



Ministry of External Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-14







Annual Report 2013-14

**Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi**

Published by :

Policy Planning and Research Division, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi

*This Annual Report can also be accessed at website : **www.mea.gov.in***

The front cover depicts Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, Ministry of External Affairs' new building since June 2011 . The inside of front cover shows South Block, seat of Ministry of External Affairs since 1947.

The inside of back cover shows displays at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan

Designed and printed by :

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Introduction and Synopsis

India's foreign policy pursues an active interaction with the international community, to meet our key goals including the national economic transformation, ensuring national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and addresses our key regional and global concerns. India deepened its engagement with all of its neighbours and SAARC. We strengthened and expanded the economic and political foundations of strategic partnerships such as those with the US, Russia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, European Union and its key member countries including France, UK and Germany. We sustained our engagement with our extended neighbourhood, ASEAN, West Asia and the Gulf states. India strengthened new fora for stronger ties with Africa including, through development partnership programmes. We maintained an active voice in international organizations and articulated independent positions in emerging areas of international public policy.

India continued to assist Afghanistan's reconstruction through a comprehensive bilateral assistance program of US\$ 2 billion. India is committed to an Afghan-led, owned and controlled peace process, moving towards a democratic, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. India worked closely with Bangladesh to strengthen our wide-ranging bilateral cooperation in areas including security, infrastructure, trade, development and people-to-people exchanges. With Bhutan, our largest trade and development partner, India continued to strengthen its unique and special relationship. India's constructive engagement with the government and political parties in the Maldives, and the international community assisted in the successful conclusion of the democratic process. India continues to support Nepal in its transition to a prosperous, peaceful, stable and democratic country, achieving progress through intensive bilateral exchanges and developmental assistance. We have engaged and cooperated constructively with Myanmar in security, border issues, trade and transit, power, infrastructure, connectivity projects and capacity-building with a commitment to provide grant-in-aid assistance of approximately Rs. 3000 crore. India has urged Sri Lanka to address in an expeditious manner issues relating to

national reconciliation and political settlement. India is committed to the resolution of all outstanding issues with Pakistan through peaceful bilateral dialogue in an environment free from terror and violence. Following incidents of killing of Indian soldiers and transgressions by the Pakistan Army along the Line of Control and International Boundary, India underscored to Pakistan the need to uphold the sanctity of the Line of Control and in this context also underlined that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Control is required for forward movement in the bilateral relationship. We repeatedly emphasized the importance of Pakistan bringing to justice quickly all those responsible for the Mumbai terror attacks. With Iran, civilizational and historical ties are the foundation of a network of vibrant bilateral ties. The energy sector is an important component of bilateral cooperation given our growing energy needs and Iran's supply capacities.

India has established a Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) with China. The Special Representatives (SRs) continued to explore from the political perspective the framework for a boundary settlement. India and China agree that peace and tranquillity on the border is the basis for the continued expansion of India-China relations. India and China have declared 2014 as the Year of Friendly Exchanges to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (Panchsheel). Both countries continue to cooperate and coordinate on important global issues such as climate change, food security and energy security, and maintain closer dialogue on important regional issues including through BRICS and G-20.

India's relationship with ASEAN is a key feature of our foreign policy and Look East Policy. Our relations with our extended neighbourhood in South East Asia have grown through enhanced political, defence & security cooperation and, economic engagement. ASEAN-India connectivity is a shared strategic priority and India has made progress in implementing the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multimodal Project.

India's strategic partnership with the US featured high-level exchanges and bilateral cooperative endeavours in important areas including security and defence cooperation, trade and investment, clean and renewable energy, education, science and technology. India took steps towards the commercial implementation of the India-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and launched new initiatives for clean energy.

India's traditional partnership with Russia was carried forward. Defence cooperation is a crucial element of our strategic partnership. The third Russian-built frigate, INS Trikanth, was delivered and the aircraft-carrier, INS Vikramaditya, was commissioned. Unit 1 of the Kudankulam nuclear power project was synchronised to the power-grid in October 2013 with completion of work on Unit 2 targeted for 2014.

Following the events of the Arab Spring, India remained actively engaged with governments of all countries in the region. We progressed our bilateral relationships through sustainable mechanisms for safe-guarding of our interests. On Egypt, we adopted a policy of non-interference, flexibility, pragmatism at the functional level while urging the early implementation of the inclusive transition road map. On Syria, India supported a UN-backed, Syrian-led comprehensive political settlement. India participated in Geneva II and contributed financially towards humanitarian assistance and destruction of chemical weapons. We welcomed the renewed Israel-Palestine peace talks, reiterating our support for a sovereign, independent, viable, united State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders side by side with Israel, with East Jerusalem as its capital. We engaged with Libya to diversify and strengthen our economic and energy cooperation. Considering our overall energy interest in Sudan and South Sudan, we continued our policy of neutral approach, focussing on development partnership initiatives. Our ties with countries in the Gulf region where India has strategic, economic, energy and diaspora interests were cemented by regular political trade and commercial exchanges.

We share common values of democracy, rule of law and civil liberties with the countries of Western Europe. Our relationship was strengthened through high-level political exchanges. There is a growing recognition about the strengths and potential of the Indian economy. India continued its policy of broad-based engagement, deepening and diversification of relations with Central and Eastern Europe.

India's relations with Africa were strengthened through political support and implementation of projects under the two India-Africa Forum Summits, including scholarships,

training, grants, loans and private sector investment. New initiatives announced at IAFS-II included Lines-of-Credit of US\$ 5 billion, over 22,000 scholarships in the next three years and establishing more than 80 capacity-building institutions. India looks to the next Summit to take our cooperation to new heights. India made significant advances in the development of bilateral relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. Landmark high-level visits, growing bilateral trade, development assistance projects and cultural events, took forward our ties with this region with its vast potential to contribute to our energy and food security and its considerable Indian diaspora.

Major development partnership projects are under implementation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Maldives and Sri Lanka covering infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, industry and other sectors prioritized by the host governments. Cross-border connectivity initiatives are proceeding satisfactorily. 8000 foreign nationals from 161 developing countries were offered slots under ITEC, SCAAP and Colombo Plan. In 2013-14, lines-of-credit for US\$ 1176.40 million were sanctioned for African countries, and US\$ 454.41 million for Asia and Latin America.

As a state possessing nuclear weapons, India's stand on disarmament issues was guided by national security interests and our tradition of close engagement with the international community to promote cooperative efforts in dealing with these challenges. India remains committed to global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. India attaches importance to the centrality of the United Nations in multilateralism, participating actively in all UN processes addressing crucial issues of international public policy. India's presence in the UN-system was further consolidated with its election to various UN bodies. India continued to be one of the largest troop contributors to UN peace keeping operations. As a founder member of the modern Commonwealth, India remains strongly committed to its values and principles. India continued to play a key role in multilateral bodies such as G-20, BIMSTEC, BRICS, IBSA, and Indian Ocean Rim Association.

Along with like-minded countries in the G-4 and L-69 groups, India continued to press for reform of the United Nations and expansion of its Security Council to make it more representative and democratic to enhance its credibility and effectiveness and reflect contemporary geo-political realities.

Neighbours

Afghanistan: India's strategic partnership with Afghanistan was further strengthened with high level visits of President Mr. Hamid Karzai to India in May 2013 and in December 2013, and the visit of Afghan 2nd Vice President Mr. Mohammad Karim Khalili in August 2013. In April 2013, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Shri Salman Khurshid attended the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the Istanbul Process held in Almaty. India also hosted a conference-cum-exhibition "Doing Business with Afghanistan", in New Delhi on 18-19 November, 2013 under the Istanbul Process. India's bilateral assistance programme for Afghanistan, of about US\$ 2 billion, is spread across Afghanistan and spans almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid led an Indian delegation to Kandahar on 15 February, 2014, where along with President Mr. Hamid Karzai, he inaugurated the Afghan National Agricultural Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU).

Bangladesh: Our sustained and mutually beneficial dialogue at various levels with the Bangladesh leadership alongside wide-ranging people-to-people interaction has strengthened our relations with Bangladesh. The focus of bilateral cooperation in 2013-14 has been on the implementation of the Agreements, Protocols and MoUs signed between India and Bangladesh as well as the initiatives agreed upon in the 2010 Joint Communiqué and in the 2011 Joint Statement. Significant developments during the year included establishment of grid interconnection to facilitate flow of electricity from India to Bangladesh, inauguration of the Integrated Check Post at Agartala, and ratification of the Extradition Treaty, among others.

Bhutan: India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations underpinned by mutual trust and confidence. The year 2013 witnessed sustained progress in bilateral cooperation in all areas of importance including hydro-power, transport, communications, infrastructure, health, education and culture, information and communications technology, and agriculture. Following the success of Bhutan's second democratic elections in July 2013, several high-level dialogues were held with the new Bhutanese leadership. National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon and Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh visited Bhutan, and Prime Minister Mr. Tshering Tobgay visited India in August-September 2013. The King of Bhutan visited India in January 2014. Government of India (GoI) agreed to extend an assistance package of Rs. 4500 crores towards the 11th Five Year Plan (2013-18) of Bhutan and Rs. 500 crores towards its Economic Stimulus Package.

India continues to be the largest trade and development partner of Bhutan. The construction of three Hydroelectric Projects (HEPs) -Punatsangchhu-I (1200 MW), Punatsangchhu-II (1020 MW) and Mangdechhu (720 MW) are on schedule. The Chukkhra HEP (336 MW) celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013, and the Dungsam Cement Plant constructed with GoI assistance of Rs. 400 crore, has commenced commercial production.

China: India-China bilateral relations have witnessed all-round progress in the year 2013. The exchange of visits by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Premier of China Mr. Li Keqiang within calendar year 2013 was the first since 1954. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping met twice in 2013 - on 27 March 2013 in Durban, South Africa on the sidelines of 5th BRICS Summit. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh again met President Mr. Xi Jinping along with other BRICS leaders before the formal opening of the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg on 5 September, 2013.

Maldives: India and the Maldives remained engaged in further strengthening the close bilateral relations between the two countries. The new President of Maldives, Dr. Abdulla Yameen paid a State Visit to India in January 2014. As part of its outreach to the multiparty democratic polity in Maldives, GoI facilitated incoming visits by the leader of the Maldives Democratic Party (MDP) Mr. Mohamed Nasheed and former President of Maldives Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

Myanmar: India-Myanmar multifaceted relations rooted in shared historical, ethnic, cultural and religious ties, were further strengthened during 2013-14 through exchange of high level visits. Of particular significance was the visit of the Speaker of the Upper House of Myanmar's Parliament Mr. Khin Aung Myint to India in December 2013 and the visit of our Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma to attend the World Economic Forum held in Myanmar in June 2013. The Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Shri Jitendra Singh also represented India at the Opening Ceremony of the South East Asian Games held on 11 December 2013.

Nepal: India-Nepal friendship and cooperation is characterized by open borders, extensive people-to-people ties and multi-faceted socio-economic interaction. India continues to support Nepal in its transition to a prosperous, peaceful, stable and democratic country. Intensive bilateral exchanges were held with a spectrum of Nepali leaders in the run-up to their second Constituent Assembly-cum-Parliament elections in November 2013. GoI extended

requested logistical support to the elections, which were successfully conducted with a record turnout of nearly 70%. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh congratulated Mr. Sushil Koirala on his appointment as the new Prime Minister of Nepal in February 2014.

Indo-Nepal defence ties were strengthened by reciprocal visits of the Indian and Nepalese Chiefs of Army Staff in 2013, and the 10th Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues in April 2013. Developmental assistance to Nepal was utilized effectively, with the Emergency Trauma Centre in Kathmandu nearing completion. India continued to be the largest trading partner and investor in Nepal. The Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade and Transit, led by the respective Commerce Secretaries, met in Kathmandu on 21-22 December 2013.

Pakistan: India is committed to the resolution of all outstanding issues with Pakistan, through peaceful bilateral dialogue in an environment free from terror and violence. Two rounds of resumed dialogue on eight issues were completed by September 2012; the third round also began with Commerce Secretary-level meeting in the same month. However, due to incidents along the Line of Control in January 2013 and other developments including elections in Pakistan, further talks under the resumed dialogue could not be scheduled during the year. Technical level meetings were, however, held and private trade promotion delegations continued to be exchanged.

Pakistan's elections in May 2013 witnessed the return of Mr. Nawaz Sharif as Prime Minister. India expressed its desire to work with the new Pakistan government to chart a new course in bilateral ties and conveyed its willingness to reciprocate the new Pakistan government's stated desire for expanding cooperation in the areas of energy, trade and economy. Following the incidents of killing of Indian soldiers, repeated ceasefire violations and transgressions by the Pakistan Army along the Line of Control and the International Boundary, India underscored the need to uphold the sanctity of Line of Control and in this context also underlined that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Control is required for forward movement in the bilateral relationship. India also repeatedly urged Pakistan to quickly bring to justice those responsible for the Mumbai terror attacks.

Sri Lanka: The relationship between India and Sri Lanka is built on a legacy of cultural, religious and linguistic exchanges. In 2013-14 there were close contacts at high political levels, and the relationship was marked by constructive dialogue, growing trade and investment, cooperation in the fields of infrastructure development, education, culture and defence as

well as a broad mutual understanding on major issues of international interest. India's extensive development assistance programme has contributed to the rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons and the reconstruction of the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. Agreements relating to the Sampur Coal Power Project in Sri Lanka were signed during the visit of External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid in October 2013.

South East Asia and Pacific

In recent years, there has been a significant transformation in India's relations with the countries in South East Asia and the Pacific region. The expansion and deepening of our engagement has led to an enhanced Look East Policy. Our relations, characterized by civilizational contacts, mutual goodwill and desire to strengthen cooperation, are multifaceted and forward-looking and have acquired a strategic dimension with five of the countries in the region (Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam) and with ASEAN. The steady trend of economic growth and stability in the region and the continuing geopolitical shift towards Asia have imparted new momentum and positive trajectory to our partnerships in the region, both bilaterally with individual countries as well as with regional and sub-regional forum.

Our enhanced Look East Policy has a deep imprint in the region and beyond, complements the regional approach of several partners and is an integral component of our strategic agenda. The current approach towards the region has gained political, strategic and cultural dimensions. Security, connectivity and regional integration have emerged as new priorities.

The ASEAN-India strategic partnership, established during the Commemorative Summit in 2012, was consolidated further through close cooperation in a range of joint initiatives and projects, including the establishment of the Nalanda University. The announcement of appointment of a separate Ambassador to ASEAN would help strengthen this partnership further and facilitate collaboration and implementation.

Intensification of high level visits, regular meetings of existing institutional mechanisms of cooperation and establishment of new mechanisms, where necessary, have contributed to strengthening of relations and enhanced prospects for an upward trend in bilateral cooperation. The year witnessed bilateral visits by PM Dr. Manmohan Singh to Thailand (May 2013) and Indonesia (October 2013), which provided the

opportunity to enhance bilateral cooperation and understanding on regional issues besides conclusion of several important agreements. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh also attended the India-ASEAN Summit and EAS (October 2013) in Brunei, where he met the Australian Prime Minister in the margins of the meeting. He also hosted the State Visit of General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam to India (November 2013).

EAM Shri Salman Khurshid visited Brunei for ASEAN-India and ARF Ministerial Meeting (July 2013), during which he met with as many as twelve Foreign Ministers from participating countries. He also paid bilateral visits to Singapore (July and October 2013), Lao (September 2013), Philippines (October 2013) and Australia (October 2013) and hosted incoming visits of the Foreign Ministers of New Zealand (June 2013), Vietnam (July 2013), Singapore (July 2013) and Australia (November 2013). There was strengthening of parliamentary exchanges with our delegations visiting Indonesia and Australia while we received delegations from Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia.

Economic relations with South East Asian countries have emerged as a major pillar of our relations. With the implementation of India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Goods, our trade with ASEAN countries has shown steady growth trends, with total trade with ASEAN reaching almost \$76 billion in 2012-13; and growing to US\$ 39 billion in the first six months of 2013-14. The agreement to conclude India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Services and Investments will provide further impetus to our growing economic engagement with the region. Negotiations with ASEAN and partners have commenced on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which will promote economic cooperation and regional integration. At the same time, our bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements (CECA) are under negotiation with Thailand and Indonesia and FTAs with Australia and New Zealand, which will promote competitiveness and growth. For India, our economic interaction with the region has become more important for our development priorities as the countries of the region have emerged as major trade and investment partners; Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand are key players in infrastructure development; and Indonesia, Australia and Vietnam are emerging as long-term, reliable sources of resources and energy security. Moreover, our corporate sector has developed business links with their counterparts and established business presence to further strengthen economic ties.

With the growing strategic importance of the region, our cooperation in the fields of security and defence has been strengthened through regular exchanges and dialogues in several areas. Defence Minister Shri A.K. Antony's visits to Australia, Thailand and Singapore improved mutual understanding and promoted defence cooperation. We have active cooperation, at both bilateral and regional levels in combating counter terrorism and other transnational crimes. We have also established mechanisms for cooperation between law enforcement agencies and disaster relief (HADR) and promoted dialogue on maritime security and cyber security with key partners. Our prompt airlift of critical relief supplies to the victims of typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines was appreciated. We have also stepped up exchanges in science and technology and provided assistance on space applications leading to meaningful cooperation in cutting edge and popular technologies.

India expanded its engagement of CLMV (Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, Vietnam) through dialogue on issues of common interest and higher levels of assistance for projects, in accordance with their development priorities, in agriculture and water management, energy and transmission lines and human resource development and capacity building. New projects were taken up on connectivity, establishment of institutions for entrepreneurship development, vocational training, ICT and English language. An India-CLMV Business Conclave was held in New Delhi in October 2013 to create new economic opportunities. India extended an offer of assistance in the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites such as Siem Reap, Wat Phu and My Son.

To further broaden relations and foster greater people-to-people contacts, Indian Cultural Centres have been strengthened, Chairs of Indian Studies have been instituted in several Universities, links have been established between Think Tanks, and tourism and air links have been promoted. Further, new educational links and cooperation in vocational training have been established and implementation of ITEC programmes for training has been strengthened. The Indian diaspora in the region, which is considerable both in numbers and influence, has been actively engaged -Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas was held in Sydney and a prominent member of the diaspora from Malaysia was invited as Chief Guest for PBD-2014, for the first time.

The relations between India and the Pacific island nations have been strengthened through direct bilateral exchanges with several islands. We have stepped up our cooperation activities with the countries of the Pacific Island through new initiatives

in small development projects, institutional assistance and training programmes. Further, our interactions with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and regular meetings with partners at the Post Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting held in Marshall Islands, in 2013, has added to our stature in the region.

East Asia

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK): Relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) remained cordial. The Foreign Ministers of the two countries held a bilateral meeting in Brunei in July 2013. India continued to allocate ITEC slots to DPRK for helping in its capacity-building efforts. Providing humanitarian food aid to DPRK was under consideration of the Government of India. India and DPRK celebrated the 40th anniversary of establishment of their diplomatic relations. The two nations continued to cooperate in the United Nations and other international fora.

Japan: India enjoys a strong bilateral relationship with Japan, premised on peace, prosperity and development. During Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Japan in December 2006, an 'India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership' identified five pillars of cooperation – political, defence and security cooperation; comprehensive economic partnership; science and technology initiatives; people to people exchanges and cooperation in regional and multi-lateral issues. The India-Japan relationship broadened and deepened in its scope in 2013, and this dynamic growth was reflected in the political, economic and security interactions between the two countries.

Mongolia: India-Mongolia ties continued to flourish. In March 2013, the 4th Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation was held in New Delhi to take stock of and expand the overall relationship. The Sixth Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation took place in New Delhi in November 2013 to review and expand defence ties. The two countries participated in annual military exercises. India continued to provide development assistance to Mongolia. There was progress in economic and trade ties with Mongolia.

Republic of Korea (RoK): India and the Republic of Korea celebrated the 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties in 2013. The relationship between the two countries was upgraded to a Strategic Partnership during the visit of President Mr. Lee Myung-bak in 2010. The visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2012 resulted in the India-

Korea Joint Statement on Deepening the Strategic Partnership. Korean President Ms. Park Geun-hye visited India from 15-18 January 2014. The 'Joint Statement for Expansion of Strategic Partnership' released during the visit has laid out a blueprint for expansion of relations in the political, security, defence, economic, scientific and technological, IT and cultural fields.

Eurasia

India's overall policy is that of deepening our engagement in Eurasia by strengthening our relations with Central Asia, which is an area of special focus in India's extended neighbourhood; furthering ties with countries in the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and North Eurasia (Ukraine, Belarus); and building upon our traditional partnership with Russia.

Russian Federation: The India-Russia 'special and privileged' strategic partnership remains a matter of the highest priority for both nations. This partnership is based on a shared belief in the enduring value of the relationship, both for mutual benefit and as a factor for global peace and stability. The 14th Annual India-Russia Summit held in Moscow from 20 to 22 October, 2013 marked the culmination of intense bilateral exchanges during the year. Several documents were signed. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met President Mr. Vladimir Putin on the margins of the 5th BRICS Summit in Durban (March 2013) followed by a brief interaction during the G-20 Summit in St. Petersburg (September 2013).

In the run-up to the Annual Summit, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid held discussions with his Russian counterpart, and co-chaired the nineteenth session of the bilateral Joint Commission. Other bilateral visits to Russia included those at the level of Home Minister (April 2013), the Commerce and Industries Minister (April, June and September 2013), the Finance Minister (July, 2013) and the Defence Minister (November 2013).

Despite the fragile global economic environment, bilateral trade grew by nearly 25% in 2012 to cross US\$ 11 billion. In 2013, it dipped somewhat to a level of around US\$ 10 billion.

Unit-1 at Kudankulam nuclear power project was synchronised to the power grid in October 2013. Completion of work on Unit 2 is now being targeted for 2014.

A crucial element of the strategic partnership is defence cooperation. The year 2013 saw the delivery of the third Russian – built frigate INS Trikan and the commissioning of the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

Belarus: Warmth and cordiality mark the traditionally friendly relations between India and Belarus. In May 2013, a thirteen member Indian Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, visited Belarus. Other exchanges continued during the year.

