
7	Seminar on "Democratic Upsurge: The Arab World at Cross Roads" February, 2012.	The Centre for International Strategic and Development Studies, Mumbai

Appendix VII

Statement showing the total number of passport applications received and passports issued, total miscellaneous applications received and services rendered; No. of passports issued as well as Revenue under Tatkaal scheme; and total Revenue and Expenditure of Passport Offices during January 01 to December 31, 2011

Name of RPO/PO	No. of passport applications received	No. of Passports issued	No. of misc. applications received	No. of misc. services rendered	No. of Passports issued under Tatkaal	Revenue earned under tatkal scheme	Total revenue	Total expenditure
Ahmedabad	328543	320864	9544	9854	4789	7477500	336088295	52394324
Amritsar	80055	83782	14018	13639	3136	50600000	95063210	#
Amritsar PSK	3239	3142	27	26	108	162000	3357500	
Bangalore	0	4142	0	7	0	0	0	46534634
Bangalore PSK	368260	379902	11421	9810	65250	165215100	482079173	0
Bareilly	82724	71883	3299	2407	1438	2141000	86317715	26799262
Bhopal	102256	99382	1365	1345	14512	18004000	118614507	19762999
Bhubaneswar	56921	52481	4657	3924	9768	22508900	61935135	9078740
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh PSK	251722	254166	19064	18431	13090	33692800	276669200	47514537
Chennai	189061	218098	19205	18211	71023	182971500	315088200	52342939
Chennai PSK	58827	39889	2742	1963	15097	40350900	85367000	0
Cochin	245743	243718	32598	32008	51554	128713400	328781652	53965015
Coimbatore	57121	70799	1501	1493	8801	19763900	71199595	15427190
Coimbatore PSK	24188	13459	496	463	3236	8663200	29125600	29537100
Dehradun	54513	54840	3362	2794	4147	7255382	61695547	16549000
Delhi	331970	327317	22171	21853	56007	-	464745694	75489440
Delhi PSK	18121	7893	180	129	2561	7021500	22406800	0
Ghaziabad	149582	133444	4730	4674	8897	21992800	160979449	18591958
Guwahati	63883	54483	4,861	4,463	6,639	16495700	72229900	15254379
Hyderabad	431908	443605	43900	49061	77224	195719700	573701829	75106358
Jaipur	206357	199720	16656	14885	21069	52232300	249480442	32230203
Jalandhar	119774	107346	25975	26267	2077	4215919	146101412	52102324
Jalandhar PSK	10506	2436	733	501	99	250100	11086800	0
Jammu	23253	25410	1594	1228	147	224500	28172323	10057655
Kolkata	313362	256476	25233	23750	12139	30047200	319604105	33530202

Appendix VII

Name of RPO/PO	No. of passport applications received	No. of Passports issued	No. of misc. applications received	No. of misc. services rendered	No. of Passports issued under Tatkaal	Revenue earned under tatkal scheme	Total revenue	Total expenditure
Kozhikode	193127	195356	21760	21459	31992	49609000	244495577	43885203
Lucknow	359566	351097	32522	29735	14684	22326000	404997827	59996694
Madurai	64353	62513	6315	6225	1719	4191300	38607557	19245945
Madurai PSK	71877	51277	3559	3321	233	199530	79421900	0
Malappuram	171298	164065	15893	15866	28328	43299000	232882542	54244417
Mumbai	335125	321264	16371	16033	26506	47480500	389714323	90670730
Nagpur	91980	88691	1494	1376	6475	8732500	89480230	9901253
Panaji	34667	33455	6834	6326	2008	3045000	47141682	7437192
Patna	169704	172062	15050	13103	2962	4699500	185161526	28445659
Pune	155885	141184	5661	5399	19597	29005000	184954100	##
Raipur	34227	33054	641	638	4422	11055000	40037000	###
Ranchi	52787	47964	4762	4257	9802	14849500	53285500	9507302
Shimla	27371	25628	2623	2651	2599	6249200	32665044	5727265
Srinagar	62357	41566	2066	1960	628	950000	64738750	11224889
Surat	102096	100359	7792	7732	2425	2991000	105038730	15247290
Thane	208615	202007	6768	7036	9644	20465000	227254622	3536602
Trichy	65087	77002	8954	9081	4615	6709500	80584157	28834934
Trichy PSK	56277	38624	4572	4003	4258	11114100	66904000	0
Trivandrum	141578	143231	21653	20746	37249	55972000	206514128	32590859
Vizag	70607	67065	17582	21760	6980	10599000	78182449	15379480
Vizag PSK	30142	9435	9006	6948	1651	3998200	34395770	0
Port Blair	2928	2892	41	41	476	1186600	3622800	0
Total of RPO's	6073543	5838468	481251	468882*	672061	1374445731	7289971297	1118143973
HQ CPV Division (Diplomatic/ Official Passport)	2840/28067							
Passport Issued by 178 Mission/ Posts Abroad	1027000							
Grant Total	7365257							
Grand Total = Total Passports issued + Total Miscellaneous services* rendered								