Ukraine: Bilateral relations between India and Ukraine intensified with meetings of several Joint Working Groups in 2013. Our Chief of Air Staff led a defence delegation to Kyiv in October 2013 and discussed the status of ongoing projects and contracts. The fifth session of the Inter-Governmental Commission was held in New Delhi in September, 2013. After a series of violent incidents in Kyiv in February 2014, a change in government took place in Ukraine, leading to tension between Russia and Ukraine. India called for a diplomatic resolution of the crisis and abstained in the vote on the issue in the UNGA on 27 March 2014.

Central Asia

Central Asia is an important priority in India's extended neighbourhood. Equally, for Central Asia, India is an important friend and partner in its growth and development. The Ministry, announced a 'Connect Central Asia' policy in June 2012, which addressed India's relationship with the region both collectively and on the bilateral mode. The policy has a vision of collective engagement with Central Asia for tackling issues of regional political and security stability and bilateral mechanisms for developing relations with each of the five Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). High level interaction with Central Asian countries continued in the year. Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; EAM Shri Salman Khurshid visited Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The Second Track II-India Central Asia Dialogue was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in June 2013 and the second regional HOMs conference of the Eurasian region was held in Tashkent in September 2013. Resident Defence Attaches are now posted in all the Central Asian countries.

South Caucasus

India's relations with the South Caucasus countries – Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan continued with their positive trajectory during the year. The seventh round of the India-Armenia Foreign Office Consultations and the Sixth Session of the Inter-Governmental Commission were held in New Delhi. A goodwill Parliamentary delegation led by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs visited Armenia and also called

on the President. Steps were taken to ensure the welfare of a sizeable number of Indian students in Armenia.

The fourth round of India-Georgia Foreign Office Consultations was held in Tbilisi.

Several high level bilateral visits were exchanged with Azerbaijan during the year. Among them was the first visit to India of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov.

The Gulf, West Asia & North Africa

India's historical and traditionally friendly relations with the countries of the Gulf region were further strengthened during the past year. Gulf region continued to be India's largest trading partner with bilateral trade turnover of US\$ 181.4 billion in 2012-13, up from US\$ 167 billion in 2011-12. Out of India's global crude oil imports of about 186 million metric tonnes (MMT) in 2012-13, over 60 percent was sourced from the countries of the Gulf region. Among India's top five oil sourcing countries, four were from the Gulf region playing a significant role in India's energy security- Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and UAE being the first, second, fourth and fifth largest crude oil exporters to us.

India and countries of the Gulf region have cross investments and India has been engaged in increasing the portfolio of foreign direct investment from the countries of Gulf region especially in the infrastructure sector. About 7 million Indian expatriates live and work in the countries of the Gulf region and remit approximately US\$ 30 billion annually to India.

India's bilateral relationship with the countries of the region were further strengthened by visits at the highest level including visits to India of the Prime Minister of Iraq in August 2013, the Prime Minister of Kuwait in November 2013, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain in February 2014 and the Crown Prince, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia in February 2014. During the year, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid visited Bahrain, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and UAE. Due to our vital stake in the peace, stability, development and prosperity of the countries in the Gulf region, India continued to monitor developments in the region.

The events of Arab Spring continued to have an impact on the countries of West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region. It was assessed that the earlier exaggerated expectations of progress towards democracy turned out to be misplaced. The region continued to be in a state of flux and uncertainty, which made analysis difficult.

On our part, conscious of our long term strategic, energy, food, economic and commercial interests, we closely monitored the evolving situation and remained engaged with WANA countries for further diversification of our relationship.

India's policy on the political turmoil in the Arab countries remained guided by our long standing ties with the region, our commitment to democracy, free expression, human rights and the rule of law. We continued to be guided by our principles of being non-interfering, non-prescriptive and non-judgmental, even while standing up for cherished democratic beliefs appropriately. Our principled stance found support from the international community.

Despite the challenges in the region, India remained actively engaged with governments of all countries in the region. On Egypt, we adopted the policy of non-interference, flexibility and pragmatism at the functional level, in furtherance of our long-term interest. At the same time, we urged the early implementation of the inclusive transition road map. On Syria, we articulated opposition to a military solution while supporting a UN-backed, Syrian-led comprehensive political settlement. We participated in Geneva-II and contributed financially towards humanitarian assistance (US\$ 2 million) and destruction of chemical weapons (US\$ 1 million) in Syria. On the Middle East Peace Process, we welcomed the Israel-Palestine renewed peace talks and reiterated our support for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side by side with Israel, with East Jerusalem as its capital. We remained engaged with Libya, diversifying our ties for leveraging our economic/energy interests (Post-revolution, Libya is still reflecting extreme divisive tendencies shrouded in tribalism, religious fanaticism, regionalism and more recently, extreme forms of militia violence). In Sudan and South Sudan, we continued with our policy of neutral approach and initiatives for development partnership, considering our overall energy interests in the two countries (OVL and Indian Oil Corporation have substantial assets worth US\$ 2.5 billion in Sudan and South Sudan). We engaged with Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan, and Djibouti in furthering our mutually beneficial political, economic and security ties. New economic areas such as pharmaceuticals, automobiles, infrastructure, housing, hospitality, power generation and transmission, renewable energy, were identified. With Somalia, the cooperation has been limited to securing the release of our seafarers held captive.

Africa

The historical, friendly, close and civilisational relations India enjoys with Africa gained further momentum during 2013-14. Various high level visits took place on both sides during the year including those of the President of Mauritius, Mr. Rajkeshwur Purryag (in January 2013), the President of Zanzibar, Ali Mohamed Shein (in February 2014) and Prime Minister of Lesotho, Thomas Thabane (in March 2014). President Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State Visit to Mauritius in March 2013. Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari led the Indian delegation to Ethiopia to participate in the Special Golden Jubilee commemorative Summit of the African Union in May 2013. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited South Africa in March 2013 to participate in the BRICS Summit. India-Africa cooperation was further strengthened through implementation of the IAFS decisions pertaining to capacity building and human resources development initiatives, expansion of lines of credit and promotion of India-Africa trade and investment. Bilateral trade between India and Africa crossed US\$ 70 billion in the year 2013-14. India has also emerged as an important investor in Africa with cumulative investment of nearly US\$ 50 billion.

Europe

West Europe

India's relationship with countries of Western Europe continued to deepen and strengthen. India shares common values of democracy, rule of law, civil liberties with countries of the region. The depth of India's relationship can be seen from frequent high level exchanges with these countries. There is a continuing recognition in West Europe about the strength of Indian economy and increasing interest to invest in India. Despite the sovereign debt crisis in the region, the European Union remains India's largest trading partner. Efforts to strengthen commercial and economic ties with the region continued with exchanges of business delegations. High level official exchanges continued through Foreign Office Consultations and other dialogue mechanisms. Interaction at the Foreign Ministers level imparted depth to our relations with the region. Efforts were made to project the richness and diversity of Indian culture in the region. In particular, Europa India 2013-14 Festival was inaugurated by President Shri Pranab Mukherjee along with King Philippe of Belgium during his state visit to Belgium on 2-5 October 2013. Other Heads of State/Government level visits during the period included the visit of President of France Mr.

Francois Hollande on 14-15 February 2013 and UK PM Mr. David Cameron's visits on 18-20 February 2013 and 14-15 November 2013. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Germany on 10-12 April 2013 for the second bilateral Inter-Governmental Consultations. President of Germany Mr. Joachim Gauck paid a State Visit to India on 4-9 February 2014.

Central Europe

India continued its policy of broad-based engagement with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the process of deepening and diversification of India's friendly relations with the region continued. On political issues, there was good mutual understanding, both at the bilateral and multilateral forums. The year saw a number of high level visits, including those of President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who visited Turkey during 5-7 October 2013 and that of the Hungarian Prime Minister, Mr. Viktor Orban during 16-18 October 2013 who visited India along with a strong business delegation.

The Americas

Canada: India-Canada engagement continued to intensify in key areas of mutual interest, with inaugural meetings of the bilateral Strategic Dialogue, Energy Dialogue, Security Dialogue and the Economic and Financial Sector Policy Dialogue being held during this period. The Governor General of Canada paid a State Visit to India in February 2014, nearly fifteen years after the last such visit.

Significant developments in this period include the entry into force of the India-Canada Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in September 2013; the signing of bilateral agreements in the areas of Energy, Health, Community Colleges, Research, Audio-Visual Co-Production, Iron & Steel and the conclusion of an Understanding on Social Security with the province of Quebec.

Bilateral cooperation in priority areas such as counter-terrorism, education, science & technology, agriculture, transportation and mining continued to strengthen through the meetings of the bilateral Joint Working Groups.

Both countries endeavoured to deepen bilateral trade and investment ties through continued progress in the negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and a shared commitment to finalize a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement on a priority basis.

United States: India and the United States continued their

intensive engagement in diverse areas of bilateral cooperation including defence, security, counter-terrorism, trade and investment, higher education, science & technology, energy and health. Strategic and political consultations continued on a range of regional and global issues of mutual interest, which were augmented with the addition of dialogues on the Indian Ocean Region and UN and Multilateral Issues. The year witnessed over seventy exchanges of senior-level visits, capped by the official visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the United States in September 2013. From the US side, major visits included those of US Vice President Mr. Joseph R. Biden to India in July 2013, Secretary of State Mr. John F. Kerry in June 2013, and Secretary, Department of Energy, Dr. Ernest Moniz in March 2014. Key bilateral dialogues held at the Ministerial level during the year included the Strategic Dialogue, the Homeland Security Dialogue, the Economic and Financial Partnership meeting, the Energy Dialogue, the Higher Education Dialogue, and the India-US Civil Aviation Summit. The reconstituted CEO Forum met in July 2013.

A 'Joint Declaration of Principles for Defence Cooperation' was announced during Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to USA in September 2013, wherein the U.S. committed to treat India on par with its closest partners for technology release and both countries agreed to identify transformative co-development and co-production projects in a year. A preliminary commercial contract to build a nuclear power plant in Gujarat by the US company Westinghouse and a MoU for Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy (PEACE) to enhance affordable and innovative clean energy solutions to rural areas, were also signed on the margins of the visit. India-US cooperation in the field of climate change was strengthened with the decision to establish a Climate Change Working Group in September 2013. The US will be the Partner Country for the Science and Technology Summit to be hosted by India in 2014, for the first time.

During April-December 2013, the US was India's second largest trading partner in goods. For the period April 2000-January 2014, the US was the fifth largest contributor of FDI to India.

Latin America and Caribbean

During the year, significant advances were made in the development of India's bilateral relations with Latin America and the Caribbean region through landmark high level visits, conclusion of bilateral agreements, multilateral and bilateral engagements, development projects and cultural events.

We nurture strong historical and cultural linkages with the Caribbean region which is home to a large Indian diaspora. During the year there have been important visits from the region such as that of Vice President of Ecuador, and the Foreign Ministers of Nicaragua, Cuba, Argentina and Venezuela. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid co-chaired the Joint Commission meetings with Argentina and Venezuela in June and December 2013 respectively in New Delhi. Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari visited Peru and Cuba in October 2013. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid visited Brazil and co-chaired the Sixth India-Brazil JCM and also chaired the LAC Regional HOMs Conference in Rio in October 2013. Minister of State for Revenue visited Chile in March 2014 for the Oath-taking ceremony of the President of Chile.

Bilateral trade with LAC region in 2013 is expected to have crossed a record of US\$ 46 billion and our cumulative investments in the region are estimated to be over US\$16 billion. The region has vast potential in terms of our energy security, food security and is an important source of raw materials for our growing industry. India also assists several developing countries in the region through the ITEC scholarship programme, Lines of Credit, Grant-in-aid and IT centres as part of our abiding commitment to South-South cooperation.

United Nations and International Organisations

India attaches importance to the centrality of the United Nations in multilateralism. India along with like-minded countries in the G-4 and L-69 groups continued to press for reform of the United Nations and expansion of its Security Council to make it more representative and democratic to enhance its credibility and effectiveness and reflect contemporary geo-political realities.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the official Indian delegation to the high-level segment of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York from 27-30 September, 2013. Urging reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council to reflect current political realities, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh called for reforms to be completed by the 70th anniversary of the UN in 2015.

India continued to be one of the largest troop contributors to UN Peacekeeping Operations. In 2013, India maintained its position as the third largest troop-contributor to UN peacekeeping with 7,923 military and police personnel deployed with nine UN peacekeeping missions around the

world and one UN assistance mission in Afghanistan.

As a founder member, India remains strongly committed to the values and principles of the Commonwealth. During 2013-14, India continued to be the fourth largest contributor to the Commonwealth budget. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid led the official Indian delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Colombo from 15-17 November 2013. He also participated in the Pre-CHOGM Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting on 13-14 November, 2013 and attended the 43rd Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group meeting held in London on 13-14 March 2014. The Commonwealth Secretary General, Shri Kamallesh Sharma undertook official visits to India before and after the 2013 CHOGM.

EAM Shri Salman Khurshid participated in the Geneva II International conference on Syria in Montreux (Switzerland) on 22 January, 2014.

India also participated in the 6th Bali Democracy Forum (BDF) held in November 2013 in Bali, Indonesia. Shri Brij Behari Tandon, former Chief Election Commissioner represented India at the 6th BDF. India took an active part in the activities of the Community of Democracies, Non-Aligned Movement, the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and other multilateral fora. High level ministerial participation in various intergovernmental processes during the year reflected India's continuing strong commitment to multilateralism. Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Shri Ajay Maken, led the delegation to the 24th Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in Nairobi in April 2013. Minister of Health & Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad led the Indian delegation to the 66th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva in May 2013. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid led the Indian delegation at the inaugural meeting of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in September 2013 in New York. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Kumari Selja led the Indian delegation at the high level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the realization of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities held in New York in September 2013. An Inter-Ministerial delegation participated in the eleventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held in Windhoek, Namibia in September 2013. Minister of Environment & Forests (Independent Charge) Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, led the Indian delegation to the 19th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC) held in Warsaw in November 2013. Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar and Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha Prof. P.J. Kurien led the High level Indian delegation to the 129th and 130th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) respectively. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid participated in the Ministerial segment of the International Conference on Syria at Switzerland in January 2014.

India's presence in the UN system was further consolidated during the year. India was elected to the UNESCO Executive Board, the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND), the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and re-elected to the Executive Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The Comptroller and Auditor General of India was elected to the UN Board of Auditors. India's candidate was nominated as Regional Director for the WHO South-East Asia Region. DG, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) was elected to the Executive Council of WMO.

India was elected Vice President (representing the Asia-Pacific Group) in the Bureau of the Human Rights Council (HRC) for 2014. The HRC focussed on country-specific resolutions in the 25th session in 2014. Resolutions on Syria, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK), Myanmar, Iran and Sri Lanka (for the third time) were adopted.

India was granted 'Observer' status in the Arctic Council during the Kiruna Ministerial Meeting held in May 2013. India joined the International Anti-corruption Academy (IACA) based in Laxenburg, Austria. Another significant development was India's accession to the Madrid Protocol on Trademarks.

India participated in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the Human Rights Council by making statements. India facilitated the visit of UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to India in April 2013.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

India's proactive stance in SAARC since 2004, as part of its new approach to the countries of the neighbourhood, has been

a transformative factor in ensuring the gradual and irreversible transition of the organization from a declaratory phase to one of implementation. The growth of the organization has been stimulated by the increasing need of Member States to look to SAARC for solutions to their domestic developmental challenges.

The Government of India has announced the award of 50 scholarships to students from the SAARC Least Developed Countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal) under the 'SAARC India Silver Jubilee Scholarships' scheme announced by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the XVI SAARC Summit in Thimphu. During the XVII SAARC Summit held in Maldives in November 2011, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced increase in scholarships from 50 to 100.

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Ministers (Inter-Summit) took place from 17-20 February, 2014 at the Maldives. Prior to the Inter-Summit, preparatory meetings were held at the level of SAARC Heads of Divisions (Programming Committee Meeting, 17 February 2014), and Foreign Secretary (18-19 February 2014 Special Session and Standing Committee).

The Meetings considered the Study conducted by the SAARC Secretariat to strengthen SAARC mechanisms, including the SAARC Secretariat, Regional Centres and the SAARC Specialised Bodies. The Committee recommended that SAARC summit be held once every two years instead of the current practice of holding it annually. A pre-determined time-frame would be set for holding the Meeting. A number of recommendations to improve the functioning of the SAARC Secretariat were approved. The Meeting agreed on selective closure and merger of Regional Centres.

Disarmament and International Security Affairs

During the year, India continued to pursue its policies on disarmament and non-proliferation, especially the priority issue of nuclear disarmament, in various multilateral forums on disarmament and international security affairs in pursuance of its commitment to the goal of universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament as well as general and complete disarmament. India's stand on disarmament issues was guided by India's national security interests and its tradition of close engagement with the international community.

India participated actively in the meetings of the UN First

Committee, UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC), Conference on Disarmament (CD), Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPOA on SALW). India held the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament as one of the six Presidents in the 2013 Session. As a President of the Conference on Disarmament, India exerted all efforts to start substantive work in the Conference and held wide consultations with all Member States of the Conference. India also participated in the Diplomatic Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). India participated actively in the meetings of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). India held bilateral consultations with various countries on disarmament and non-proliferation issues and took forward its dialogue with the multilateral export control regimes. The Ministry executed its responsibilities in the implementation of India's export control laws and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Act of 2005. Regular contacts were maintained with Indian and international civil society organisations in the field of disarmament and international security affairs.

Multilateral Economic Relations

During the past year, the key multilateral groupings such as G20, BRICS, IBSA, IORA (formerly called IORARC) continued to remain engaged with resolution of the challenges of weak world economic growth, developments in the Middle East and North African region, multilateral trading system, sustainable development, etc. India continued to play a key role in these multilateral groupings to pursue its own national interests as well as to voice concerns of the developing world. India remains the Chair of IBSA and relinquished the Chairs of BRICS at the 5th Summit in Durban, South Africa in March 2013 and IORARC at the 13th Meeting of its Council of Ministers in Perth, Australia in November 2013.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the 5th BRICS Summit in Durban, South Africa in March 2013 and the 8th G-20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia in September 2013.

EAM Shri Salman Khurshid chaired a meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers commemorating the 10th anniversary in New York in September 2013 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. He also attended a luncheon meeting of

BRICS Foreign Ministers in New York in September 2013. He led the Indian delegation to the 13th Meeting of Council of Ministers of IORA in Perth, Australia in November 2013 and also attended the meetings of BRICS Foreign Ministers on the margins of the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague in March 2014. Under its Chairmanship, India hosted the mid-term meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of IORA in Port Louis, Mauritius in July 2013. India also co-hosted with Mauritius the 1st meeting of the Economic and Business Council of IORA in Port Louis in July 2013. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid hosted the 12th Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China (RIC) in New Delhi in November 2013.

Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

ASEAN-India strategic partnership continued to witness an intensive calendar comprising meetings of the 26 inter-governmental mechanisms across sectors, the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2010-15, and intensive people-to-people exchange programmes involving students, farmers, media, diplomats and parliamentarians. India participated as Observer in the 34th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in September 2013. In view of the strategic priority being given to connectivity related issues, India initiated an annual meeting with the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC), becoming the third Dialogue Partner of ASEAN to do so, after China and Japan. Interaction in track one and a half continued through Delhi Dialogue and ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks.

India's participation in the East Asia Summit saw incremental engagement, with India taking initiatives in the sectors of disaster management and mitigation, health and education. The MoU on the establishment of Nalanda University was signed by eight EAS members on the sidelines of the 8th EAS on 10 October 2013. India also joined negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) with ASEAN and its other five FTA partners.

India hosted the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting on 11-12 November 2013 with the theme "ASEM: Bridge to Partnership for Growth and Development". Breaking away from the declaratory nature of previous ASEM meetings, ASEM FMM11 brought about significant forward movement in ASEM working methods, including a Chair's Statement based on consensus and consultations, a shift from 'dialogue'

to 'deliverables' and the inclusion of the constructive format of the Retreat to facilitate in-depth exchange of views on international and regional issues.

Development Cooperation

Development Cooperation is an integral part of India's foreign policy. In recent years, India's development programmes abroad have expanded substantially, both in geographical reach and sectoral coverage. These include Lines of Credit (LoCs), grant assistance, technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a range of capacity-building programmes including short-term civilian and military training courses.

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

Major developmental projects are under implementation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives in infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health and other sectors identified by the host governments as priority areas. Various initiatives to strengthen cross-border connectivity with India's neighbours are progressing satisfactorily. Beyond the neighbourhood, bilateral projects in archaeological conservation, information and computer technology (ICT) and Small & Medium enterprises have been undertaken in South East Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America.

A key aspect of India's development assistance in the past few years has been the extension of Lines of Credit on concessional terms to other developing countries. During the period under review, LoCs of about US\$ 1497.47 million were allocated to countries in Africa and US\$ 479.79 million were sanctioned to countries in Asia and Latin America.

During the period January 2013 to March 2014, over 8000 civilians were trained under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) and Technical Cooperation scheme (TCS) of Colombo Plan for nominees from 161 developing countries. About 1500 defence personnel from several partner countries were imparted training in various defence institutions in India. Indian civilian and defence experts have been deputed to many developing countries for sharing of expertise and capacity building.

Investment and Technology Promotion

Investment and Technology Promotion (ITP) Division, promotes economic diplomacy, and supports programmes relating to foreign investments, trade promotion activities and technology promotion and transfer. It works in coordination with line Ministries, Chambers of Commerce and Export Promotion Councils and provides policy inputs to the Ministries dealing with economic and commercial issues.

In 2013-14, the Division disbursed Rs. 5 crore to our Missions and Posts, to support their efforts of increasing exports and investments. During the year, ITP division hosted a meeting with Export Promotion Councils and Apex Chambers of Commerce and a meeting on opportunities abroad in the telecom sector. In collaboration with PHD Chamber of Commerce, MEA hosted "Conference on Africa - A Land of Opportunities". MEA along with CII and Ministry of Commerce, hosted a two day "CII-India, Latin America and Caribbean Conclave". With FICCI, MEA also hosted a Central Europe Business Summit in March 2014. The Division participated in the negotiations of the Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreements with the United Arab Emirates and the United States. It also participated in Air Services talks with Singapore, Sri Lanka, UAE and Vietnam.

ITP Division's website www.indiainbusiness.nic.in was redesigned and it continued to provide information on the Indian economy and new policy initiatives. The latest edition of ITP Division's annual publication was released by Foreign Secretary in January 2014. The publication provides an update on various aspects of Indian economy including information on business opportunities in States and Union Territories of India.

Energy Security

Energy Security Division serves as the nodal point for energy related matters in the Ministry of External Affairs. Energy Security Division continued its close interaction with the line Ministries and also contributed to the deliberations of International Organisations on energy and food security related issues.

The Division participated in the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM), 2013 held in New Delhi in April 2013, 7th Policy Committee (Po-Co) meeting of International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) held in Seoul on 6-7 May 2013, Asia-Pacific Energy Forum in Vladivostok on

27-29 May 2013, 2nd LNG Producer-Consumer Conference held in Tokyo, Japan on 10 September 2013 and the 5th Asian Ministerial Energy Round Table meeting held in Seoul, South Korea on 11-12 September 2013, 7th East Asia Summit Energy Minister's Meeting (EMM) at Bali, Indonesia on 25-27 September 2013 and biennial International Energy Agency (IEA) Ministerial Meeting at Paris on 19-20 November, 2013.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid delivered the inaugural address on the 3rd National Conference on Energy Security which was jointly organised by FICCI and MEA on 3 September 2013. MEA in cooperation with CII hosted the 3rd Energy Conference on 27 November, 2013 at New Delhi. The 8th Asia Gas Partnership Summit was held on 3-4 December, 2013 in New Delhi. The 11th International Oil & Gas Conference and Exhibition, PETROTECH 2014, under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas was held on 12-15 January, 2014 at Delhi, NCR.

The proposed TAPI pipeline project made considerable progress during this year, with the formation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), TAPI Ltd., by the four parties, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, and the signing of the Transaction Advisory Services Agreement by the four parties with ADB, which was appointed as the Transaction Adviser for the Project. The next step for the project will be selection of a Consortium lead.

Consular, Passport and Visa Services

Over the last few years, there has been considerable expansion in both the scope and volume of passport related services. In order to address the challenges of high demand of Passport services and to comprehensively overhaul Passport Issuance system, the citizen-centric IT –driven, Passport Seva Project was successfully implemented in June 2012 with the setting up and operationalisation of 77 Passport Seva Kendras, across the country. The Project has received recognition at the highest level in the Government and won various awards.

Some of the important steps to make the passport issuance system simpler, speedier and secure include strengthening of the public grievance redressal system, setting up of a National Call Centre operating in 17 languages, revamping of Passport Portal in September 2013, introduction of online payment of Passport fees from July 2013, mPassport Seva mobile app to provide passport related information, premium optional SMS service to enable citizens to receive alerts and updates, organizing of Passport Seva Camp, Passport Melas and Adalats to address grievances, high priority to Haj applicants, timely disposal of appeal and RTI cases, improvement in

physical infrastructure in Passport Offices and introduction of new security features in passport booklets and setting up of a task force to expedite e-Passport project. As on 31 March 2014, over 1.56 crore passport service related applications have been processed and over 1.41 crore services have been rendered through the new system.

Thanks to the implementation of the Passport Seva Project, there has been noticeable improvement in passport service delivery in the country. Countrywide, 24% of the total passports are issued within 3 days; 60% of normal passports are issued within 7 days and 82% are issued within 14 days (excluding the time taken for police verification). In the case of Tatkaal passports, 10% are issued on the same day and 64% are issued within 3 days. If we include police verification time in the end to end delivery process, 49% of the passports were issued within a month. The top 5 States in terms of number of passport applications were Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, accounting for more than 55% of the total applications.

During January-December 2013, the 37 Passport Offices in India issued 71.30 lakh passports (inclusive of 2092 Diplomatic passports and 23038 official passports)-an increase of over 14%. Moreover, approximately 13.83 lakh passport related services have been rendered by Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Thus, the Government of India, in total, rendered about 85.19 lakh passport services last year. This is an all-time high and amounts to over threefold increase since 2000. As on 31 December 2013, 5,19,29,139 citizens held valid passports. The total revenue expected to be generated from all passport services in 2013-14 is Rs. 1600 crore. An amount of Rs. 429.47 crore was allocated to Central Passport Organization in the financial year 2013-14.

24 June has been declared as 'Passport Seva Divas' to be observed every year. The Passport Act of 1967 was enacted on this day. The project for "creation of image retrievable database" through digitisation of the passport, visa, OCI and PIO applications in Indian Missions/Posts was undertaken in select Missions/Posts. As of March 2014, nearly 7.28 crore pages have been digitized.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs examined the subject "PSP—Targets and Achievements" in depth on 16 January 2013 and on 17 December 2013 and visited PSKs in Bangalore, Bhopal, Gurgaon, Delhi and Ghaziabad during the period 12 to 18 July 2013 for on the spot assessment. The Committee on Estimates also visited Passport Office, Goa on 10 January 2013 and Chandigarh on 1 June 2013. In addition, the First Subcommittee of the

Committee of Parliament on Official language inspected Passport Offices in Chennai, Jaipur, Jammu, Ghaziabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar in order to assess the implementation of Official language.

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issue 4 million visas approximately every year. The procedure for grant of visas by Missions/Posts has been further simplified, which includes computerization of the issuance system and outsourcing of visa services, which commenced in 2006. At present the visa work has been outsourced in 70 Missions/Posts abroad. The IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking) project system in Indian Missions/Posts abroad is expected to be completed by 2014. At present, IVFRT scheme (without biometrics) has been introduced in 139 Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

For the period from January to December 2013, Attestation Cell in the CPV Division attested 373358 personal and 177509 commercial documents and apostilled 290864 documents for use in the Apostille member countries. In addition, 44490 documents were attested/ apostilled at four MEA Branch Secretariats at Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati during this period. The attestation of consular documents is also done by Indian Missions/Posts for Indian citizens living abroad.

During the period from January and December 2013, India signed Extradition Treaties with Bangladesh, Azerbaijan and Thailand. The Instrument of Ratification of Extradition Treaty was exchanged with Vietnam and with Bangladesh. During this period, India received five extradition requests from various countries and sent four extradition requests to foreign governments. In addition, India received 62 requests for local prosecution.

Coordination

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

The Coordination Division coordinated the interaction between the Ministry and other Government of India Ministries, State Governments/Union Territories, and also autonomous bodies and private institutions, including NGOs. The Section handled Political clearances for Official/Private visits of Ministers, elected representatives and

government officials. It also processed clearance for organising Conferences/Seminars/workshops in India involving foreign participation, sports tournaments in India in which foreign participants were invited and sports tournaments abroad in which Indian participants were invited, landing/overflight clearances of foreign military flights and visit of foreign naval ships etc.

The Education Section of the Ministry dealt with the selection, nomination, and admission of foreign students, from 65 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.

Administration and Projects

Administration

In the year 2013, the Ministry operationalized the sixth tranche of the 10-year Indian Foreign Service Expansion Plan approved by the Union Cabinet in 2008. In addition, the Ministry also completed the procedure for promotion of officers/officials through the Departmental Promotion Committee meetings for various sub-cadres in the MEA in a time bound manner. The Ministry prepared a comprehensive training framework as per the recommendations of 'National Training Policy 2012' which would address Ministry's requirement of capacity building and efficient human resource management. Based on the recommendations of the training framework, the Foreign Service Institute is in a process of developing the detailed training modules to be implemented in a phased manner. The Government of India has decided to open a new Consulate General of India in Sittwe, Myanmar. The process is presently underway to operationalize the opening of this new post.

Projects

During 2013-14, the Division continued to construct and acquire properties abroad as Chancery/Residences. Built up properties were purchased including in Washington (Cultural Wing of the Mission) and in Port Moresby (Chancery & Residences). Agreements were signed with local governments for acquiring built up properties on long lease at Hanoi (Chancery & Embassy Residence), Yangon (Chancery) and Belgrade (Embassy Residence). Through concerted efforts, the Division has been able to complete the construction work of

new Chancery/Residences in Brasilia and awarded the contract for construction of Chancery-cum-residences project in Bahrain after successfully carrying out the tendering process. Construction project in Kabul and Abuja are on verge of completion and substantial progress has been achieved in respect of ongoing construction projects at Warsaw, Islamabad, Kathmandu and Dhaka.

Implementation of the Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

The Ministry of External Affairs has a dual objective of propagation and promotion of Hindi abroad and the implementation of its use in day-to-day official work in its offices at Headquarters, Missions/Posts abroad and Passport Offices.

The Ministry has an organized programme for propagation of Hindi abroad with the involvement of its Missions and Posts. Implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Government of India continues to be accorded a very high priority of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

During the period January 2013 to March 2014, the ICCR maintained 36 full-fledged Cultural Centres and 2 Sub-Centres abroad and 20 Regional Offices within India in keeping with its outreach activities. The Council has 76 operational Chairs (including 11 Hindi Chairs) in universities abroad. ICCR administered a large number of scholarship schemes for overseas students on behalf of the Government of India and other agencies and has around 5200 scholarship holders on its rolls. It is the nodal agency for welfare of international students in India. The Council organized a large number of exhibitions, conferences and seminars, “Europalia.India” Festival in Belgium, several exchanges of performing artists and groups, and related performances and lecture-demonstrations. During this period, the Council sponsored around 85 groups/artists for events abroad, and organized performances by 73 foreign groups and 95 Indian groups in India. The Council organized prestigious festivals like Sufi Festival, World Percussion Festival, International Jazz Festival, the 4th International Dance & Music Festival and the 7th South Asian Bands Festival 2013. The Council regularly invites dignitaries under its Distinguished Visitor’s Programme and also brings out five journals in five different

languages, besides maintaining a well-stocked library with a collection of rare books and manuscripts.

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

During the period, ICWA continued with its mandated activities and accorded high priority to research and study of political, security and economic developments in Asia, EU, Africa and Latin America. Global geo-strategic and geo-political developments were analyzed. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of 3 Sapru House Papers, 14 Issue Briefs and 46 Viewpoints, which were placed on the ICWA website. In addition, 16 books were also published during the period. A large number of outreach activities were conducted. The Governing Council and the Governing Body were re-constituted on completion of their prescribed tenure of 3 years. The renovation of the ICWA Auditorium was completed.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. RIS provides research policy inputs to the Government of India on various international economic issues. The institute organised a number of important events during the period which include, among others: Workshop on Indian Development Cooperation Policy; Dialogue on India-Canada Economic Cooperation; Conference of Southern Providers on South-South Cooperation - Issues and Emerging Challenges; International Conference on Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in South Asia: Trends, Challenges and Prospects; Second Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (in Vientiane, Lao PDR); Inauguration of the ASEAN-India Centre at RIS as well as the Inaugural Lecture of the ASEAN-India Centre at RIS; Brainstorming Session on Promoting Enterprise Innovation in India; Conference on Africa-India Cooperation for Science, Technology and Innovation; National Seminar on ‘From Doha to Bali’: Challenges to the Development Agenda; Conference on Development Cooperation, Trade and Finance: Emerging Academic Perspective; Seminar on From Connectivity Corridors to Development Corridors between India and Myanmar (in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar); Trade and Development Symposium on the sidelines of the WTO Ministerial Conference held in Bali; Workshop on India-China Cooperation and Global Economic Governance;

Conference on Indian Development Cooperation Policy - The State of the Debate; National Seminar on ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Cooperation; Conference on Ethics, Equity and Inclusion in Science and Technology; Dialogue on India-Singapore Relations; and a discussion meeting on the Changthang Borderlands of Ladakh. The Forum for India Development Cooperation (FIDC) was also launched at RIS. As part of its work programme, a monthly seminar series has been introduced.

RIS also organised capacity building programmes on: International Economic Issues and Development Policy (under ITEC/SCAAP of the MEA); and Global and Regional Dimensions of Trade and Economic Integration; Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives; and Global and Regional Perspectives on WTO and Climate Change Issues in collaboration with the Foreign Service Institute, MEA, New Delhi. The institute also brought out the book entitled 'The Living Tree: Traditional Medicine and Public Health in China and India' and reports: 'Conference of Southern Providers on South-South Cooperation: Issues and Emerging Challenges'; 'India-China Trade Relationship'; 'ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership: Perspectives from the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks'; 'Profile of Indian Voluntary Organisations 2013' and 'The Survey on Biotechnology Capacity in Asia-Pacific: Opportunities for National Initiative and Regional Cooperation'. Apart from these reports, RIS also published discussion papers, policy briefs and the journals, namely, 'South Asia Economic Journal' and 'Asian Biotechnology and Development Review'. RIS will continue its efforts for serving as a leading think-tank of developing countries.

External Publicity and Public Diplomacy

The External Publicity Division and Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, were integrated into one division called External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division (XPD Division) on 24 January, 2014. XPD continues its mandated task of articulating GoI's position on various foreign policy issues to national and international media, as well as engaging with domestic and global audiences to explain India, its foreign policy and various aspects of India's engagement with the world.

In addition to its regular work, in order to expand the Ministry's presence across a variety of new media platforms, the Division launched an integrated Smart Phone App 'MEA

India', a first for any Ministry of the Government of India, on 29 July, 2013. This App provides a single point of contact to access Public services, including passport status applied anywhere in India, location of centres which attest documents in India, pilgrims travelling to Saudi Arabia for Haj. This new tool has also been added to the Ministry's information dissemination efforts. To engage with a wider audience both in India and abroad, and to consolidate a digital identity, the Division has expanded its presence on a variety of social media platforms: Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Flickr and Google+. The MEA YouTube channel now regularly hosts live webcasts of press briefings/media interactions. While translation of press releases and statements into Hindi, Urdu and Arabic continues, the scope has been widened to include Indian languages like Tamil, Malayalam, Bangla and Assamese.

The Division utilized popular social media platforms like Twitter (more than 212,000 followers) and Facebook (more than 196,000 Likes) as well as the Division's website to project the Ministry's policies and activities and engage interlocutors from all over the world. To expand India's Foreign Policy footprint, the Division regularly engages with think tanks, Universities and international relations experts and organizes seminars and conferences on foreign policy. Public Policy addresses by MEA and the Distinguished Lecture Series of the Division in remote areas have helped explain the contours of Indian foreign policy and its issues to the public in general and youth in particular. The Division commissioned documentaries on topics of contemporary interest which were well received, acknowledged and also won awards. The Doordarshan channel has started telecasting XPD documentaries which are also being uploaded on YouTube to attain wider reach. The Division's flagship magazine 'India Perspectives' continues to be printed in fourteen languages along with digital edition on web and Mobile platform. The Division continues to supply books and publications to Indian Missions overseas to assist them in projecting a positive image of India.

Foreign Service Institute

A significant development for the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) during the year was the adoption of a new Training Framework for the Ministry, in line with the National Training Policy, 2012. The new Training framework was approved by the External Affairs Minister and communicated to the Department of Personnel and Training by the Foreign Secretary in July 2013. FSI continued to conduct training programmes for the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer Trainees, officers and staff of the Ministry of External Affairs

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

The email-based Mid-Career Training Programme for Director-level officers of 1996 batch was carried out in 2013. FSI conducted refresher courses for Section Officers, basic professional courses for Assistants and Clerks, and an orientation capsule for Defence Attaches. FSI also conducted training sessions in Integrated Missions Accounting System (IMAS).

FSI conducted two Professional Courses for Foreign Diplomats, one Special Course for ASEAN diplomats and another Special Course for diplomats from Bangladesh and IOR-ARC countries. During these courses, in addition to class room training, the foreign diplomats were taken to various places and institutions of historical, political, cultural and economic importance in and outside of Delhi.

FSI also organised lectures on India's Foreign Policy for 250 ASEAN students visiting India on Exchange Programme in September and November 2013.

The FSI signed MoUs with the Diplomatic Academies of Iran, Iraq, Liberia and Kuwait. Foreign delegations from Vietnam, the People's Republic of China, Germany, Mozambique and Malaysia visited FSI and exchanged ideas.

Legal and Treaties

During the current year, the Legal and Treaties 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 International Institute for Unification of Law (UNIDROIT), the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HcCH), XXXVI Meeting of the Antarctic Consultative Committee (ATCM), meetings of the Contact Group on Piracy, disarmament and water resources issues.

The Division also participated in the annual session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) and in bilateral negotiations with various countries on agreements relating to free trade, investment protection, social security and extradition and mutual legal assistance.

Further, this Division participated in the site visit for inspection of the work of Wullar Lake Conservation Project in J&K in April 2013.

This Division was actively involved in arbitration on

delimitation of maritime boundary with Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal. In February 2010, an arbitration panel comprising 5 Members was constituted. This Division also participated in meetings with the legal counsel and other experts towards preparation of India's response to Bangladesh's memorial and India submitted its rejoinder on 31 July, 2013. The Tribunal, at the request of Bangladesh, sought to conduct a site visit to relevant coasts of the Parties and to the estuary area for viewing the base points proposed by India and Bangladesh. The site visit for the Tribunal was organised from 23-25 October, 2013. Thereafter, the oral pleading of the case was held at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague from 9-18 December, 2013.

Electronic Governance and Information Technology

The Ministry participated in Inter-Ministerial consultations relating to Cyber Issues. India participated in the multilateral discussions relating to global cyber issues including the UN Group of Governmental Experts in the field of Information and Communication Technology in the context of International Security, UN-CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation and UNODC Open Ended Inter-Governmental Working Group on Cybercrime. Bilateral dialogues on cyber issues were held with Russia and France in February and March 2013 respectively. The Ministry continued to provide special emphasis on cybersecurity training to its officers. The EG&IT Division continued to provide all encompassing IT support to the Ministry and support for various e-governance applications running in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad.

Nalanda

Considerable progress was made during the year in finalizing the legal framework for Nalanda University and in obtaining the necessary approvals that would allow it to commence operations. The Financial Regulations of the University were notified in December 2013. A Headquarters Agreement granting privileges and immunities to the academic staff was signed in July 2013. A Bill proposing certain amendments to the Nalanda University Act, 2010 was introduced in Rajya Sabha in August 2013. The final version of the Bill taking into account the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs was approved by the Cabinet in February 2014. Statutes relating to University's Finance Committee, the constitution of the International Advisory Panel and the constitution of an Endowments Committee to

raise resources for the University were approved. In January 2014, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an outlay of Rs. 2727 crores to meet the capital and recurrent cost of the project until 2021-22.

An MoU on the Establishment of Nalanda University was opened for signature at the 8th East Asia Summit held in Brunei Darussalam in October 2013. This Memorandum has so far been signed by 10 countries, viz. Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea.

A number of countries have made financial commitments or contributions to the University. These include: China (US\$ 1 million), Thailand (US\$ 100,000) and Laos (US\$ 50,000). The citizens of Singapore have committed US\$ 5 million for the University's library. Australia has committed Australian\$ 1 million for a Chair on Environment and Ecology.

Initiatives of the New Government

The unprecedented invitation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the leaders of SAARC and Mauritius for the swearing-in ceremony on 26 May 2014 indicated India's intent and commitment to building cordial, friendly and inclusive ties with the countries of South Asia. Prime Minister also held substantive bilateral meetings with each of the visiting leaders – President Mr. Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, President Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom of Maldives, President Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius, Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, Prime Minister Mr. Sushil Koirala of Nepal, Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Prime Minister Mr. Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay of Bhutan.

India continued to strengthen its unique and special relationship with Bhutan, demonstrated by the maiden foreign visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Bhutan on 15-16 June 2014. During the visit Prime Minister had audiences with King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan and the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck. Prime Minister also held official talks with Bhutan's Prime Minister Mr. Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay and discussed issues of mutual interests. He addressed the Joint

Sitting of the Parliament in the Gyalyong Tshogkhong on 16 June 2014. Prime Minister described the bilateral relations as “B2B” relations – “Bharat to Bhutan” relations.

Oman's Foreign Minister Mr. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, paid an official visit to India on 3 June 2014 as the Special Envoy of Sultan of Oman Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah. He conveyed a message from Oman's Sultan to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj and the Foreign Minister of Oman held discussions on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest in their meeting.

China and Russia established high level contacts with the new Government in June 2014. Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi visited New Delhi as Special Envoy of President Mr. Xi Jinping on 8 June 2014 and held cordial, useful and substantive discussions with EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj. He also called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Dmitry Rogozin visited New Delhi and had useful and substantive discussions on 17 June 2014 with EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj on all aspects of our bilateral relations. He also called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj made her first standalone visit to Bangladesh from 25-27 June 2014. She called on Bangladesh President Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Ms. Sheikh Hasina and held useful discussions with Foreign Minister Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali. EAM also met with the representatives of Chambers of Commerce, socio-cultural organizations and the academic community and delivered an address on the theme “India-Bangladesh Relations: A Framework for Cooperation” organized by Bangladesh Institute for International & Strategic Studies (BISS).

India's strategic partnership with the United States features high-level exchanges and bilateral cooperative endeavours in important areas including security and defence cooperation, trade and investment, clean and renewable energy, education, science and technology. President Mr. Barack Obama congratulated Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at his swearing-in and invited him to visit the United States of America.