Appendix VIII

Cadre Strength of the Central Passport Organisation as on 31.12.2011

Group & Name of post	Total sanctioned strength
Group 'A'	
Passport Officer	17
Deputy Passport Officer	71
Assistant Passport Officer	135
Subtotal:	223
Group 'B'	
Passport Granting Officer	320
Superintendent	245
Subtotal:	565
Group "C"	
Assistant	428
UDC	628
UDC(Hindi)	04
LDC	648
Driver	00
Stenographer	30
Hindi Translator	23
Office Assistant	148
Subtotal:	1909
Grand Total:	2697

Appendix IX

Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions abroad during 2011-12 (including posts budgeted by Ministry of Commerce and those ex-cadre etc.)

S.No.	Cadre/Post	Posts at Hqrs	Posts at Missions	Total
1	Grade I	5	28	33
2	Grade II	6	40	46
3	Grade III	38	126	164
4	Grade IV	43	132	175
5	Junior Admn. Grade/Senior Scale	68	191	259
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	273	542	815
	IFS(B)			
7	(i) Grade I	84	125	209
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6	-	6
8	(i) Integrated Grades II & III	150	245	395
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30	-	30
	(iii) Deputation reserve	16	-	16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25	-	25
9	(i) Grade IV	178	426	604
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60	-	60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	55	-	55
10	(i) Grade V/VI	143	103	246
	(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) Stenographer's Cadre	132	527	659
	(ii) Leave Reserve	47	-	47
	(iii) Training Reserve (Hindi)	10	-	10
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	12	-	12
13	Interpreter's Cadre	7	26	33
14	L&T Cadre	23	1	24
	Sub Total	1115	1600	2715
	Grand Total	1388	2142	3530

Appendix X

Data on Recruitment through Direct Recruitment, Departmental Promotion and Limited Departmental Examination made in the Ministry along with Reserved Vacancies for April 2011 to December 2011:

Groups	Total No. of Vacancies	Number of Vacancies		
		SC	ST	OBC
Group A	67	3	7	7
Group A				
(Ex-Cadre)	9	-	-	1
Group B	205	38	9	15
Group C	49	6	2	1
Total	303	47	18	24

Appendix XI

Number of IFS Officers with Proficiency in various languages

Arabic	95
Bahasa Indonesia	11
Bahasa Malay	2
Burmese	3
Chinese	62
Dutch	1
French	68
German	28
Hebrew	5
Italian	2
Japanese	22
Kazakh	1
Kiswahili	6
Korean	3
Nepalese	3
Persian	18
Portuguese	18
Russian	82
Serbo-Croatian	2
Sinhalese	2
Spanish	64
Turkish	6
Ukrainian	1
Vietnamese	3

Appendix XII

RIS Publications

Report

India's FDI Inflows - Trends and Concepts

Policy Briefs

#50 Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture

#51 Towards a Framework for Socio-economic Aspects in Biosafety Protocol

Discussion Papers

#173 Assessing Barriers to Trade in Services in India, by Prabir De

#174 Productivity in the Era of Trade and Investment Liberalisation in India, by Ram Upendra Das

Periodicals

- *South Asia Economic Journal*, Vol. 12, No. 1, March 2011
- *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 13, No.1, March 2011
- *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 13, No.2, July 2011
- *New Asia Monitor*, Vol. 8, Nos. 1 & 2, July 2011.