President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Leaders of eight SAARC countries –Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka- invited to Swearing-in Ceremony of the new Government on 27 May 2014.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with President of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai in New Delhi on 27 May 2014



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Speaker of the Bangladesh National Parliament, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in New Delhi on 27 May 2014



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay in New Delhi on 27 May 2014



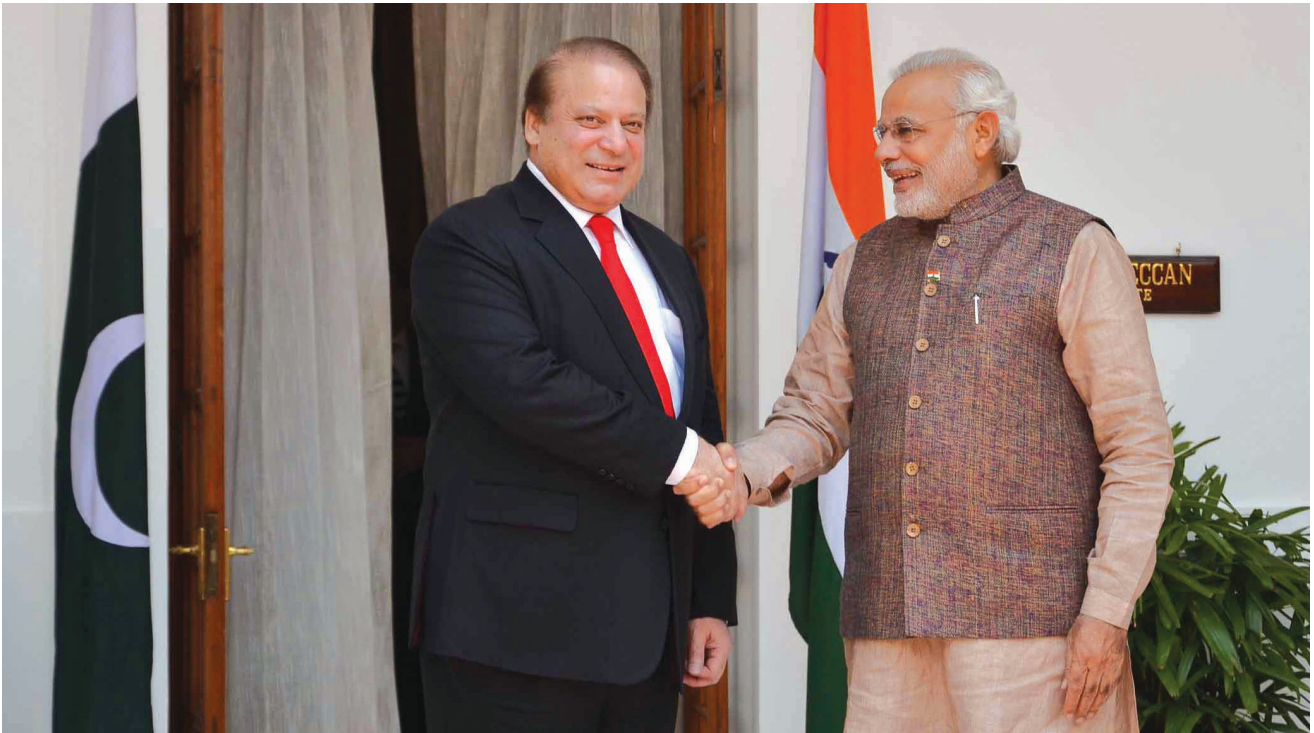
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with President of Maldives, Mr. Abdulla Yameen in New Delhi on 27 May 2014



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meeting with Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam in New Delhi on 27 May 2014



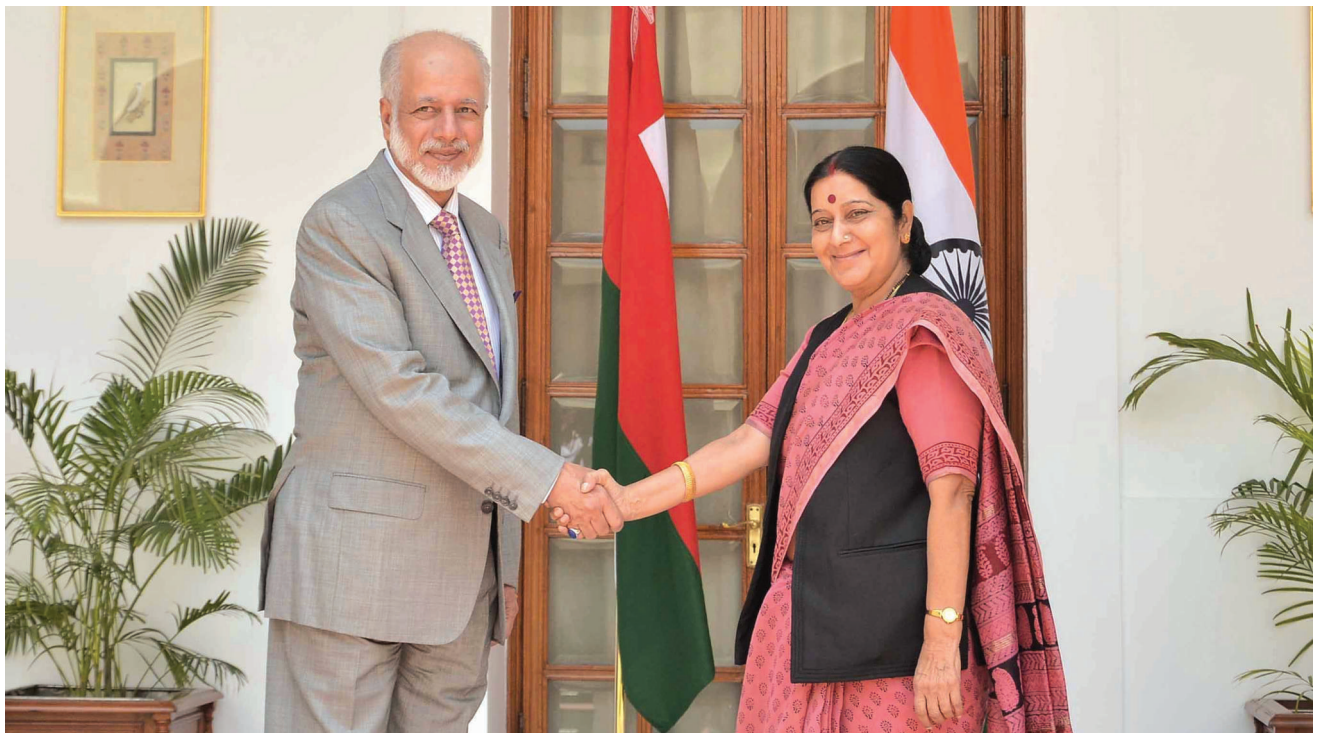
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Mr. Sushil Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal in New Delhi on 27 May 2014



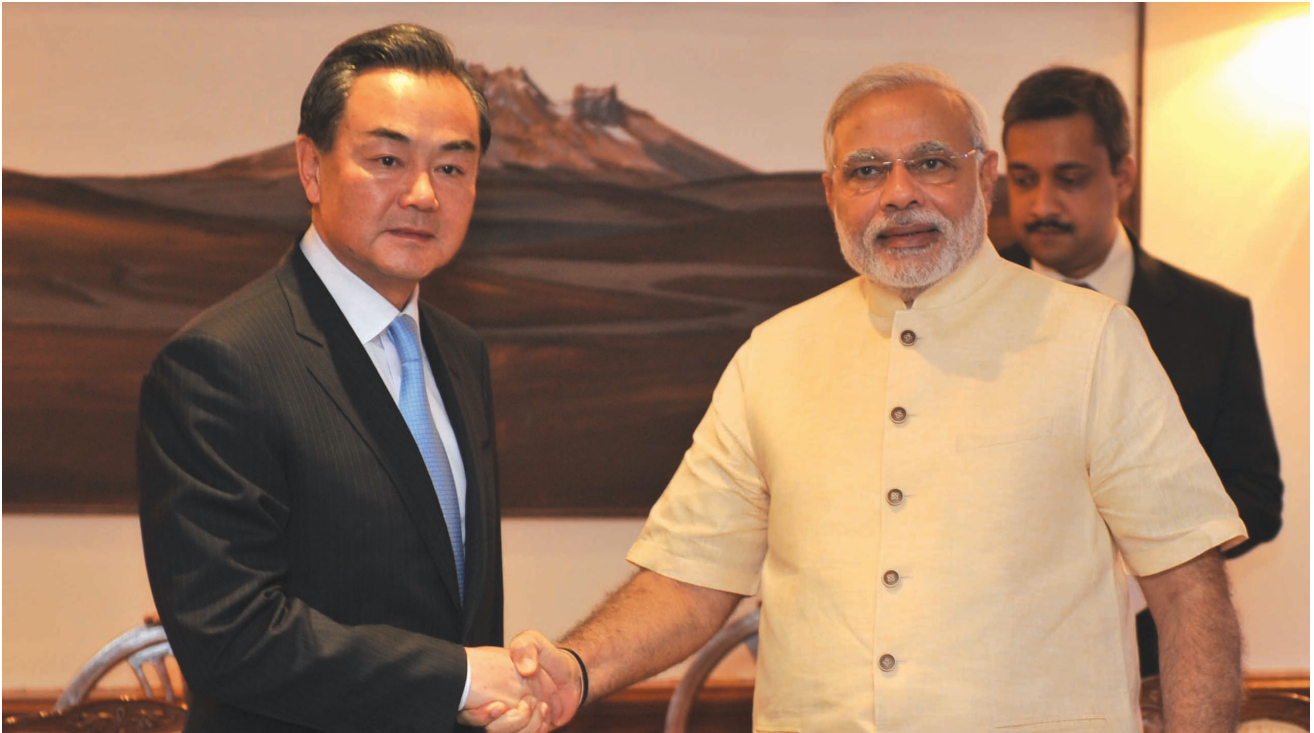
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif in New Delhi on 27 May 2014



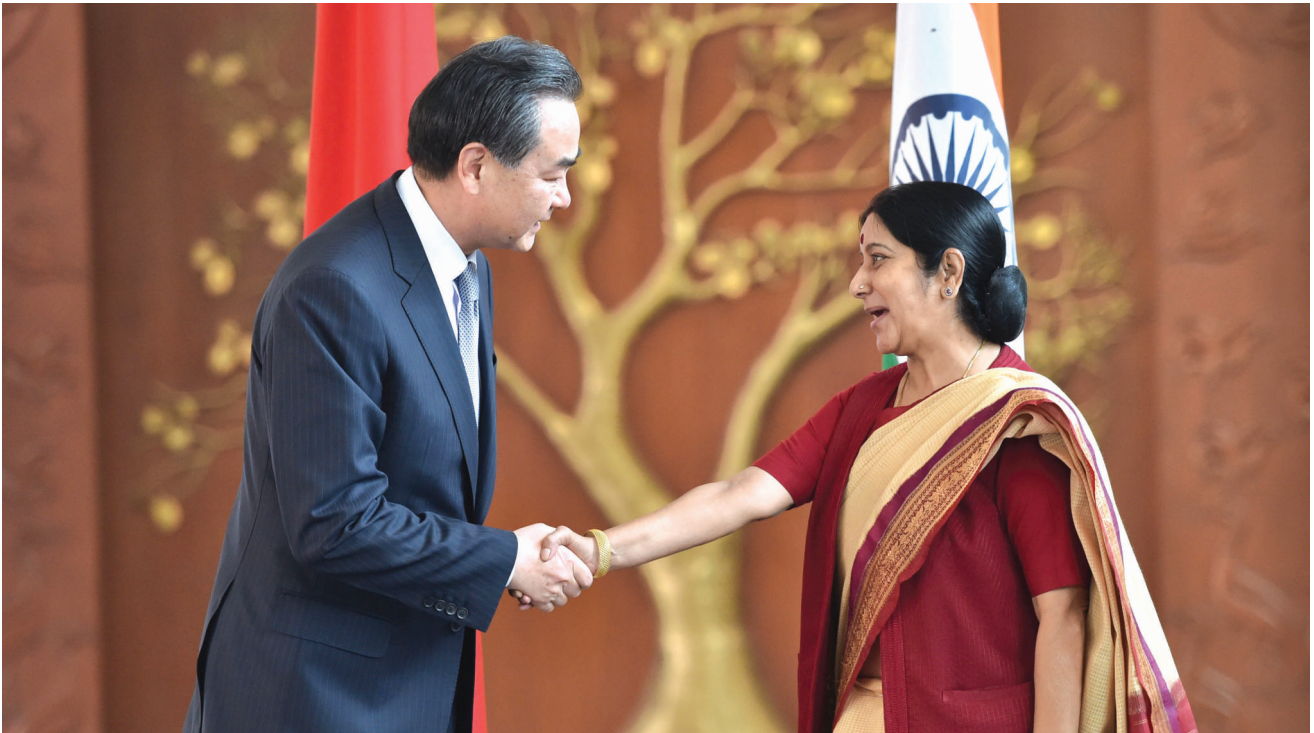
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa in New Delhi 27 May 2014



External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj with Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of Sultanate of Oman, Mr. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, in New Delhi on 3 June 2014



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Mr. Wang Yi, in New Delhi on 9 June 2014



External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj with Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Mr. Wang Yi in New Delhi on 8 June 2014



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan and Former King Jigme Singye Wangchuk during his visit to Bhutan on 15-16 June 2014



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inspecting Guard of Honour at Paro International Airport, Bhutan during his visit to Bhutan on 15-16 June 2014



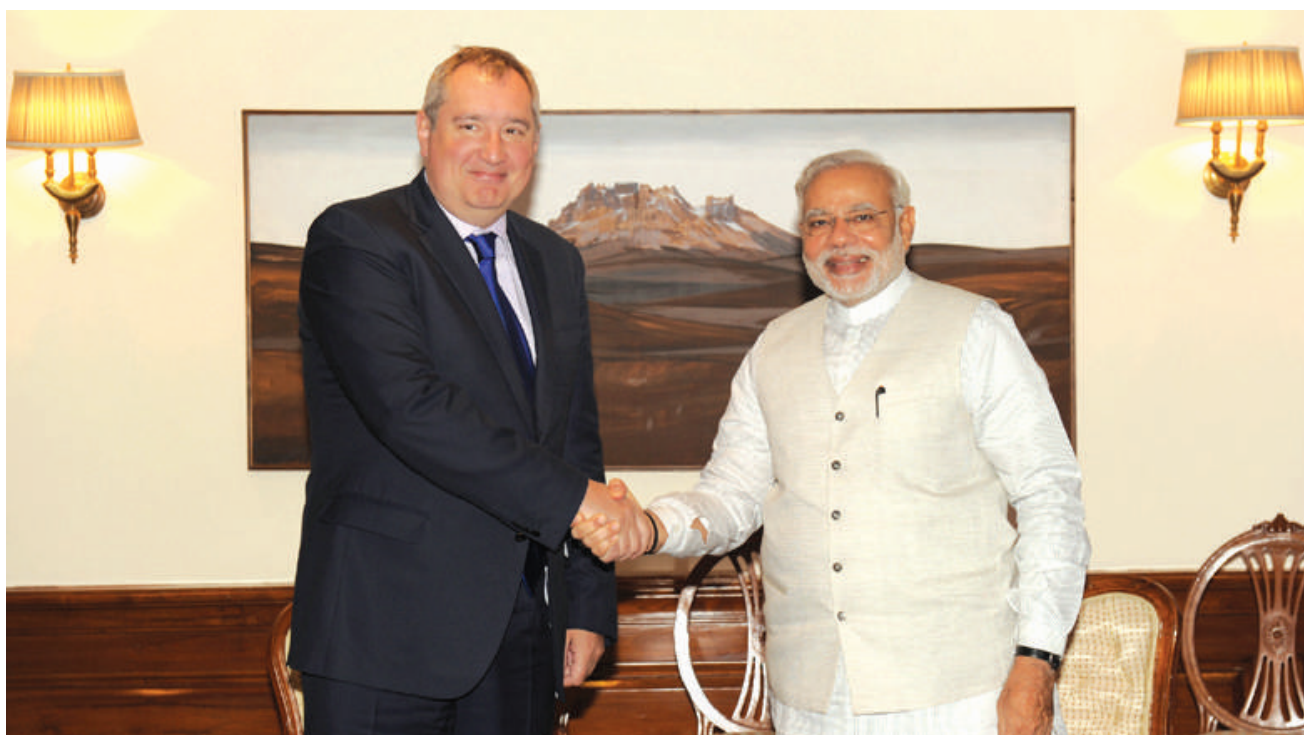
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk of Bhutan during his visit to Bhutan on 15-16 June 2014.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Tshering Tobgay during his visit to Bhutan on 15-16 June 2014



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurating the building of Supreme Court of Bhutan during his visit to Bhutan on 15-16 June 2014.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Dmitry Rogozin in Delhi on 18 June 2014



External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj with Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Dmitry Rogozin in Delhi on 18 June 2014



External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj with Prime Minister of Bangladesh Ms. Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka during her visit to Bangladesh on 25-27 June 2014



External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj with President of Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid in Dhaka, during her visit to Bangladesh on 25-27 June 2014



External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj meeting Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali in Dhaka during her visit to Bangladesh on 25-27 June 2014.



External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj with the Leader of the Opposition in Jatiyo Shangsad Ms. Raushon Ershad during her visit to Bangladesh on 25-27 June 2014



External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Retd) Vijay Kumar Singh holding meeting in New Delhi with Indian Head of Missions in Gulf Countries on the Iraq situation and assistance to Indian nationals in Iraq, on 29 June 2014.

Afghanistan

India has a close strategic partnership with Afghanistan, underscored by the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in October 2011, which covers a broad spectrum of areas including political and security cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, capacity development, education and, social, cultural and people to people relations. This is based on our historical and civilisational links and has been strengthened by India's role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. India has helped Afghanistan in its reconstruction efforts as a means to bringing about stability and economic development in that country.

India's bilateral assistance programme for Afghanistan spread across the country, involves pledges of over US\$ 2 billion and spans almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities. Despite daunting logistical and security challenges, two major Government of India (GoI)-funded infrastructure projects have been completed – the construction of 218 km road from Zaranj to Delaram in Nimroz province and the construction of 220 KV Transmission Line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul together with a sub-station in Chintala. Construction of Afghanistan's new Parliament building in Kabul, a symbol of the common commitment of both countries to pluralism and democracy, as well as Salma Dam in Herat Province is progressing well and their completion is expected by 2015.

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

- A parliamentary delegation comprising 94 out of the 102 MPs from the Upper House (Meshrano Jirga) of the Afghan Parliament visited India on 11-17 February 2013. The delegation shared their legislative experiences as well as underwent familiarization with the Indian parliamentary procedures at the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, New Delhi. The second India-US-Afghan trilateral dialogue was held in New Delhi on 19 February 2013.
- The Afghan delegation was led by Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Jawed Ludin, with Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Mr. Robert O. Blake, Jr. leading the US delegation. Additional Secretary (PAI), M.E.A. Shri Y.K. Sinha led the Indian delegation.
- NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon visited Moscow on 20 February 2013 for trilateral consultations on Afghanistan with Russia and China.
- NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon visited Kabul on 26 February 2013 wherein he met President Mr. Hamid Karzai and Afghan NSA, Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta.
- President Mr. Hamid Karzai accompanied by Dr. Zalmi Rassoul, former Foreign Minister, Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, National Security Adviser and other officials, visited India on 20-22 May 2013. During the visit, the Afghan President had bilateral meetings with President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and other dignitaries.
- President Mr. Hamid Karzai paid a working visit to India from 12-15 December 2013. He met President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon called on the Afghan President.
- At the invitation of our Vice President, Afghan 2nd Vice President, Mr. Mohammad Karim Khalili visited India on 20-23 August 2013. He was accompanied by Mr. Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, Minister for Economy, Mr. Obaidullah Obaid, Minister of Higher Education, Mr. Wahidullah Shahrani, Minister of Mines and Mr. Sher Mohammad Karimi, Chief of Afghan Army.
- Mr. Farook Wardak, Afghan Minister of Education visited India on 26-29 June 2013 to attend the World Education Congress in Mumbai.
- Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh visited Kabul and

Jalalabad on 23-25 August 2013. She held discussions with Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Ershad Ahmadi and also called on President Mr. Hamid Karzai.

- Mr. Ershad Ahmadi visited India on 17 September 2013 for Foreign Office Consultations. During this visit, he called on EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and held discussions with the Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh.
- The first meeting of the India-UK Joint Working Group on Afghanistan at the official level, was held in New Delhi on 14 January 2014.
- India hosted the International Contact group (ICG) Meeting on Afghanistan on 16 January 2014. The meeting was attended by Mr. Omar Daudzai, Afghan Interior Minister, Ms. Husn Banu Ghazanfar, Afghan Minister for Women's Affairs, Mr. Ershad Ahmadi, Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Satar Saadat, Chairman of the Afghan Electoral Complaints Commission, Dr. Ahmed Yousuf Nuristani Chairman of the Afghan Independent Election Commission, and special envoys for Afghanistan & Pakistan and senior officials from other countries. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid inaugurated the meeting.
- India hosted the Senior Officials meeting of the 'Heart of Asia' process on 17 January 2014.
- EAM Shri Salman Khurshid led an Indian delegation to Kandahar on 15 February 2014 where he inaugurated the Afghan National Agricultural Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU) along with President Hamid Karzai. Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh had committed assistance for the University during his visit to Kabul in May 2011.
- President Hamid Karzai made a transit / brief stopover in New Delhi on 6 March 2014 enroute to Colombo.
- Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari led an Indian delegation to Kabul on 11 March 2014 to attend the funeral prayers for the former Afghan Vice President, Mohammed Qasim Fahim, who had passed away on 9 March 2014.

India is actively participating in the 'Heart of Asia' process of regional cooperation focused on Afghanistan. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid attended the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the process in Almaty on 26 April 2013. Under this process, India is leading the 'Trade, Commerce & Investment Opportunities' CBM. Under the aegis of this CBM, FICCI in

cooperation with Government of India and Government of Afghanistan organised 'Doing Business with Afghanistan' conference cum exhibition on 18 November 2013. Dr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal, Minister of Finance, Dr. Mohammad Asef Rahimi, Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Muzamil Shinwari, Deputy Minister of Finance and Mr. Jamil Hares, Deputy Minister of Mines attended the conference.

Bangladesh

Important visits from India to Bangladesh include that of Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde on 28-29 January 2013, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid on 16-17 March 2013, President Shri Pranab Mukherjee from 3-5 March 2013, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Smt. Krishna Tirath on 17-20 June 2013; Minister for Minority Affairs Shri K. Rahman Khan on 14-18 September 2013; Minister for New and Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah on 21-22 March 2013 and 4-6 October 2013; and Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh on 4-5 December 2013.