Newsletter

RIS Diary Vol 9, Nos. 1-2, 2011.

Appendix XIII

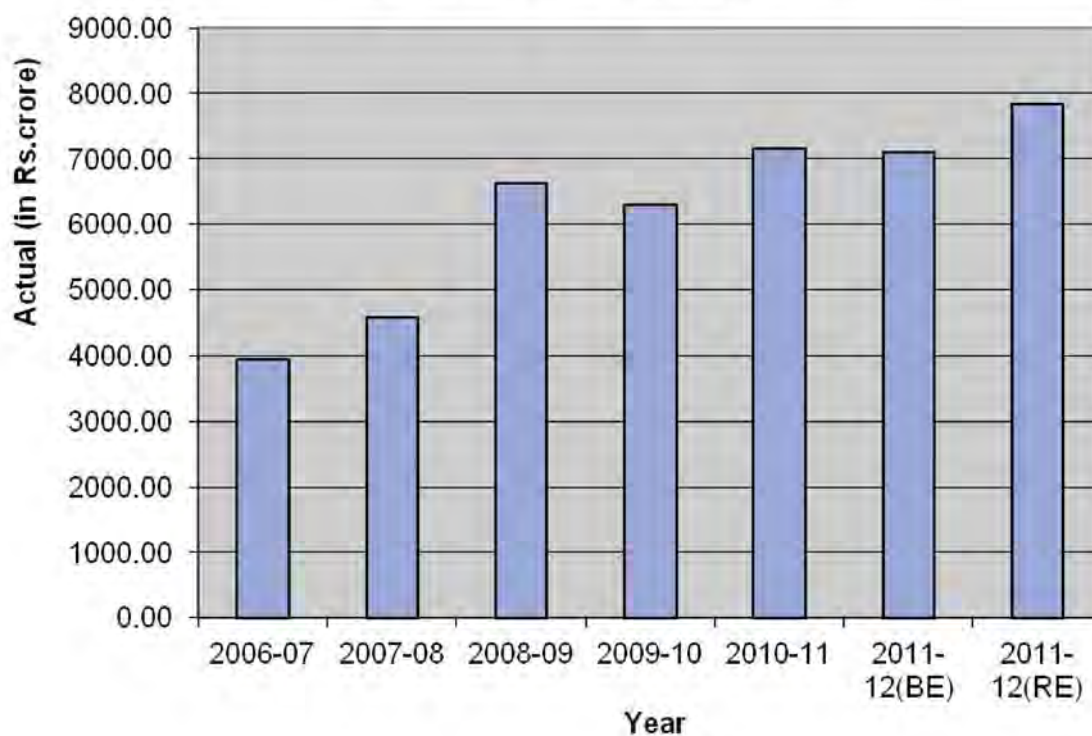
The Budget Allocation (BE) 2011-12 is Rs. 7106 crore, 11.47 per cent more than BE 2010-11 of Rs. 6375 crore. The Revised Estimate 2011-12 is Rs. 7836 crore, 10.27 per cent more than BE 2011-12

MEA Expenditure Actual 2006-07 to 2011-12

(Revenue and Capital)

Years	Actual (in Rs. crore)	Percentage variation from previous year
2006-07	3949.68	-3.42
2007-08	4572.39	15.77
2008-09	6630.73	45.02
2009-10	6290.77	-5.13
2010-11	7153.27	13.71
2011-12(BE)	7106.00	-0.66
2011-12(RE)	7836.00	10.27