From Bangladesh, Ministerial level visits to India included that of Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni on 25-27 July 2013 and 10-12 November 2013; Finance Minister Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith on 2-5 May 2013; and, Information Minister Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu on 10-13 April 2013. The commencement of the year 2014 was marked by the high level visit of Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce who visited New Delhi on 16-17 January 2014 to attend the 5th South Asian Business Leaders' Conclave. Mr. Asadazzaman Noor, the Bangladesh Minister for Culture visited Kolkata to attend a Book Fair on 28-29 January 2014. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad visited New Delhi on 12-15 February 2014 for the first time as the Speaker. The bilateral relationship between the two countries further got a fillip through the visit of Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Adviser on International Relations to Prime Minister Ms. Sheikh Hasina to New Delhi on 12-13 March 2014, during which he met with the National Security Advisor Mr. Shivshankar Menon. To further bolster the high level exchanges early in the year, the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque visited New Delhi on 19-21 March 2014 and held bilateral discussions with Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh, and met with Indian Home Secretary, Commerce Secretary, Water Resources Secretary, Power Secretary and Shipping Secretary.

The 2nd Meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) was held in Dhaka on 16-17 March 2013. The Indian delegation was led by External Affairs Minister Shri Salman

Khurshid. The JCC reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh, including the implementation of the 2011 Joint Statement and the 2010 Joint Communiqué. The JCC was preceded by visit of Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai to Dhaka on 9-11 February 2013. Cooperation in the areas of security and border management was discussed during institutionalized talks at the Home Secretary Level on 19-22 July 2013; Joint Working Group (JWG) on Security met on 18 July 2013; and Director General, Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh on 14-18 September 2013. To further our security cooperation, exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the Extradition Treaty took place on 23 October 2013 at Dhaka in the presence of Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, Home Minister of Bangladesh.

The Institutional Framework for facilitating Trade and Economic Cooperation was further strengthened this year. Mr. Abdul Latif Siddique, Minister of Textile and Jute of Bangladesh visited Delhi on 19 August 2013. An MoU was signed between the two Governments for cooperation in fashion technology, skills exchange, productivity enhancement and techno-commercial collaboration in development of textiles. Investor road shows organized in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata in June 2013 by the Board of Investment of Bangladesh in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industries and the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry resulted in signing of MOUs between Indian and Bangladeshi companies amounting to almost US\$ 100 million for investment in Bangladesh.

In view of duty-free, quota-free access to 46 textile tariff lines of greatest sensitivity and duty-free, quota-free access to all items except 25 tariff lines consisting of tobacco, spirits and alcohol to Bangladesh, Bangladesh exports to India rose from \$ 498.4 million in 2011-12 to US\$ 563.9 million in 2012-13, an increase of 13.15% over the previous year. It is the highest ever level of exports from Bangladesh to India and makes Bangladesh currently India's largest trading partner among SAARC countries.

Cooperation in the areas of trade, commerce and connectivity continued through the 8th JWG meeting on Trade held in New Delhi on 13-14 June 2013; the 9th Joint Group on Customs held in Dhaka on 21-22 October 2013; and the 16th Standing Committee under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) held on 29 September 2013 in Dhaka. The Integrated Check Post at Agartala was inaugurated by Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde in the presence of Bangladesh Home Minister Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir on

17 November 2013. The Ninth round of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade was held in Dhaka on 12-13 March 2014 during which the two sides reviewed the current status of bilateral trade and discussed measures to improve border infrastructure for trade, trade facilitation by information exchange, up-gradation of testing facilities and removal of bottlenecks to trade.

Institutional talks continued in the sectors of Textile Cooperation, Health Cooperation, Fisheries and Trade Cooperation. The First Meeting of the JWG for Textile Cooperation was held in Dhaka on 27 February, 2014. The First meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Health Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 26-27 February 2014. The First Meeting of the JWG on Fisheries Cooperation was held on 12-13 March 2014, in Dhaka. Similarly, the first meeting of the Task Force on Fake Currency Notes was held in New Delhi on 22-24 January 2014.

Cooperation in power sector has progressed satisfactorily during the period. Grid connectivity between India and Bangladesh was jointly inaugurated through video-conferencing by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Ms. Sheikh Hasina on 5 October 2013, which has enabled Bangladesh to import 500 MW of power from India. During the visit of Power Secretary Shri Uma Shankar to Bangladesh in April 2013, three agreements namely, Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), Implementation Agreement (IA) and Supplementary Joint Venture Agreement (SJVA) were signed for the Joint Venture 1320 MW Power Plant in Khulna. The sixth meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Steering Committee on Cooperation in the Power Sector was held in New Delhi on 26-27 June 2013 and the second meeting of the JWG on Renewable Energy Cooperation was held in Dhaka in November 2013.

ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) and Petrobangla signed two Production Sharing Contracts for exploration and production of oil and gas in two shallow water blocks in the Bay of Bengal on 17 February 2014. This is the first time, Bangladesh awarded shallow water blocks to Indian state-run oil company OVL to explore gas and oil.

Steady progress has been achieved in the utilization of the US\$ 1 billion Line of Credit extended to Bangladesh, which is the largest single line of credit given by India to any country. Projects worth US\$ 795 million have already been agreed upon and 14 contracts for 11 projects have been signed. Most of them are under the implementation/completion stage. Similarly, US\$ 150 million out of US\$ 200 million was

released in three tranches during the year as grant-in-aid. Government of India also fulfilled its commitment by establishing IT labs in model schools of each of the 64 districts of Bangladesh, inaugurated by Prime Minister Ms. Sheikh Hasina on 4 September 2013. India also distributed 2800 solar lamps to the families affected by cyclone Sidr that rocked the coastal areas in November 2007 causing widespread death and destruction. India and Bangladesh signed an MoU on 11 April 2013 on implementation of Small Development Projects.

The First sub-regional meeting between Bangladesh, Bhutan and India on Water & Power and Transit & Connectivity was held on 18 April 2013 and 19 April 2013 in Dhaka, respectively. This meeting was the first initiative of its kind and is expected to pave the way for future comprehensive cooperation in the sub-regional context towards attainment of common aspirations of economic development and prosperity of the region for mutual benefit.

As part of continuing exchanges in the defence sector, Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff, Gen Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan visited India from 31 March to 5 April 2013 and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, Lieutenant General Dalbir Singh, visited Bangladesh on 23-26 September 2013. Defence cooperation between the two countries was further strengthened by 4th Army to Army Staff talks held in Dhaka on 25-28 August 2013 and 1st Navy to Navy Staff talks held in New Delhi on 15-17 April 2013.

A first-ever high-level delegation of Vice Chancellors of leading universities of Bangladesh visited India on 14-19 December 2013. The visit aimed at strengthening educational cooperation, exchanges and contacts between India and Bangladesh.

Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University and eminent Bangladeshi scholar and writer Professor Anisuzzaman was conferred the Padma Bhushan for Literature and Education in 2014. Professor Anisuzzaman is the first recipient of this Award in Bangladesh.

Bhutan

The year 2013 witnessed sustained progress in bilateral cooperation in all areas of importance including hydro-power, transport, communications, infrastructure, health, education and culture, information and communications technology, and agriculture.

External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid paid an official visit to Bhutan on 14-15 January 2013. He called on the King

and Queen of Bhutan and met with Bhutanese dignitaries.

King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, the Queen paid a State Visit to India on 23-30 January 2013. The King was the Chief Guest at the 64th Republic Day celebrations held in New Delhi. The Prime Minister of Bhutan, Mr. Jigme Y. Thinley visited India from 7-9 February 2013 on a goodwill visit.

Bhutan successfully held its second democratic elections in July 2013, where after National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon and Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujata Singh visited Bhutan on 9-10 August 2013 and held wide ranging discussions with the Bhutanese political leadership.

The Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Tshering Tobgay visited India on 30 August to 4 September 2013 as his first visit abroad after assuming office. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Mr. Rinzin Dorje. The Bhutanese Prime Minister met with the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Vice-President Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram, Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of State for Power (I/C) Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia and Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj. He held wide ranging discussions on issues of mutual interest. During the visit, upon the request of Royal Government of Bhutan, the Government of India (GoI) agreed to extend financial assistance of Rs. 4500 crore towards the 11th Five Year Plan (2013-18) of Bhutan and Rs. 500 crore towards its Economic Stimulus Plan.

A 14-member National Council delegation of Bhutan led by its Chairman Dr. Sonam Kinga visited India on 24 July to 1 August, 2013. The delegation attended the training programme in the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST), Lok Sabha Secretariat and met Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar and External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid. The Chief Operations Officer (COO) of the Royal Bhutan Army (RBA) Major General Batoo Tshering paid an official visit to India on 12-17 September 2013 during which he met the Chief of Army Staff and called on Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony. The Bhutanese Finance Minister Mr. Namgay Dorji visited India on 27-30 November 2013 and held discussions with Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram.

India continues to be the largest trade and development partner of Bhutan. GoI is assisting Bhutan in the construction of three Hydroelectric Projects (HEPs) i.e. Punatsangchhu-I (1200 MW), Punatsangchhu-II (1020 MW) and

Mangdechhu (720 MW). The 12th Empowered Joint Group (EJG), which monitors the implementation of HEPs in Bhutan, met in March 2014 in Thimphu.

The Chukkha HEP (336 MW) celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013. Bhutan has earned Rs. 4957.6 crore as revenue through the sale of power from the Chukkha plant to India, which has contributed immensely to its socio-economic development. The Dungsam Cement Plant, the largest cement plant in Bhutan, constructed with GoI assistance of Rs. 400 crore, started commercial production in November 2013.

The 4th edition of the India-Bhutan Literary Festival "Mountain Echoes", sponsored by the India-Bhutan Foundation (IBF), was held in Thimphu on 9-11 August 2013. The 13th meeting of the IBF was held in New Delhi on 19 December 2013. IBF provides support to the organization of seminars, literary festivals and bilateral exchanges.

The King and the Queen of Bhutan paid an official visit to India from 6-10 January 2014. The royal couple were the first foreign guests in two decades to have stayed at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The King met the President, the Vice President, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram, and the Commerce Minister Shri Anand Sharma. During the visit, GoI conveyed its approval to Royal Government of Bhutan's request for an extension of the repayment period of the existing Rs. 300 crore of Standby Credit Facility by another one year.

A 13-member delegation of Bhutan's National Assembly led by its Speaker Jigme Zangpo visited India on 13-16 January 2014. The delegation met Speaker of the Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar and other members of Parliament. The members of the delegation also attended seminars on the functioning of the Indian Parliament, which were organized by BPST.

The bilateral meeting on Trade and Transit, at the level of Commerce Secretary, was held in Thimphu on 21 January 2014.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Mr. Tshering Tobgay on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Myanmar on 4 March 2014. During the meeting, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh conveyed GoI's approval to the framework Inter-Governmental Agreement on four Joint Venture model HEPs (600 MW Kholongchhu HEP, 570 MW Wangchhu HEP, 180 MW Bunakha HEP and 770 MW Chamkharchhu HEP), and to the implementation of the Kholongchhu HEP.

Close cooperation in educational and cultural field continued. Over 1100 scholarships for various courses were availed of by Bhutanese students during the year. GoI has also committed to extend Rs. 55 crore as undergraduate scholarship to Bhutanese students in the 11th Five Year Plan.

China

Chinese Premier Mr. Li Keqiang paid a State visit to India from 19-22 May 2013 as the first stop of his first overseas journey as Chinese Premier. Earlier, Premier Li made a telephone call to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 15 March 2013, the day of his assumption of the office. During Premier Li's State Visit, 12 protocols, agreements and MoUs relating to people-to-people exchanges including Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, sister cities cooperation and translation of classic and contemporary works; export of agriculture products including buffalo meat, fishery products, feed & feed ingredients; cooperation in sewage treatment, water efficient irrigation; provision of hydrological information of the Brahmaputra River by China to India, and Work Programmes of the three Working Groups under India-China Joint Economic Group, were signed. During the visit of Premier Mr. Li Keqiang to India on 19-22 May 2013, India and China decided to mark the 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (Panchsheel) in 2014 by designating it as the "Year of Friendly Exchanges". Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an official visit to China from 22-24 October 2013. Nine Agreements and MoUs were signed during this visit relating to road transport sector, trans-border rivers, power equipment, cultural exchanges, Nalanda University, sister-city linkages and border defence cooperation. On 23 October 2013 both sides issued 'Joint Statement- A Vision for Future Development of India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership.'

The frequent high level contacts between the Indian and the Chinese leadership also included meetings at the Ministerial level. External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid met Foreign Minister of China Mr. Wang Yi five times in 2013. On 9-10 May 2013, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid visited China and held delegation level talks with Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi. He also met State Councilor Mr. Yang Jiechi and called on Premier Mr. Li Keqiang. A Protocol on cooperation in bilateral relations was signed between both Foreign Ministries. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi met on 2 July 2013 in Brunei Darussalam on the sidelines of 20th ASEAN Regional Forum. They again met on 25 September 2013 in New York on the sidelines of 68th UN General Assembly meeting. Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi

paid a visit to India as part of Premier Li's delegation in May 2013 and again on 10-11 November 2013 to participate in the 12th Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Russia-India-China (RIC) and 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting (ASEM FMM11). He held a bilateral meeting with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid on 10 November 2013. Health Minister of China Mr. Chen Zhu visited New Delhi in January 2013 to participate in the BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting. Shri V. Narayanasamy, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and PMO visited China on 14-17 January 2013. Minister of State for Finance Shri Namo Narain Meena visited China on 17-20 February 2013 to inaugurate State Bank of India branch in Tianjin. Vice Minister of Education of China Mr. Liu Limin visited Delhi and Mumbai on 17-23 March 2013. Minister of State (I/C) for Corporate Affairs Shri Sachin Pilot led an Indian delegation to attend Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference on 6-8 April 2013. Mr. Cao Jianming, Prosecutor General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China visited India 7-11 April 2013. Mr. Wang Gang, Minister for Science & Technology of China visited India on 16-20 April 2013 to attend the 4th Clean Energy Ministerial [CEM4] in New Delhi. He also met Shri Jaipal Reddy, Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences. Mr. Cai Fuchao, Minister of State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of China (SAPPRFT) visited India on 17-20 June 2013. He met with Shri Manish Tewari, Minister of State (Information & Broadcasting) on 18 June 2013 and inaugurated the Chinese Film Festival in New Delhi. Defence Minister Shri A.K. Antony paid a visit to China on 4-7 July 2013 which was the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to China since 2006. Ms. Li Xiaolin, President of Chinese International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA) visited Delhi and Mumbai on 27-31 August 2013.

India-China trade for 2013 stood at US\$ 65.47 billion (India's exports to China-US\$ 17.03 billion and imports from China-US\$ 48.44 billion), recording a decline of 1.5% when compared with 2012. Trade deficit stood at an all-time high at US\$ 31.42 billion. India-China bilateral trade has increased by nearly 10% year-on-year to US\$ 10.62 billion in the first two months of 2014. Indian exports to China have surged by 29% when compared with same period last year to US\$ 3.543 billion. The issue of trade imbalance and greater access for Indian pharmaceuticals, IT services, engineering and agricultural products has been taken up by India including at the highest level on multiple occasions.

The two sides have established Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED). Two meetings of five Working Groups (WG) under

SED were held in 2013. The first meeting was held in New Delhi on 6-8 May 2013 and the second meeting was held in Beijing on 25-27 September 2013. The 3rd SED was convened in Beijing on 18 March 2014. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India and Mr. Xu Shaoshi, Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission of China. Bilateral cooperation in sectors like railways infrastructure, information technology, energy, and finance was emphasized. Both sides decided to set up a task force under the SED to enable Chinese companies to invest in industries and industrial zones in India. Two MoUs on Sustainable Urbanization and on Cooperation in ICT were signed at the Dialogue. Action Plans on Joint Studies in Sustainable Urbanization and Energy Planning were also signed. Dr. Ahluwalia called on Premier Mr. Li Keqiang in Beijing on 19 March 2014.

The meeting of Working Group on Trade & Statistical Analysis under India-China joint Economic Group (JEG) was held in Beijing on 26 September 2013. India-China CEO Forum, held its 1st meeting in New Delhi on 20 May 2013. The Forum issued a Joint Communiqué and a document on Forum Mechanism. The second India-China CEO Forum was held on 23 October 2013 during Prime Minister's visit to China. CEOs of nine Indian companies led by Shri Anil Ambani, Chairman, Reliance ADAG Group and 10 Chinese companies led by Mr. Zheng Zhijie, President of China Development Bank participated in the Forum.

India and China conducted the first ever Dialogue on Afghanistan in April 2013 and on Central Asia in August 2013, 6th round of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in April 2013, 4th round of Consular Talks and 7th round of Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-border Rivers in May 2013 and 5th round of Strategic Dialogue was held in August 2013. 6th round of Financial Dialogue and 6th Meeting of the India-China Joint Committee on Science & Technology was held in September 2013.

India and China have appointed Special Representatives (SRs) to explore the framework for a boundary settlement from the political perspective. Mr. Yang Jiechi, Chinese State Councilor and SR visited New Delhi for the 17th round of SR Talks with Shri Shivshankar Menon, NSA and SR on 10-11 February 2014. The SRs continued their discussions on a framework for a resolution of the Boundary Question, which constitutes the second step of a three-stage process. The SRs made a positive evaluation of India-China relations in the aftermath of the visit to India by Chinese Premier Mr. Li Keqiang and the return visit

to China by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2013. NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon called on Premier Mr. Li Keqiang on 28 June 2013, while State Councillor Mr. Yang Jiechi called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 11 February 2014.

The two sides established a Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India- China Border Affairs (WMCC) in January 2012. The 5th meeting of WMCC was held on 10 February 2014 in New Delhi. The two delegations reviewed recent developments in the India-China border areas. The two delegations agreed that peace and tranquillity on the border is the basis for the continued expansion of India-China relations.

India- China military to military cooperation also continued. A 5-member Indian Air Force delegation led by Air Vice Marshal S.H. Singh visited China from 8-11 January 2014. The 6th India-China Annual Defence Dialogue was held on 24 February 2014 in New Delhi.

India and China's third joint military exercise 'Hand in Hand-2013' was held in Chengdu on 4-13 November 2013. A group of 160 personnel from 16 Sikh Light Infantry and equal number of military personnel from PLA participated in the Exercise. Presence of 100 terrorists on the international border of India and China was simulated for the Exercise. A PLA Navy Hospital Ship 'Ark Peace' also visited Mumbai on 6-12 August 2013.

Both countries have declared the year 2014 as 'India- China Year of Friendly Exchanges' to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (Panchsheel). On 11 February, 2014 Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari launched the 'Year of India-China Friendly Exchanges' at an event organized in New Delhi by the Chinese Embassy. Vice President of China Mr. Li Yuanchao was Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations at our Embassy in Beijing on 24 January 2014. He launched the 'Year of India-China Friendly Exchanges' at the event.

Governor of Yunnan Province, Mr. Li Jiheng visited India from 24-29 March 2014. He met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and the Governor of West Bengal. The Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] Shanghai Committee, Mr. Wu Zhiming visited India on 26-28 March 2014. Mr. Peng Qinghua, Party Secretary of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region visited India on 30-31 March 2014. The two countries also have an Exchange Programme between Ministry of External Affairs of India and International Department of Communist Party of China.

Mr. Sun Qingyun, Deputy Secretary, CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee visited India under this Programme on 5-9 December 2013.

The first ever India-China High Level Media Forum was held in New Delhi on 16 September 2013. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and visiting Minister of the State Council Information Office of China, Mr. Cai Mingzhao jointly inaugurated the Forum. Under the annual Youth Exchange Programme a 100-member Indian youth delegation visited China on 13-22 May 2013. They also called on Premier Mr. Li Keqiang. A 100 member Chinese youth delegation visited India on 7-14 November 2013 and also called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

India and China have shared interests that have brought us together in forums like the BRICS, G-20 and Climate Change negotiations. Both countries continue to coordinate and cooperate on important global issues like the climate change, food security and energy security and maintain closer dialogue on important regional issues.

Maldives

President of Maldives Mr. Abdulla Yameen paid a State Visit to India on 1-4 January 2014 at the invitation of the President of India. He met President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and had delegation level talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj called on the President of Maldives. An MoU on Cooperation in the field of Health, Exchange of Letters on extending the MoU on Manpower requirements of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital and MoU for allotment of a plot to the High Commission of Maldives were signed in the presence of the President of Maldives and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

A Joint Statement was issued highlighting the announcements made during the visit. Government of India announced the release of US\$ 25 million in Standby Credit Facility for imports from India, and resumed the supply of stone aggregates and liberalized the visa regime. India's commitments to fund the renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, the construction of the Institute for Law and Enforcement Studies and the Ministry of Defence Building was also renewed during the visit. India reiterated its support for Maldives' candidature for non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the 2019-2020 term and

Maldives assured India of its support for India's candidature for the non-permanent seat of the UNSC for 2021-2022 term.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Maldives on a bilateral visit as well as to participate in the 35th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers meeting on 19-21 February 2014. He called on President of Maldives Mr. Abdulla Yameen and held bilateral discussions with Foreign Minister Mr. Dunya Maumoon. During the visit, he handed over to the Government of Maldives India-Maldives Friendship Faculty for Hospitality and Tourism Studies and a naval Landing Craft. He also laid the foundation stone for the new Ministry of Defence building, which would be built with Indian assistance.

Defence Minister of Maldives Mr. Mohamed Nazim visited India on 14-20 April 2013, 11-15 December 2013 and 5-7 March 2014 (to participate in the 3rd NSA level meeting of the Trilateral Initiative on cooperation in the field of maritime security). The second Advance Light Helicopter was symbolically handed over to the Maldives during Mr. Nazim's visit to Kochi in December 2013.

Minister of Economic Development of Maldives Mr. Mohamed Saeed visited India on 15-17 January 2014 to participate in the 5th Business Leaders Conclave organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar led a Parliamentary Delegation to Maldives on 21-23 December 2013 for the 7th Conference of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians.

Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh visited Maldives on 17 October 2013 and met President Mr. Mohamed Waheed and leaders of major political parties.

A multi-party Parliamentary delegation from the People's Majlis of Maldives led by Speaker of People's Majlis Mr. Abdulla Shahid visited India on 4-8 May 2013 at the invitation of the Speaker of Lok Sabha. The Delegation called on Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar and met External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai in New Delhi. Both sides discussed measures to further strengthen the bilateral relations and also strengthen the capacity building assistance for the Majlis.

The Chief Justice of Maldives, Mr. Ahmed Faiz Hussain visited India from 8-12 June 2013 at the invitation of the Chief Justice of India. The two sides discussed Judicial Cooperation between the two countries.

A seven-member senior delegation from the Elections

Commission of Maldives (ECM), led by President of ECM, Mr. Fuad Thaufeeg visited India on 4-9 May 2013. The visit discussed providing technical and capacity building assistance to ECM.

The Government also continued with its policy to engage leaders across the political spectrum and in this context former President Mr. Gayoom, Leader of MDP former President Mr. Mohamed Nasheed and Leader of PPM Mr. Abdulla Yameen visited India.

Myanmar

Defence Minister Shri A.K. Antony visited Myanmar on 21-23 January 2013. During the visit, he called on President Mr. U. Thein Sein and held discussions with Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Wai Lwin and C-in-C of Defence Services Vice Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma visited Myanmar to attend the meeting of the World Economic Forum on East Asia in June 2013. The first meeting of the newly constituted Joint Trade and Investment Forum was also held during the visit. Minister of State of Youth Affairs and Sports (I/C) and Minister of State (Defence) Shri Jitendra Singh, represented India at the Opening Ceremony of the 27th South East Asian Games held on 11 December 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Chief Minister of Nagaland Shri Neiphiu Rio paid a five-day visit to Myanmar on 3-7 February 2014. Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan paid an official visit to Myanmar on 12-15 March 2014. During the visit, he inaugurated the India Engineering Show (INDEE) 2014 in Yangon.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid a two-day official visit to Nay Pyi Taw on 3-4 March 2014 to attend the 3rd Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was accompanied by EAM Shri Salman Khurshid, NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon, Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh and other senior officials. On the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had bilateral meetings with President of Myanmar Mr. U Thein Sein, President of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Sushil Koirala, Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Tshering Tobgay and Chairperson of National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar led an Indian

Parliamentary delegation to Myanmar in February, 2013. A return visit was paid by the Speaker of the Upper House of Myanmar's Parliament Mr. U Khin Aung Myint to India with a 25-member delegation on 2-5 December 2013. These exchanges are part of cooperation between the Parliaments of the countries, symbolizing a broadening and deepening of our relations with Myanmar. Speaker Mr. U Khin Aung Myint called on the President, the Vice-President and the Speaker of Lok Sabha. The Chief Ministers of Sagaing and Mandalay Regions of Myanmar visited Imphal to attend the Manipur Sangai festival in November, 2013. They led a 110-member Myanmar delegation including regional Ministers, officials, business persons, cultural troupes, artists, academics and the media. The Myanmar Chief Ministers also participated in the North-East Business Summit held in Dibrugarh, Assam.

The Chief of Myanmar Navy visited India in July, 2013. The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar Armed Forces Vice Senior General Soe Win visited India in December 2013. From the Indian side, the Chief of Army General visited Myanmar in October, 2013. He met President of Myanmar. The second round of Navy-to-Navy Staff talks was also held in November, 2013, in Myanmar.

Official level meetings during the year included first meeting of the Joint Working Group on rail connectivity in January 2013 at Nay Pyi Taw; first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Agriculture and allied sectors in February 2013 at Nay Pyi Taw; Eighth meeting of the Heads of Survey Departments in January 2013; Sectoral Level Meeting of Ministry of Home Affairs in June 2013, third meeting of the Regional Border Committee in July 2013; Foreign Office Consultations in July 2013; meeting of the Border Trade Committee in November 2013; fourth Regional Border Committee meeting in Kalay in January 2014.

Commercial relations between the two countries have strengthened during the year. Bilateral trade in the first six months of FY 2013-14 stood at US\$ 552.49 million. During the second meeting of the Border Trade Committee, India agreed to assist Myanmar in setting up a food testing laboratory at Tamu, the border trading point across Moreh in Manipur. This would complement the Integrated Check Post being set up in Moreh for facilitating increased border trade with Myanmar.

The Calcutta Chamber of Commerce organised the visit of a 21-member business delegation to Yangon and Mandalay in April 2013. The 'Regional Business and Investment Conclave' was organized in Monywa city, Myanmar, in May 2013. The

event was attended by Chief Minister of Manipur along with five Ministers from Manipur, two Ministers from Nagaland, one Minister from Mizoram apart from 110 members including official, businessmen and investors. The event was jointly inaugurated by the Chief Ministers of Sagaing and Manipur.

Visit of a 19-member CEOs business delegation was organised by CII in September 2013. The India Merchant Chamber, Mumbai also organised an international conference titled "India Calling" on 25 November 2013 in Yangon. RIS organised a Seminar on 'From Connectivity Corridors to Development Corridors between India and Myanmar' in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 November 2013. The Seminar was organised jointly with the Myanmar Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

OVL was allocated two onshore blocks by Myanmar Authorities in October 2013.

India is strongly committed to meeting Myanmar's developmental needs through development projects, including training, provision of expertise, lines of credit and/or grants-in-aid. A number of projects, including training centres have been completed, and new projects are under implementation. The second Industrial Training Centre being set up by HMT at Myingyan was completed and handed over to Myanmar in October 2013. An MoU for upgrading of the India Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills was also signed during the year.

India has extended considerable support to build up Myanmar's human resource capacity under the ITEC, TCS and ICCR scholarship schemes. Myanmar has been offered 500 ITEC slots as announced by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in May 2012.

India and Myanmar share close cultural ties. A Myanmar music band participated in the South Asian Music Festival organized by ICCR this year. Myanmar cultural troupes from Sagaing and Mandalay regions also performed at the Manipur Sangai festival in November 2013.

Nepal

India-Nepal friendship and cooperation is characterized by open borders, extensive people-to-people ties and multi-faceted socio-economic interaction. India continues to support Nepal in its transition to a prosperous, peaceful, stable and democratic country.

In connection with the second Constituent Assembly-cum-

Parliament elections in Nepal on 19 November 2013, Government of India extended the requested logistical support to the Government of Nepal including gifting over 1,000 vehicles, and temporarily loaning 2 Advanced Light Helicopters. In the run-up to the elections, high-level interaction was maintained with Nepal, which included the visit of External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid to Nepal on 9 July 2013 and the visit of Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh to Nepal on 14-15 September 2013. From the Nepalese side, former Prime Minister and UCPN (M) Chairman Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' (April 2013), former Prime Minister and senior leader of Nepali Congress Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba (June 2013), former Prime Minister and senior leader of CPN-UML Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal (July 2013) and President of Nepali Congress Mr. Sushil Koirala (August 2013) visited India. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met the Chairman of the Council of Ministers Khil Raj Regmi in New York in October 2013. Elections were successfully conducted on 19 November 2013, with a record turnout in Nepal of nearly 70%. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh congratulated Mr. Sushil Koirala on his appointment as the new Prime Minister of Nepal in February 2014. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Mr. Sushil Koirala on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Myanmar on 3 March 2014, during which bilateral issues were discussed.

Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Foreign and Home Minister of Nepal paid an official visit to India on 14-16 January, 2014. He met with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde and External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid.

Indo-Nepal defence ties were strengthened by reciprocal visits by the Indian and Nepalese Chiefs of Army Staff in 2013 and the visit of Indian Chief of Army Staff to Nepal in March 2014. The 10th Meeting of the India-Nepal Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues was held in Bangalore from 8-12 April 2013. An Indo-Nepal expedition to Mt. Everest was organized in May 2013 to commemorate 60 years of the conquest of Mt. Everest and also to undertake waste-removal from the Mountain. The fifth and sixth edition of the Joint Military exercise "Surya-Kiran" were conducted from 23 September to 6 October 2013 in Uttarakhand, India and from 5 March to 18 March 2014 in Rupandehi district, Nepal between the Indian and Nepalese armies. Discussions were held on the setting-up of a special mechanism to control criminal activities along the India-Nepal border during a six day official visit of the Inspector General of Police of Nepal to

India in March 2014.

India's developmental assistance to Nepal under the 'Aid to Nepal' budget for the financial year 2013-2014, amounting to Rs. 380 crore was utilized effectively. The Emergency and Trauma Centre in Kathmandu, being built at a cost of about Rs. 100 crore is at an advanced stage of completion and is expected to be handed over to the Government of Nepal in early 2014. About 3,000 scholarships were provided to Nepalese students under various schemes both in India and Nepal, during the year. The construction of Phase-I of the 605 km of the Terai Roads and that of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at Raxaul-Birgunj and Jogbani-Biratnagar is ongoing. The 6th Project Steering Committee meeting on development of ICPs along the India-Nepal border was held on 12 March 2014 in New Delhi.

India continued to be Nepal's largest trading partner and source of foreign investments, accounting for 66% of Nepal's total external trade (US\$ 4.7 billion) and for 46% of the total foreign investments in Nepal (US\$ 408 million). The Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade and Transit, led by the respective Commerce Secretaries, met in Kathmandu on 21-22 December, 2013.

Pakistan

India desires peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan, which requires an environment free from terror and violence. It is essential that the Pakistan government takes steps to prevent its territory and territory under its control to be used to support terrorism against India. India is committed to the resolution of all outstanding issues with Pakistan, through a peaceful bilateral dialogue in an environment free from terror and violence.

Following the strong mandate received by Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Nawaz Sharif in the May 2013 elections, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, in his letter of congratulation, expressed desire to work with the new Pakistan government to chart a new course in bilateral ties. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh also welcomed the publicly articulated commitment by Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif for a relationship between India and Pakistan defined by peace, friendship and cooperation. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh's Special Envoy visited Pakistan to convey his message to Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif even before he formally assumed office. India also conveyed willingness to respond positively to the new government's desire for expanding bilateral cooperation in the areas of energy, trade and economy.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif on the sidelines of the UNGA on 29 September 2013 in New York. Apart from raising the issue of continued terrorism against India, PM Dr. Manmohan Singh stressed the need to bring all perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to justice quickly. There was also discussion on other aspects of the relations: including on trade and economy, and steps agreed between India and Pakistan for normalization of trade. The basic understanding emerging from the meeting was that all that would be possible once the immediate situation along the Line of Control had been dealt with. It was also agreed that the DGMOs would meet to discuss ways to strengthen peace and tranquillity on Line of Control. The meeting took place on 24 December 2013.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid met Special Advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs and National Security Mr. Sartaj Aziz on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Brunei on 2 July 2013 and again on 13 September 2013 at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Heads of State Summit 2013 in Bishkek.

Two rounds of the resumed dialogue comprising eight issues were completed between March 2011 and September 2012. The third round of resumed dialogue began with the Commerce Secretary-level talks on 20-21 September, 2012 in Islamabad. However, since January 2013 further talks under the resumed dialogue could not be scheduled. Technical/Operational level meetings continued to be scheduled and private trade delegations were also exchanged.

India continues to view the progress in the trial underway in Islamabad on the Mumbai terror attacks, as an important marker of Pakistan's commitment to combat terrorism emanating from its soil. However, progress in investigations and trial has continued to take place at a glacial pace. The trial has witnessed repeated adjournments, non-appearances of lawyers, and frequent changes of prosecution lawyers, apart from change of venue. The second visit of the Pak Judicial Commission to Mumbai took place on 24-25 September 2013 when four Indian prosecution witnesses were cross examined. India has repeatedly conveyed that since the planning, training and financing of the terror attacks was done in Pakistan, 99% evidence which should be available there should be produced before the courts in Pakistan towards an expeditious trial and bringing to justice all those involved.

A Joint Judicial Committee on Prisoners comprising of retired judges from the higher judiciary of both the countries has been constituted to look at the humanitarian matters related to the

Prisoners and Fishermen in each others' jails. The committee visited Pakistani Jails in Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore from 26-30 April 2013 and visited Indian Jails from 25-31 October 2013. The recommendations are being examined by the respective governments.

Formally accounted India-Pakistan bilateral trade in 2012-13 was US\$ 2.3 billion (Indian exports to Pakistan are US\$ 1.84 billion and imports from Pakistan are US\$ 513 million). Pakistan exports to India crossed US\$ 500 million mark for the first time during this period. A "Joint Business Council (JBC)" comprising 15 top level business representatives from both countries held its first meeting in Islamabad on 29 June 2013. The JBC has formed ten task forces to examine the priority areas of economic cooperation in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and healthcare; the second meeting of the JBC, now renamed the Joint Business Forum, was held on 10-11 October 2013 in New Delhi. To examine the feasibility of power and gas export on a commercial basis, a delegation from Power and Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministries visited Pakistan on 10-11 June 2013 for further discussions.

A meeting between Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister and Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Commerce and Textile Industry Minister of Pakistan was held on the margins of 5th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave in New Delhi. Both Ministers reaffirmed the commitment to expeditiously establish normal trading relations and in this context to provide Non-Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA). They decided to intensify and accelerate the process of trade normalization, liberalization and facilitation and to implement the agreed measures before the end of February 2014. However, Pakistan did not adhere to the agreed timeline.

A meeting of the India Pakistan Joint Working Group on Cross Line of Control trade and travel took place in New Delhi on 4 March, 2014 in which matters related to the Cross Line of Control trade and travel were discussed.

Technical issues were discussed during the Group of Experts meeting on Power on 5 March 2014 in New Delhi.

Sri Lanka

Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka, visited India on 17-18 August 2013 as a Special Envoy of Sri Lankan President Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa to deliver the invitation on his behalf to the Prime Minister of India to attend 22nd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

(CHOGM) in Sri Lanka. He also met EAM Shri Salman Kurshid. He again visited India on 28-29 January 2014 and met EAM Shri Salman Kurshid.

A 6-member delegation of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) from Sri Lanka visited India on 16-19 June 2013. The delegation called on PM Dr. Manmohan Singh, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon.

The Minister for Economic Development, Government of Sri Lanka, Basil Rajapaksa visited India on 4-5 July 2013. He met the External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon.

Leader of Opposition in Sri Lanka and head of UNP Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe visited India twice from 1-4 April 2013 and 18-21 August 2013 and called on the President, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid, the Leader of Opposition and met NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon.

Sri Lankan Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Mr. Rajitha Senaratne visited India from 14-16 January 2014 at the invitation of Minister for Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar. He also met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid. It was agreed to establish a Joint Committee to facilitate negotiations of an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Fisheries.

Sri Lankan Minister for Commerce Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen visited India from 16-18 January 2014 to participate in the 5th Business Leaders Conclave organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. He met Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma and EAM Shri Salman Khurshid.

A meeting of Fishermen's Associations of India and Sri Lanka took place in Chennai on 27 January 2014. The meeting was facilitated by the Government of India, which ensured the release of fishermen prior to the commencement of the talks. Officials from GoI and State Government of Tamil Nadu also attended as observers.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, visited Sri Lanka on 7-8 October 2013. He called on President of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa and held bilateral talks with his counterpart Prof. G. L. Peiris. Agreements related to Sampur Coal Power Project [a joint venture between the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB)] and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for India's Technical Assistance for Sri Lanka's National Plan for a Trilingual Sri Lanka were signed during the visit. He travelled to Jaffna and held talks with the new Chief Minister of the Northern Provincial Council Mr. C.

V. Wigneswaran. He also participated in a ceremony to handover certificates to the beneficiaries of Indian housing project and the project to renovate damaged business premises.

EAM Shri Salman Khurshid represented India at the 22nd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Sri Lanka on 13-17 November 2013. He met the Sri Lankan leadership and other dignitaries on the margins of the Summit.

NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon visited Colombo on 8-9 July 2013 to participate in the 2nd NSA-Level Meeting of Trilateral Initiative on Cooperation on Maritime Security between India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. During the visit, the three sides agreed on a roadmap for future cooperation in maritime security and signed an Outcome Document. The 3rd NSA level meeting of the Trilateral Initiative took place in New Delhi on 6 March 2014. Sri Lanka was represented by Defence Secretary Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Maldives was represented by Minister for Defence Mr. Mohamed Nazim. Representatives from Seychelles and Mauritius also participated in the meeting.

Commerce Secretary, Shri. S.R. Rao visited Sri Lanka on 24-26 June, 2013 for bilateral Commerce Secretary Level Talks. The first meeting of the Joint Task Force to discuss modalities for increasing the export capacity of Sri Lanka by enabling Indian investment, was held during the visit. Sri Lankan Treasury Secretary Mr. P.B. Jayasundera visited India on 23-24 January 2014 for the next round of Commerce Secretary Level Talks.

Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi, visited Sri Lanka on 24-29 November 2013 to participate in the Galle Dialogue Maritime Conference. CNS called on President of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, and met Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka Prof. G.L. Peiris and Defence Secretary Mr. Gotabhaya Rajapaksa.

Since 2009, the Government of India has implemented development projects in Sri Lanka encompassing major sectors of the economy mainly aimed at the Tamil community of Sri Lanka, including housing, infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, fisheries, industry, handicrafts, culture and sports. Government is also engaged in concerted efforts to create opportunities for trade and investment in the conflict-affected areas, apart from enhancing regional connectivity. The total quantum of bilateral aid including loan and grant is around Rs. 8000 crore.

Sri Lanka is one of the major recipients of development credit

extended by the Government of India. Currently, the Government of India is providing concessional credit facilities amounting to about US\$ 800 million to the Government of Sri Lanka to undertake the Northern railway reconstruction project in Sri Lanka. This is in addition to US\$ 167.4 million for the repair and up-gradation of the tsunami-damaged Colombo-Matara rail link (track running between Kalutara-Galle-Matara) which was completed ahead of schedule last year.

Some of the important on-going projects include the construction of 50,000 houses (Northern, Eastern, Central and Uva Provinces), construction of a 150-bed hospital in Dickoya, setting up a coal power plant in Sampur, renovation of the Duraiappa Stadium in Jaffna, reactivation of the Atchuchuvely Industrial Zone, assistance for repair of schools in the Northern Province and the restoration of arterial railway tracks in the Northern Province.

During the year, the Government of India completed several important projects including the dredging at Kankesanthurai Harbour, donation of plant and machinery to the Fishnet Factory Northsea Limited in Jaffna and reconstruction of the railway tracks between Medawachchiya-Madhu Road (43 km) and the Omanthai-Kilinochchi (63 km).

India and Sri Lanka enjoy a robust trade and investment relationship, with bilateral trade growing rapidly in the last decade and a number of leading Indian private sector companies investing in Sri Lanka and establishing a presence. Sri Lanka is now one of India's largest trade partner in South Asia, while India is Sri Lanka's largest trade partner globally. Trade between the two countries has grown rapidly from a modest US\$ 600 million in 2000, when the bilateral FTA came into force, to reach US\$ 3.7 billion in 2013.

India continues to be the largest source country as far as Foreign Direct Investment and tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka are concerned. India is today among the top two investors in Sri Lanka, with cumulative investments of over US\$ 800 million since 2003.

Education is another important area of cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. India now offers about 300 scholarships annually to deserving Sri Lankan students. In addition, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scheme and the Colombo Plan, India offers nearly 200 slots annually to Sri Lankan nationals for short and medium term training courses in a wide variety of technical and professional disciplines.



Australia

India's relations with Australia continued to expand significantly in 2013-2014. The Strategic Partnership deepened further with the first meeting between the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the new Australian Prime Minister Mr. Tony Abbot in Brunei on 10 October 2013 on the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN-India and 8th EAS Summits.

Mr. Tony Abbot was sworn in as 28th Prime Minister of Australia on 18 September 2013 after the Liberal / National Coalition swept into power in a decisive victory in the federal elections to the lower House of Parliament. The Liberals expressed keen interest in developing closer ties with India, both political and economic, in recognition and acknowledgement of the rapid growth in India's regional and global profile and the importance of India and its economy to Australia's own future.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid led the Indian delegation to Perth, Australia for the 9th Foreign Ministers Framework Dialogue (FMFD) with Ms. Julie Bishop, Australian Foreign Minister on 31 October 2013. They reviewed bilateral relations and focussed on strengthening of the strategic partnership, including on regional & multilateral issues. Ms. Bishop paid an official visit to India from 16-18 November, 2013. She had discussions with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and met Finance Minister Shri P.Chidambaram, NSA and RBI Governor. She announced Australia's support for India's membership to Nuclear Supplier's Group (NSG), and an amendment to the MoU on Customs Cooperation and Statement of Intent on funding the Centre on Ecology and Environmental Science, Nalanda University were signed.

Shri A.K. Antony, Defence Minister paid the first ever official visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Australia on 4-5 June 2013. He held extensive talks with Australian Defence Minister Mr. Stephen Smith. It was agreed to continue regular dialogue of the Defence Ministers and hold a bilateral maritime exercise in 2015. A joint statement was issued during

the visit. General Bikram Singh, Chief of Army Staff visited Sydney and Canberra on 2-7 September 2013 and held discussions with his counterpart and Defence Secretary. The third round of Defence Policy Talks at the Additional Secretary (Ministry of Defence) level and the second round of Track 1.5 Defence and Security Dialogue at IDSA level were held on 4 October 2013 and 17 October 2013 respectively in New Delhi. INS Sahyadri participated in International Fleet Review at Sydney during 3-11 October 2013.

Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi attended the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention held on 10-12 November 2013 in Sydney. At the annual Pravasi Bhartiya Divas celebrations in New Delhi in January 2014, Senator Lisa Singh of Australia was accorded Pravasi Bhartiya Samman.

Minister for Human Resources Development Dr. M. Pallam Raju attended Annual Education Ministers' Dialogue on 9-12 July 2013 in Canberra. On this occasion, 2nd Australia-India Vice-Chancellors' Conference was also held.

Minister of Steel Shri Beni Prasad Verma visited Australia on 26-29 January 2014 for discussions with coal and iron ore suppliers to strengthen cooperation in the steel sector.

Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia attended the Energy Security Dialogue on 31 March 2014 in Australia and discussed two-way trade and investment, global and regional energy and resource governance, gas pricing and gas markets, energy access and efficiency and electricity market reform.

Minister of State for Corporate Affairs (I/C) Shri Sachin Pilot visited Australia on 3-8 June 2013. An MoU with Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) was signed during the visit establishing the framework for cooperation in enhancing effective enforcement of competitive laws of the two countries.

Secretary (East), M.E.A, Shri Ashok Kantha held the Senior Official Talks on 9 August 2013 in Canberra with Mr. Peter

Varghese, Secretary, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Secretary (East), M.E.A. Shri Anil Wadhwa visited Sydney, Canberra & Melbourne from 3-7 February 2014 for Australia-India Round Table, organized by Lowy Institute for International Policy and Observer Research Foundation.

Secretary, Ministry of Mines Shri R.H. Khwaja led an 8-member delegation to Perth, Western Australia (WA) from 21-25 October, 2013 and met Minister for Mines and Petroleum of WA and had field visits and interacted with business groups.

The 4th round of negotiations on Civil Nuclear Cooperation and the inaugural Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Dialogue were held in Canberra on 10-12 February 2014. Earlier, the 3rd round of negotiations was held in New Delhi on 26-27 November 2013 and the 2nd round was held in Canberra on 29-30 July 2013 after talks commenced in New Delhi on 19 March 2013.

The 5th round of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) talks were held in Canberra in May 2013. During the talks, both sides highlighted the need for having a mutually beneficial and equitable agreement. The 2nd JWG meeting on Water Resources Management (WRM) was held between 29 April and 3 May 2013 in Australia to discuss the preparation of WRM of Brahmani-Baitarni River basins. The 8th JWG meeting on Energy and Minerals held on 11-12 June 2013 in New Delhi, agreed to advance cooperation through the work programme for 2013-15. The 2nd JWG meeting on cooperation in Agriculture and allied sectors, held in Canberra on 25 November 2013, had wide ranging discussions on bilateral cooperation.

Indian Council of World Affairs(ICWA) hosted the inaugural India-Australia-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue on the Indian Ocean in New Delhi on 19-20 September 2013. Director General, ICWA visited Melbourne and Canberra from 16-23 March 2014 and had interactions with Australia Institute of International Affairs(AIIA) and Australia Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) for Track-II discussions on bilateral and regional issues.

An Inter Governmental MoU on Nalanda University was signed by seven countries including Australia on the sidelines of the 8th EAS Summit in Brunei; Australia will assist in establishing a Chair on Environment.

Air India inaugurated daily direct flights to Sydney and Melbourne, with the inaugural flight landing in Sydney on the morning of 30 August 2013, almost after a gap of 14 years.

Brunei Darussalam

The year witnessed enhanced interactions and exchanges as Brunei held the ASEAN Chair in 2013 and also the Chair for India-ASEAN Co-ordinator.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Brunei to attend 11th ASEAN-India and 8th East Asia Summits on 9-10 October 2013. During his visit, several EAS member countries signed the MoU on Nalanda University.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Brunei from 29 June to 2 July 2013 to participate in ASEAN-India Post-Ministerial Conference, 20th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and 3rd East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting. He held 12 bilateral meetings with his counterparts from various countries on the sidelines and met with Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei. Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce & Industry Minister, led an Indian delegation to the 11th ASEAN Economic Ministers' meeting held in Brunei from 17-21 August 2013. Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Defence and Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, attended the 2nd ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Meeting (ADMM+) in Brunei on 28-29 August 2013. Several other delegations visited Brunei, including for RCEP related meetings held in Brunei.

Dato Rahman Ibrahim, Governor of ADB Brunei Darussalam visited New Delhi from 2-5 May 2013 for the 46th Annual meeting of the ADB Board of Governors. Dato Ali Apong, Chairman of the Brunei Economic Development and Deputy Minister visited India from 2-5 September 2013 to explore possibilities for Indian pharmaceutical companies for manufacturing in Brunei.

INS Gharial, along with a field hospital contingent of the Indian Army participated in the ASEAN Plus (ADMM+) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Medical Medicine Exercise (HADR & MM Ex.) in Brunei from 10-22 June 2013. Vice Admiral Anil Chopra, FOC, Eastern Naval Command, visited Brunei in this connection. A naval ship from Brunei participated in MILAN-2014, held in Port Blair from 3-9 February 2014.

Cambodia

Bilateral relations between Cambodia and India remained extremely close and friendly and continued to grow steadily in 2013.

Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar led a Ministerial cum Business delegation to Cambodia from 11-14 June 2013.

Defence cooperation intensified during the year with the visit of the naval ship INS Sudharshini, training given to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in Peacekeeping and Demining modules by Indian experts and the visit of a delegation from the Higher Command Course of the Army War College, Mhow.

India and Cambodia strengthened developmental partnership through several projects related to agriculture, water management, energy transmission, capacity building, including the setting up of institutions for IT, English language and entrepreneurship. Shri Kumar Tuhin, Joint Secretary (Development Partnership Administration), M.E.A visited Cambodia from 8-10 May 2013 to explore setting up of new projects and review on-going projects. Cultural cooperation grew during the period with the signing of Cultural Exchange Programme and ASI's continued work on restoration project on the Ta Prohm temple complex in Siem Reap and launch of the MGC Asian Traditional Textile Museum, Siem Reap. Smt. Sangita Gairola, Secretary, Ministry of Culture led a delegation to Cambodia from 16-27 June 2013 to attend the 37th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Cambodia.

India donated 40,000 bottles of indelible ink worth about US\$ 900,000 to Cambodia for the 28 July 2013 General Elections to the Cambodian National Assembly. Shri Ashutosh Jindal, Chief Electoral Officer, Tripura visited Cambodia as an Observer.

The Festival of India was held in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, from 13-18 February 2014. The Festival was inaugurated by Mr. Min Khin, Cambodian Minister of Culture and Religion, and Mr. Ravinder Singh, Secretary (Culture).

Fiji

India-Fiji bilateral relations remained cordial and made substantial progress during 2013 through exchange of visits.

Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation paid an official visit to India from 9-12 February 2014 and held delegation level talks with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid. Three MoUs on Development Cooperation, Cooperation in Water Resources Management and Cooperation in the field of Standardization were signed during the visit. He also met Shri Tariq Anwar, Minister of

State for Agriculture. Fiji Foreign Minister delivered a lecture on "Developments in Fiji 2007 onwards" at the ICWA. FOCs at the Secretary level, comprehensively covering all aspects of interaction between the two countries, were held on 11 February 2014.

Mr. Aiyaz Saiyed-Khaiyum, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice visited India to attend CII Partnership Summit in Bengaluru from 27-29 January 2014. He visited Delhi and signed Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram on 30 January 2014.

Health Minister of Fiji Dr. Neil Sharma, visited India on 31 May 2013 to study hospital facilities and explore procurement of equipment for the establishment of an oncological unit in Fiji and met Health Minister Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad. Minister for Agriculture Mr. Inia Seruiratu visited India on 12-15 October 2013 and met Minister for Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar and visited agricultural institutions.

Joint Secretary (South), M.E.A., Shri Sanjay Bhattacharyya, visited Fiji on 11-12 April 2013 and called on Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Attorney General, and Minister of Health of Fiji. He also addressed the University of South Pacific and met the Pacific Island Forum. A delegation led by Shri Sudhir Kumar, Secretary (F&PD), Department of Food and Public Distribution, participated in the 43rd Session of the ISO / International Sugar Council meeting held in Nadi on 3-6 June, 2013. Shri Ranglal Jamuda, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, visited Fiji to attend the 54th Workshop of Heads of National Productivity Organization of the Member countries organized by the Asian Productivity Organization on 29-31 October, 2013 at Nadi. Shri B. B. Gupta of National Academy of Customs, Excise & Narcotics, Faridabad, attended the 11th Head of Asia Pacific World Customs Organization (WCO) Regional Training Centres (RTC) meeting on 5-6 November 2013 in RTC, Suva.

A 36-member team consisting of scientists and engineers in two groups of ships *Yamuna* and *Nalanda* visited Suva in October-November 2013, to establish Observation Points in the Pacific to facilitate the Mars Orbiter Mission.

Under India's Annual Assistance Initiative in the form of grant-in-aid to each of the PIF countries for the socio-economic development projects, Government of India provided funds for Mobile Library Vehicle for Suva City Carnegie Mobile Library and purchase of 300 sewing machines. A delegation from Fiji Sugar Corporation visited

India on 2-5 September 2013 to discuss progress on supply of equipment under the LoC of US\$ 50.4 million extended by India in July 2005 for up-gradation of 3 sugar mills-Lautoka, Rarawai, and Labasa.

Fiji's Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Jiko Luveni, inaugurated the National Solar Grandmothers Workshop in Suva on 24-25 April 2013, aimed at the implementation of solar energy adoption programme in the communities from where ten elderly women were trained at the Barefoot College, Tilonia, Rajasthan, last year, under the ITEC Programme.

Apollo Hospitals signed an MoU with the Fiji National University in April 2013 for cooperation in training and capacity building and organizing a telemedicine / mobile health programme. The telemedicine center at Fiji School of Medicine, FNU, was started in August 2013 to provide real-time diagnostics by medical specialists of Apollo in India.

The Indian Cultural Centre organized several major events including the 134th anniversary of the Girmir Arrival Day and International Student Day. Pravasi Bharatiya Samman was accorded to Ramakrishna Mission in Fiji in January 2014 in New Delhi.

Indonesia

The India-Indonesia bilateral relations were marked by high level visits and events aimed at consolidating the strategic partnership.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an official visit to Indonesia from 10-12 October 2013, his first bilateral visit at the invitation of President Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. He was accompanied by EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid also met Foreign Minister, Mr. R. Marty Natalegawa in a bilateral meeting on 11 October 2013 and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation and mutual interest, following which, two MoUs between Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration and National Institute of Public Administration, Indonesia and between ICWA and Indonesian Council of World Affairs, were signed. The two countries signed four MoUs aimed at enhancing cooperation on healthcare, disaster management, combating corruption and efforts to combat drug trafficking. They held extensive discussions on bilateral and regional issues and released a Joint Statement on India-Indonesia Strategic Partnership. The India-Indonesia CEO Forum was held with business leaders from both countries.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry attended the 9th Ministerial Conference of WTO in Bali, Indonesia from 3-7 December 2013, which was also attended by 159 ministers from all member countries of WTO. After week long negotiations, the Ministers adopted the "Bali Package", a significant multilateral agreement which took into account India's concern on food security.

Mr. Rizal Affandi Lukman, Deputy Minister for International Economic and Financial Cooperation and Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs attended the CII Partnership Summit in Bengaluru from 26-29 January 2014.

The first meeting of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) between India and Indonesia was held at Bali, Indonesia on 17 June 2013.

A high level delegation of officials and experts from the Ministries of Agriculture and Food Processing and External Affairs of India visited Indonesia for the 2nd Meeting of India-Indonesia JWG on Agriculture on 26-27 March 2013 in Bali.

The third Meeting of the JWG on Counter Terrorism between India and Indonesia was held in New Delhi from 6-7 June 2013 at the Additional Secretary level.

The Embassy of India in Jakarta in association with the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, CII and Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC), organized Indian Diaspora engagement meets in Medan on 16 July 2013 and in Jakarta on 18 July 2013.

An Indian delegation led by Lt. Gen. Sanjiv Langer attended the Third Jakarta International Defence Dialogue (JIDD) from 20-21 March 2013. Vice Admiral R.K. Pattanaik led the Indian delegation to the Fourth Jakarta International Defence Dialogue (JIDD) in Jakarta on 19 March 2014. The 21st India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrolling was held from 6-26 May, 2013 in the mouth of Malacca/ Andaman Sea.

The 6th Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks were conducted in Jakarta from 27-29 August, 2013 to consolidate the cooperative mechanisms. The 3rd Army-to-Army Staff talks were conducted from 11-14 February 2014 in Bali. A Naval ship from Indonesia participated in MILAN-2014, held in Port Blair from 3-9 February 2014. A 24-member CEOs delegation led by FICCI President Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai visited Jakarta from 25-27 August, 2013, focussing on industries such as banking, IT, textiles, automobiles, mining, healthcare, etc.

A Parliamentary Goodwill Delegation led by Minister of

Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Kamal Nath and consisting of members from both the Houses of Parliament and from various political parties visited Indonesia from 11-17 April 2013. The Speakers of Bihar and Rajasthan, Shri Sutanu Behuria, Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs visited Bali for the Asia-Pacific Regional Parliamentarians and CSO Forum on MDG Acceleration and the Post-2015 Development Agenda on 25-26 March, 2013.

Mari Elka Pangestu, Indonesian Minister for Tourism and Creative Economy visited India on 1 April, 2013 and met with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma and also met FICCI and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). Minister of National Development Planning and Head of National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) of Indonesia, Dr. Armida S. Alisjahbana visited India for the ADB Annual Meeting from 2-5 May 2013. Mr. Eee Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the Delhi Dialogue V from 19-20 February 2013.

Malindo Air, a subsidiary of Lion Group initiated flights from Jakarta to Delhi via Kuala Lumpur from 30 December 2013. This supplemented code sharing flight of Jet Airways-Garuda via Singapore.

Lao PDR

India's relations with Lao PDR continued to flourish during the period.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Vientiane and Luang Prabang from 8-10 September 2013 to co-chair the 7th Lao-India Joint Commission Meeting on Bilateral Cooperation with his counterpart Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister of Foreign Affairs(FM). Both sides agreed to strengthen coordination on ASEAN and multilateral issues. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid called on President Mr. Choummaly Sayasone, and Mr. Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and Lao DPM & FM also inaugurated the 2nd Round table of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks held at Vientiane on 10 September, 2013.

The two Lines of Credit (LoC) agreements, for irrigation projects for US\$ 30.94 million conversion of another LoC to substitute the Nam Boun-2 hydro power plant by the extension of transmission lines amounting to US\$ 35.25 million were signed.

Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR visited India to participate in the ASEM FMM11 on 11-12 November, 2013 at Gurgaon, NCR.

A Lao delegation led by Dr. Bounthavy Sisouphanthong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao participated in the first CII Business Conclave on Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar & Vietnam (CLMV) with theme "Creating New Economic Opportunities" held on 21-22 October, 2013 in New Delhi.

The Festival of India was held in Lao from 9-11 February 2014 and was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Lao Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism and Dr. Ravinder Singh, Secretary (Culture).

Malaysia

Bilateral relations with Malaysia, marked by traditional friendship and cordiality, continued to be stable and steadily strengthened during the year in all major areas.

Shri K. Rosaiah, Governor of Tamil Nadu visited Malaysia from 12-13 April 2013 to attend the 10th Biennial International Conference of the World Telugu Federation. Prof. P.J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha visited Malaysia on 28 May 2013 to attend the "3rd Global Women Delivery Conference on Parliamentarians Forum : Success, Challenges, Obstacles in Advancing Women and Girls' Health and Right" and met the President of Dewan Negara (Upper House), Tan Sri Abu Zahar bin Dato' Nika Ujang. Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, visited Malaysia from 27-29 September 2013 to attend the 3rd ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry (3rd AIMMAF). Shri K. Rahman Khan, Minister of Minority Affairs visited Malaysia from 3-5 February 2014 to deliver the keynote address at the 3rd International Seminar on Interfaith Harmony & Tolerance at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

G. Palanivel, Malaysian Minister for Natural Resources and Environment and President of the Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC), was the Chief Guest at the 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention that was held from 7-9 January 2014 in New Delhi.

Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia, Speaker of Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives – the Lower House) of Malaysia, paid a visit to India from 29-30 July 2013 and met Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker, Lok Sabha to discuss issues of bilateral

cooperation. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry led the Malaysian delegation to Bengaluru to attend the "CII Partnership- Summit" from 27-28 January 2014.

Indian Chief of Naval Staff visited Malaysia in September 2013. Several Indian naval ships called on Malay ports, while a group of four Indian Naval Ships from the Eastern Fleet (INS Shakti, INS Satpura, INS Ranvijay and INS Kirch) made port calls at Port Kelang and participated in the OSD-2013 in June, 2013. Bilateral defence talks were being held regularly with 10th Malaysia India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM) being held in New Delhi on 19-22 June, 2013; 5th IN-RMN Navy Staff talks also held in New Delhi in June 2013; and 4th Army to Army Staff talks held in New Delhi in October 2013. A Naval ship from Malaysia participated in MILAN-2014, held in Port Blair from 3-9 February, 2014.

An MoU on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Custom Matters was signed on 13 June 2013 at New Delhi, by Ms. Praveen Mahajan, Chairperson, Central Board of Excise & Customs and Dato' Sri Khazali bin Hj. Ahmad, Director General of Customs, Royal Malaysian Customs of Malaysia. An MoU for cooperation between India and Malaysia in the field of Public Administration and Governance was signed in Kuala Lumpur on 25 November 2013 by our Ministry of Personnel, Pensions and Public Grievances and its counterpart organisation in Malaysia.

Shri Nilanjan Sanyal, Secretary, Department of AYUSH, visited Malaysia from 26-28 March 2014 for the 2nd Bilateral Technical Meeting on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicines. Shri K.V.L. Narsimham, Director EdCIL (India) Limited, visited Malaysia from 13-17 March 2014 for discussions to recruit 90 English language teachers from India and met Mr. P. Kamalanathan, Deputy Minister of Education of Malaysia.

India deployed up to five Naval and Coast Guard Ships as well as two Dornier aircrafts and one Mi-17 Helicopter in the Andaman Sea and subsequently deployed one P-8i and one C-130 aircraft in the Indian Ocean as part of the multi-national Search and Rescue (SAR) mission to locate the Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 that went missing on 8 March 2014. There were five Indians on-board the flight.

New Zealand

Mr. Murray McCully, Foreign Minister of New Zealand, visited India on 4 June 2013 and held bilateral meetings with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid, Commerce & Industry and

Textiles Minister Shri Anand Sharma, Sports Minister Shri Jitendra Singh and, NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon, for a review of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest.

Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister for HRD, led a nine-member high-level Indian delegation for the 2nd meeting of the India-New Zealand Education Council (INZEC) at Wellington on 8-9 July 2013.

Minister of Steel Shri Beni Prasad Verma visited New Zealand from 29 January to 1 February 2014 and met Mr. Simon Bridges, Minister of Energy & Resources and interacted with the India-New Zealand Business Council and the state sector company Solid Energy.

A Parliamentary delegation led by Prof. P. J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, represented India at the 22nd Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) held at Wellington from 21-24 January 2014.

Lt. General Krishna Singh, Vice Chief of the Army Staff visited New Zealand from 8-13 September 2013 to attend the Eighth Biennial Pacific Army's Chief's Conference (PACC-VIII), themed: "The Sum is Greater than the parts—21st century peace operations in a United Nations context" held at Auckland.

The 4th India-New Zealand Economic Policy Dialogue was held in Wellington on 15-16 April, 2013. The 9th round of the India-New Zealand negotiations on CECA was held in Wellington on 29-30 July 2013. Reserve Bank of India signed an MoU on "Supervisory Co-operation with Overseas Banking Supervisors with Reserve Bank of New Zealand" at Wellington on 4 November 2013.

An Indian delegation from the Ministry of Environment and Forests participated in the 25th Session of Asia Pacific Forestry Commission of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations held at Rotorua, New Zealand from 5-8 November 2013.

Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Mr. William Duma, Minister for Petroleum & Energy visited India, accompanied by an 8-member delegation. He met with Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Veerappa Moily, visited Petronet's Dahej Terminal and ONGC's facilities at Bombay High and paid a courtesy call on Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, on 2 April 2013.

As a follow-up to the visit of PNG Minister for Petroleum & Energy, Petronet/OVL sent two delegations to PNG which held extensive discussions with State-owned Petromin LNG Holdings Ltd. and various other stakeholders in the LNG sector. An MOU has been initialled on in-principle agreement with Petromin of PNG for off-taking of 22.5% gas from the proposed Gulf LNG Project. Discussions are also ongoing with InterOil and others concerned for possible Indian participation in the Gulf LNG Project. Indian companies are now looking at PNG for long term partnerships in the field of hydrocarbons.

A Parliamentary delegation, led by Mr. Theodore Zurenuoc, Speaker of the PNG Parliament, visited India on 26-30 August 2013 and had meeting with Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar, and called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari and EAM Shri Salman Khurshid.

Brig. Gen. Francis Agwi, Chief of PNG Defence Forces, visited India in June 2013 to attend the passing out ceremony of PNGDF cadet officer at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun. He also met with Chief of Indian Army, Chief of Indian Navy and Vice-Chief of Indian Air Force in New Delhi.

India has been assisting PNG in her capacity-building efforts by way of training under ITEC Programme. This year, India offered 30 scholarships in addition to four Commonwealth Programme Scholarships. As part of our Regional Assistance Initiative for Pacific Island Countries, GoI offered annual grants-in-aid of US\$ 125,000 to PNG for supply of equipment and material for social programmes.

In association with the University of Papua New Guinea, Indian High Commission organised an Indian Film Festival at the University from 7-12 June 2013. Several cultural events were also hosted. Pravasi Bharatiya Samman was accorded to Governor Sasindran Muthuvel of Papua New Guinea in January 2014 in New Delhi.

Government of India purchased a compound on a scenic hill near the famous Ela Beach for the Chancery & officers' Residences in Port Moresby. The High Commission shifted to the new premises in September 2013.

The Philippines

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Manila from 21-23 October 2013 for the second meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation which he co-chaired with his Filipino counterpart, Mr. Albert F. Del Rosario,

Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines. He called on Mr. Jejomar Binay, the Vice President of Philippines and delivered the inaugural lecture of 'Rizal-Nehru Memorial series' at the Foreign Service Institute of Philippines. During the visit, he announced a disaster relief assistance of US\$ 1,00,000 to the Philippines for rehabilitation of earthquake victims.