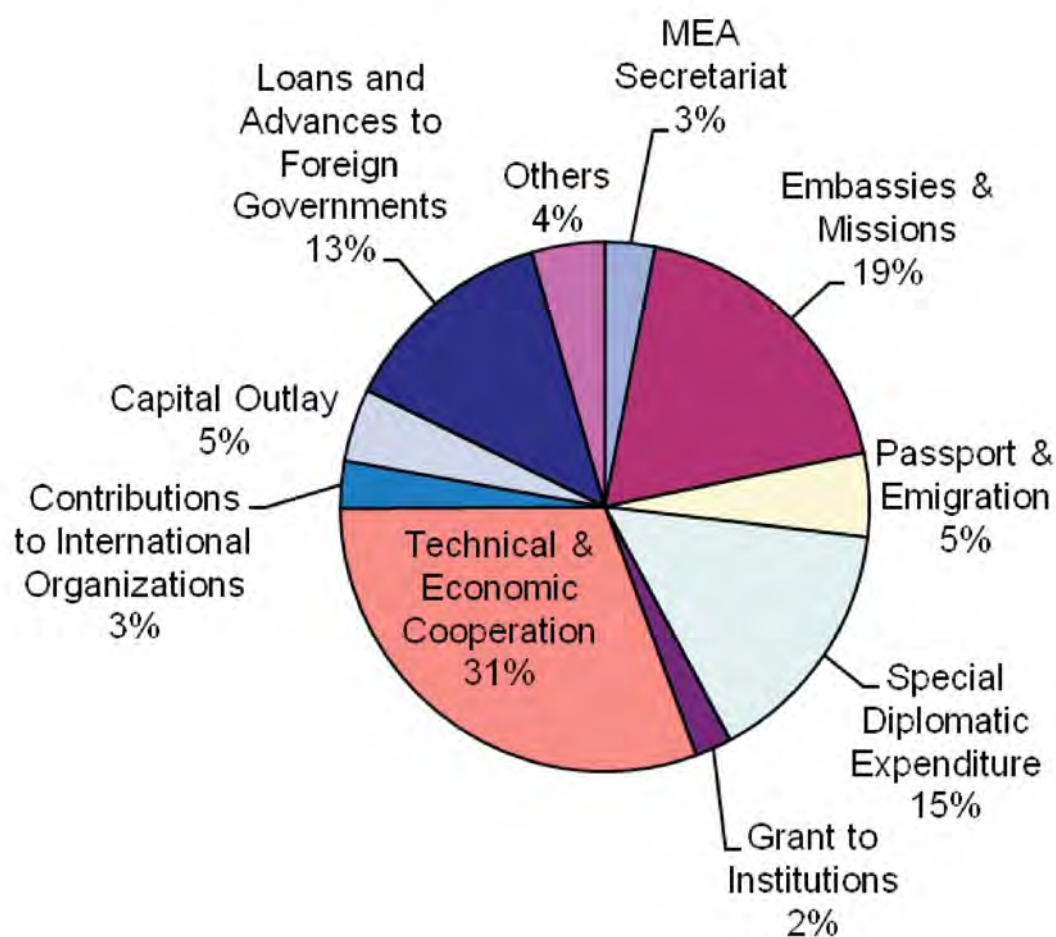
**MEA Actual Expenditure 2006-07 to 2011-12
(Revenue and Capital)**



Appendix XIV

Major Sectoral Allocations in 2011-2012 Budget (Revised Estimates)

Sectors	Allocation (in Rs. crore)
MEA Secretariat	239.00
Embassies & Missions	1,464.32
Passport & Emigration	399.72
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	1,200.01
Grant to Institutions	175.20
Technical & Economic Cooperation	2,391.87
Contributions to International Organisations	225.65
Capital Outlay	350.00
Loans and Advances to Foreign Governments	1,041.00
Others	349.23
Total	7,836.00



Appendix XV

Principal Destinations of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes

The principal beneficiaries of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes in the Current Financial Year 2011-12 are as under (figures pertain to Revised Estimates 2011-12):

S.No.	Technical Cooperation Budget	(In Rupees crore)	Percentage of India's Total Aid & Loan Budget
1.	Bhutan	2030.00	59.31
2.	Afghanistan	290.00	8.47
3.	Maldives	273.00	7.98
4.	Nepal	150.00	4.38
5.	African Countries	124.00	3.62
6.	Sri Lanka	133.00	3.89
7.	Myanmar	111.82	3.27
8.	Eurasian Countries	30.00	0.88
9.	Bangladesh	8.00	0.23
10.	Latin American Countries	0.50	0.01
11.	Mongolia	2.00	0.06
12.	Others	270.55	7.90
	Total	3422.87	100

Appendix XVI

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	-	-	-	-
2.	2004	-	-	-	-
3.	2005	-	-	-	2
4.	2006	-	-	-	-
5	2007	-	-	4	-
6	2008	1	-	-	4
7	2008-09	-	-	1	-
8	2009	-	-	1	3
9	2010-11	-	2	5	1
10	2011-12	-	11	-	-
Total		1	13	11	10

Abbreviations

AALCO	Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation	EU	European Union
AIEPG	ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group	EXIM	Export Import Bank of India
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum	FATF	Financial Action Task Force
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations	FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
ASEM	Asia Europe Meeting	FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
ASSOCHAM	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry	FTA	Free Trade Agreement
AU	African Union	G-20	Group of Twenty
AWG-KP	Ad-HOC Working Group on Kyoto Protocol	GOI	Government of India
AWG-LC	Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action	HEP	Hydro-Electric Project
AYUSH	Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy	IAFS	India-Africa Forum Summit
BIMS	Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences	IBSA	India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China	ICC	International Criminal Court
CAPEXCIL	Chemicals & Allied Product Export Promotion Council	ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
CBM	Confidence Building Measure	ICRIER	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
CECA	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
CEP	Cultural Exchange Programme	ICWA	Indian Council of World Affairs
CEPA	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	IDP	Internally Displaced Person
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet	IDSA	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry	IFS	Indian Foreign Service
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry	IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	IIMC	Indian Institute of Mass Communication
CLMV	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Burma, and Vietnam	ILO	International Labour Organisation
CPIO	Central Public Information Officer	IOM	International Organization on Migration
CPV	Consular Passport and Visa	IONS	Institute of Noetic Sciences
CSCAP	Council for Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific	IOR-ARC	Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation
DVP	Distinguished Visitors Programme	IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council	IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
		ITEC	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation
		ITMA	International Textile Manufacturers Association
		JCBC	Joint Commission on Business Cooperation
		JWG	Joint Working Group

Abbreviations

LCS	Land Customs Stations	SED	Strategic Economic Dialogue
LDC	Least Developed Country	SEWA	Self Employed Women's Association
LoC	Line of Credit	SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
MEP	Member of the European Parliament	TEAM-9	Techno-Economic Approach for Africa India Movement
MERCOSUR	Market of Southern Cone Countries	TERI	Tata Energy and Research Institute
MGC	Mekong-Ganga Cooperation	UMFCCI	Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
MoEF	Ministry of Environment & Forests	UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	UNCOPUOS	UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
MP	Member of Parliament	UNCTAD	United Nations Conferences on Trade and Development
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NGO	Non-Government Organisation	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
NIFT	National Institute of Fashion Technology	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
NPT	Non-Proliferation Treaty	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
NSCS	National Security Council Secretariat	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
OCI	Overseas Citizenship of India	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
PHARMEXIL	Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India	UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
PIO	Persons of Indian Origin	UNMIN	United Nations Mission in Nepal
RBI	Reserve Bank of India	UNSC	United Nations Security Council
RGoB	Government of Bhutan	UPA	United Progressive Alliance
RTI	Right to Information	VAT	Value Added Tax
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	WHO	World Health Organization
SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Area	WIPO	World Intellectual Rights Organisation
SAU	South Asian University	WTO	World Trade Organisation
SBI	State Bank of India	XP	External Publicity
SCAAP	Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme		
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation		
SDP	Small Development Projects		
SEBI	Securities and Exchange Board of India		



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of External Affairs
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