Government of India also announced disaster relief assistance to the Philippines government for the victims of 'Haiyan' super typhoon, which struck Philippines on 7-8 November 2013. A plane load of the relief material was sent to Philippines aboard an Indian Air Force C-130 on 16 November 2013 to Tacloban, the epicentre of the Typhoon. Vice President of the Philippines presented a plaque of appreciation to Indian Mission in Manila.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations recommended the ratification of the India-Philippines Extradition Treaty in its meeting on 20 February 2014 (the Treaty was signed in 2004).

Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Smt. Krishna Tirath visited Manila from 26-28 September 2013, to give a presentation on "Bridging Gender Gap in India" at the Asian Development Bank. Shri S. Damodaran, Minister of Agriculture of Tamil Nadu visited Manila on 26-27 July 2013 and met Director General of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). Cabinet Secretary Shri Ajit Seth visited Manila from 25-27 September 2013, to attend the Advisory Council meeting of the ADB. Dr. Rita Sharma, Secretary, National Advisory Council visited Manila in connection with the meeting of the Board of Trustees of IRRI, Laguna on 3 April 2013. Finance Secretary, Shri Arvind Mayaram visited Manila on 21-22 October 2013 for a meeting at the Asian Development Bank. Shri H.S. Brahma, Election Commissioner of India, visited Philippines from 11-15 November, 2013 to attend the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) Executive Board Meeting.

Philippines' Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs for Policy Mr. Evan P. Garcia led the Philippines delegation to India for the ASEM FMM11 meeting from 10-13 November 2013.

A flotilla of four Indian Naval ships from the Eastern Fleet, namely INS *Shakti*, INS *Satpura*, INS *Ranjit* and INS *Kirch* visited Manila on a goodwill visit from 12-16 June 2013. Vice Admiral Anil Chopra, Flag-Officer-Commanding Eastern Fleet visited Philippines from 15-18 June 2013 and called on the Philippines Defence Secretary. A delegation from the College of Defence Management, Secunderabad visited

Philippines from 27 October to 2 November 2013.

The 11th meeting of the JWG on Trade and Investments (JWG TI) was held in Manila from 29-30 April 2013. The first meeting of India-Philippines JWG on Renewable Energy took place in New Delhi on 11 July 2013. A bust of Mother Teresa, provided by the ICCR, was unveiled on 16 July 2013 at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. A group of 25 students from Philippines visited India under the students' visit programme from ASEAN countries from 17-26 November 2013.

Singapore

The 3rd India-Singapore Joint Ministerial Committee was held on 23-24 October 2013 in Singapore and was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and his Singapore counterpart. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid called on the Singapore President and Defence Minister. Earlier, he had paid an introductory bilateral visit to Singapore on 3-4 July 2013, during which he called on Singapore Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister/ Home Minister. Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Law, Mr. K. Shanmugam, visited India from 28-30 July, 2013 during which he met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and visited Nalanda. The 12th FoCs were held on 12 August, 2013 in Singapore.

Shri Ajit Singh, Minister of Civil Aviation visited Singapore from 2-4 April, 2013 during which a revised Air Services Agreement (ASA) was concluded and discussion held to strengthen ties in the aviation sector. Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma, visited Singapore from 14-16 May 2013 to participate in the Investment Roundtable. Defence Minister Shri A.K. Antony, visited Singapore on 3 June 2013 for discussions with his Singapore counterpart on promoting defence cooperation. Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation visited Singapore for the "India Infrastructure Forum" held on 18 June, 2013. Shri P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister, visited Singapore to deliver the Key Note Address at the South Asian Diaspora Convention held in Singapore on 21 November 2013. Shri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Assam also addressed the Convention held on 21-22 November 2013. Shri P. Sathasivam, Chief Justice of India, visited Singapore to participate in the 15th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific, 2013 on 28-30 October 2013.

Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, visited Singapore on 24-25 March 2014 to deliver a lecture on the topic "Is the emerging markets story

over?" at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

Mr. S. Iswaran, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry visited India from 26-29 January 2014 to participate in the (CII) Partnership Summit 2014 in Bengaluru.

Secretary (East), M.E.A. Shri Anil Wadhwa, paid a visit to Singapore from 14-15 February 2014 to review bilateral relations, take stock of the preparations for the 50th Anniversary celebrations and the situation in the aftermath of the riots that occurred in Little India in December 2013. He delivered a talk in Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) on "India ASEAN relations: Prospects for Economic Engagement" and addressed an interactive session with prominent Indian business leaders.

India and Singapore continued security and defence cooperation. The Bilateral Agreement for training for Army was renewed for five years in June 2013 during the visit of Defence Minister to Singapore. The 4th National Security Roundtable co-chaired by Deputy NSA and Permanent Secretary, National Security Coordinating Secretariat of Singapore was held in New Delhi from 18-19 November 2013. A Naval ship from Singapore participated in MILAN-2014, held in Port Blair from 3-9 February 2014. Indian Army and Singapore Army conducted the 10th Bilateral Armour Exercise "Bold Kurukshetra", under the ambit of the Bilateral Agreement for Joint Army Training and Exercises, from 1-31 March 2014.

India and Singapore share robust economic and commercial ties which continued to flourish during the current year. Singapore emerged as the leading trade and investment partner in ASEAN and a major hub for Indian economic activities in the region. The temporary campus of the World Class Skills Centre, being built with collaboration of Singapore was inaugurated in New Delhi on 19 September 2013.

Ms Rosa Daniel, Deputy Secretary (Culture) and CEO of the National Heritage Board (NHB), Singapore visited India from 31 March to 1 April 2014 and met officials from Ministry of Culture, besides DGs of ICCR, ASI, National Museum and Secretary, IGNCA.

Thailand

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh accompanied by External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and a large delegation paid an official visit to Thailand at the invitation of

Prime Minister Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra from 30-31 May 2013. Both Prime Ministers held wide-ranging talks on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh presented a sapling of Bodhi Tree in Bodh Gaya as a special gift to Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej as a symbol of the shared cultural heritage. During the visit, six agreements/ MoUs regarding bilateral cooperation in the fields of Extradition; Exchange Programme; Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing; Urban Mapping; India-ASEAN Archaeological Atlas and Hindi Chair at Thammasat University were signed and a broad-based joint statement was issued.

Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry participated in the 69th Commission Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok on 29-30 April 2013. Minister of Water Resources Shri Harish Rawat represented India at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Chiang Mai on 19-20 May 2013. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Veerappa Moily attended the convocation ceremony at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok on 23 May 2013 as Chief Guest and met Minister of Energy Mr. Pongsak Raktapongpaisal. Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, Minister of State (I/C) for Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Parliamentary Affairs participated in a business conclave on North Eastern states in Bangkok on 17 June 2013. Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries Shri Tariq Anwar attended the meeting organized by Food and Agriculture Organization on Coconut Sector Development in the Asia-Pacific region from 30 October to 1 November 2013. Chief Minister of Assam Shri Tarun Gogoi visited Bangkok from 9-12 June 2013 to study the flash flood defence and management systems.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance Mr. Kittiratt Na-Ranong attended the 46th annual meeting of Asian Development Bank Board of Governors in New Delhi on 4-5 May 2013. Minister of Industry Mr. Prasert Boonchaisuk and Minister of Science & Technology Mr. Woravat Auapinyakul visited India on 25-27 June 2013. Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Commerce Mr. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan met Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance in New Delhi on 23 October 2013. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Jullapong Nonsrichai attended the Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers Meeting in New Delhi on 11-12 November 2013. Mr. Apichart Sukhaggonond, Chairman of Election Commission

of Thailand visited India from 28-30 November 2013 to witness election process in the State Assembly Elections.

Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony visited Bangkok on 6 June 2013 and held talks with his Thai counterpart Air Chief Marshal Sukumpol Suwanatat. The 4th bilateral Air Staff talks were held in Pattaya on 20-22 May, 2013. The 10th meeting of JWG on Establishment of Order at Sea and the 6th Indian Navy- Royal Thai Navy staff talks were held in New Delhi on 9 July 2013. The 17th round of Cycle of Coordinated Patrol was held from 13-21 November 2013 in the Andaman Sea.

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand paid an official visit to India from 23-28 February, 2014. She visited Nalanda and Bodh Gaya in Bihar and Kohima in Nagaland, before arriving in New Delhi. During the visit, she called on President and Vice President and was hosted to a dinner by EAM Shri Salman Khurshid.

The 8th meeting of JWG on Security Cooperation was held in Neemrana on 18-19 July, 2013, co-chaired by Shri Nehchal Sandhu, Deputy NSA and Mr. Paradorn Patanatabut, Secretary General, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCN).

The 27th and the 28th meetings of Trade Negotiation Committee for bilateral FTA were held on 10-12 July 2013 in Bangkok and 6-7 November 2013 in New Delhi respectively.

The 3rd Meeting of India-Thailand Ad Hoc Working Group on visa and consular matters was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok on 27 August 2013.

An MoU between the ICCR and Silpakorn University for the continuation of Sanskrit Chair was signed in Bangkok on 19 June 2013.

The Festival of India held in Thailand from 20-23 March 2014 was inaugurated by Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), M.E.A.

Democratic Republic of Timor Leste

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid met Jose Luis Guterres, Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor Leste. They highlighted bilateral cooperation and discussed the proposal of opening an Embassy of Timor Leste in New Delhi during his visit to Brunei on 30 June to 3 July, 2013 for the 11th ASEAN-India Post Ministerial Conference (PMC), 3rd EAS Foreign Ministers Meeting and the 20th ARF Ministerial.

Dr. Serio G.C. Lobo, Minister of Health, Government of

Timor Leste visited India in September 2013 for SEARO, WHO Meeting, during which he met Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, visited premier institutes in healthcare and training and met FICCI officials.

Vietnam

Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam paid a State visit to India from 19-22 November 2013. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh held delegation level talks with the General Secretary. The General Secretary called on the President and met Vice President, Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and leaders of political parties. A joint statement issued on the occasion emphasized the strengthening and deepening the Strategic Partnership between the two countries. Documents were signed during the visit on Air Services Agreement; MoU for setting up of the Indira Gandhi Hightech Crime Lab (IGHCL) in Hanoi; Agreement on Protection of Classified Information between the Ministries of Defence; MoU for cooperation between the two Ministries of Finance; Cooperation Agreement between Hanoi National University and Indian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; MoU on Cooperation between Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) and HCM National Academy of Politics and Public Administration; MoU between Vietnam Oil and Gas Group and OVL; MoU between Ministry of Industry and Trade and Tata Power Ltd. on Development of Long Phu 2 Thermal Power Project in Soc Trang, Vietnam.

Indian Minister of Shipping, Mr. G.K. Vasan visited Vietnam from 23-28 May 2013 during which a Maritime Shipping Agreement was signed. Shri V. Kishore Chandra Deo, Minister for Tribal Affairs & Panchayati Raj visited Vietnam from 7-11 January 2014 at the invitation of UNDP to study their projects relating to ethnic minority communities in Vietnam. Minister of State (Commerce and Industry) Dr. D. Purandeswari visited Vietnam from 27-28 April 2013. A 29-member delegation led by Mr. D.P. Tripathi, MP visited Vietnam from 20-26 October 2013 for the 6th Vietnam-India People's Friendship Festival, organised by Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations. Secretary (East), M.E.A Shri Ashok K. Kantha visited Vietnam, on 13-15 August 2013. The 2nd Meeting of the JWG on Education was held through video-conferencing on 18 November, 2013.

Vietnam Minister of Public Security, Mr. Tran Dai Quang visited from 29 October to 1 November 2013 and held talks

with Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon. An Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons was signed during the visit. Minister of Information and Communication, Mr. Nguyen Bac Son visited from 3-8 July, 2013 when an MoU between the Vietnam Telecommunications Authority (VNTA) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and another MoU on Cooperation in the field of Spectrum Management, were signed. Mr. Truong Chi Trung, Vice Minister of Finance visited from 23-24 September 2013 for discussions with Indian officials on Indian assistance and LoCs. Dr. Doan Mau Diep, Vice Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs visited New Delhi from 23-25 October 2013 for attending the 2nd HLM on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and Pacific. Mr. Ha Kim Ngoc, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the ASEM FMM11 from 9-12 November 2013. Mr. Nguyen Cam Tu, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade visited on 18-19 November 2013 for the first meeting of the India-Vietnam Sub-committee on Trade and related issues. He also attended ADB-CII Conference on Promoting Mekong-India Economic Cooperation held on 19 November 2013. Mr. Pham Quang Vinh, Vice Foreign Minister participated in Delhi Dialogue VI on 6-7 March 2014.

Other Agreements/ MoUs signed during the year include Exchange of Diplomatic properties and Land Lease; Extension of the Agreement for Cooperation for the utilisation of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes by another 5 years from May 2012-May 2017; MoU on cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Exchange of Instruments of Ratification for the Extradition Treaty between India and Vietnam.

The 8th Security Dialogue was held in Ho Chi Minh City on 8 November 2013 co-chaired by Shri R.K. Mathur, Defence Secretary and Vietnam Vice Minister of Defence. The MoU on Defence Cooperation was extended by another five years from 2014-2019. The Indian Armed Forces have been engaged with the capacity building of the Vietnamese Armed Forces for which the training modules were conducted both in India and Vietnam. India and Vietnam would be co-chairing an Expert Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Actions in the ADMM+ forum. Four Indian Naval ships which included the indigenously built stealth frigate INS SATPURA and fleet tanker INS SHAKTI visited Da Nang from 6-10 June 2013. From Vietnamese side, Lt. Gen. Do Ba Ty, Chief of the General Staff-cum-Vice Minister of Defence Senior visited India from 23-27 September 2013.

Bilateral trade between India and Vietnam saw continuous growth over the past year. A Vietnamese delegation from Ho Chi Minh City participated in the India-CLMV Business Conclave organized by CII from 21-22 October 2013 in New Delhi.

Vietnam has been a large recipient of training and capacity building programmes under ITEC programme where 150 slots are earmarked for it. It also got 16 slots for post-graduate courses under General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS), 10 slots for undergraduate courses funded by Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) programme and 14 slots under the Educational Exchange Programme (EEP).

On 12 November 2013, a High Performance Computing facility set up by CDAC at the Hanoi University of Science & Technology was inaugurated with a 16-node cluster with basic visualization laboratory and a 5-node Grid Computing facility; this is the highest configuration of supercomputer gifted overseas by Indian Government.

The Festival of India was held in Vietnam – Hanoi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City, from 5-15 March 2013. An MoU was signed on 10 June 2013 between the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Musicology, India (NMI) and Danang Museum of Cham sculpture (Cham Museum).

Pacific Islands

An Indian delegation of Heads of Missions from Pacific countries visited Majuro, capital of Republic of Marshall Islands on 3-6 September 2013 to participate in the 25th Post Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting, following the 44th Pacific Islands Forum meeting.

High level delegations led by Mr. Brown Mark Stephen, Minister of Finance of Cook Islands; Mr. Dennis P. Momotaro, Minister of Finance of Marshall Islands; Mr. Kun Ronald, Minister of Finance of Nauru; Mr. Faumuina Liuga, Minister of Finance of Samoa; Mr. Houenipwela Ric, Minister of Finance of Solomon Islands; Mr. Akolo Lisiate Aloveita, Minister of Finance & National Planning of Tonga; Mr. Natano Kausea, Acting Minister of Finance & Economic Development of Tuvalu; Mr. Jimmy Tapangararu Willie,

Minister of Finance of Vanuatu, Mr. Eldebechel Secilil, Financial Advisor to the office of President of Palau; Mr. Uakela Takula, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance of Kiribati and Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum attended the ADB Board of Governors Meeting in Greater Noida from 2-5 May 2013. The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum also met with Shri P.S. Raghavan, Secretary (Economic Relations), M.E.A., in New Delhi.

Another group of high level delegations led by Dr. Vita Skilling, Minister of Health & Social Affairs of FSM; Mr. Wilbur Heine, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Marshall Islands; Mr. John Henry, Associate Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Cook Island; Hon. Teima Onorio, Vice President of Kiribati; Hon. David Adeang, Minister for Justice, Border and Control of Nauru; Mr. Ponepate Taunisila, Deputy Director, Ministry of Education & Training of Tonga; Fauoa Maani, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of Tuvalu visited India to attend the Second High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi on 23-25 October 2013.

India's annual assistance initiative of US\$ 125,000 to each of the PIF countries continued during the year. India provided assistance of US\$ 10,000/- to Cook Islands for sponsorship of a Cricket Tournament; US\$ 2,58,515 for funding of health equipments in Kiribati; US\$ 3,00,000 to Tonga for establishing Tsunami Alert System; US\$ 18,175 to Tuvalu for financial assistance of participation in Water Week; US\$ 1,62,833 to Marshall Islands for hosting the PIF Summit Meeting and related meetings. India also provided disaster relief assistance of US\$ 1,00,000 to the Government of Marshall Islands in June 2013.

A delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tuvalu, Taukelina Finikaso visited India in August 2013 for commissioning of the new Tuvalu Consulate in New Delhi.

India continued to extend short term training courses to these countries under ITEC and Colombo Plans as well as scholarships under the ICCR's General Cultural Scholarship Scheme.



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) remained cordial, mainly focused on humanitarian and human resource development assistance to DPRK. India continued to allocate ITEC slots to DPRK for helping in its capacity-building efforts. Providing humanitarian food aid to DPRK was under active consideration of the GoI.

In April 2013, Joint Secretary (East Asia), M.E.A. Shri Gautam Bambawale led a 2-member Indian delegation to Pyongyang in April 2013 to hold Director General/Joint Secretary level talks to review overall relationship. In July 2013, an Indian delegation led by Shri Sitaram Yechury, MP, which also included Shri Tarun Vijay, MP, and Shri Muhammed Hamdullah Sayeed, MP, visited Pyongyang to participate in the 60th Anniversary of the Fatherland Liberation Day of DPRK. In July 2013, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid held a bilateral meeting with DPRK Foreign Minister Mr. Pak Ui Chun on the sidelines of the 46th Asean Ministerial Meeting (AMM)/Post Ministerial Conference (PMC)/Asean Regional Forum (ARF) meeting in Brunei.

India and DPRK decided to organize various events and exchange high level visits to celebrate the 40th anniversary of establishment of their diplomatic relations. The events included the exchange of congratulatory messages at the Foreign Ministers level; hosting of a reception each in New Delhi and Pyongyang in early December to be attended by Foreign Minister of the host Government as the chief guest; exchange of high level delegations; telecast documentaries on TV on National Days; and gifting of books. The two nations continued to support each other in the United Nations and other international fora.

Japan

Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe visited India from

25-27 January 2014. He was the Chief Guest for our Republic Day celebrations. A 'Joint Statement' was signed by the Prime Minister of Japan and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the Summit meeting.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Japan for the annual Japan-India Summit in May 2013. He had an audience with the Emperor and Empress of Japan. A 'Joint Statement: Strengthening the Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan beyond the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations' was signed by him and the Prime Minister of Japan during the Summit meeting.

Their Majesties the Emperor and The Empress of Japan made a historic visit to India in November 2013, returning to this country after 50 years. Their Majesties met President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and were called on by the Vice-President Shri M. Hamid Ansari and the Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar. The Emperor and Empress, over a period of six days journeyed to Chennai, apart from Delhi. The visit was deeply significant, symbolizing the strong and mature ties between India and Japan. The former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Yoshihiko Nori, whose tenure witnessed the blossoming of India-Japan ties, was part of the delegation as Head of the Official Suite.

At the Cabinet level, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Tokyo in March 2013 for the 7th Annual Strategic Dialogue. He co-chaired the 7th Strategic Dialogue on 26 March 2013 in Tokyo along with his counterpart Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Fumio Kishida. The two Foreign Ministers reviewed all aspects of the bilateral Strategic and Global Partnership and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Japanese Defence Minister Mr. Itsunori Onodera visited India on 5-8 January 2014 and met with Shri A.K. Antony, Defence Minister on 6 January 2014.

The Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Japan Shri Ashwani Kumar travelled to Tokyo in September 2013, calling on

Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe, and meeting Foreign Minister Mr. Fumio Kishida. In addition, he met a group of Japanese parliamentarians led by Dr. Katsuyuki Kawai, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Diet. A delegation of Japanese parliamentarians visited India in August 2013, and appreciated the strength and potential of the Indian economy.

Minister for Communications and Information Technology Mr. Kapil Sibal visited Japan in February 2013. Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Anand Sharma met his counterpart in Tokyo in mid-May 2013 just prior to the visit by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Anand Sharma met the Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry (METI) Minister in September 2013 in Delhi as part of the Policy Dialogue. Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Veerappa Moily attended the LNG Producer-Consumer Conference in Tokyo in early September. The 7th Ministerial-level Energy Dialogue was held between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia and METI in September 2013.

The first round of talks between National Security Advisors of both the countries was held in New Delhi on 27 January 2014.

The 1st round of the Maritime Affairs Dialogue was hosted in Delhi in January 2013. The 6th round of the Annual Dialogue of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held in Tokyo in July 2013, while the 6th round of negotiation for Civil Nuclear Cooperation took place in Delhi in December 2013. India and Japan held the 2nd joint Naval exercise in December 2013 off the coast of Chennai. The Chief of Army Staff General Bikram Singh visited Japan in February 2013.

The following visits took place under MEA's Distinguished Visitor's Programme: (i) Mr. Kazuo Kanazawa, Vice Governor, Hyogo Prefecture visited India (Delhi, Agra and Ahmedabad) from 14-19 November 2013 (ii) Mr. Natsuo Yamaguchi, Chief Representative, New Komeito Party visited India (Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Agra) from 5-11 January 2014 (iii) Mr. Yoshiyuki Kasai, Chairman, Japan Railway Central visited India (Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Agra) from 9-15 March, 2014.

Japan is assisting India in the development of the Western Dedicated Multimodal Freight Corridor (DFC); the Main Loan Agreement for this project was signed in March 2013.

The latest round of the Joint Task Force on the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project was held in April 2013. An interdepartmental consultation mechanism has helped resolve with speed several issues. The DMIC project had six

projects approved by the DMIC Trust in September 2013. This builds upon the progress achieved through the implementation of the MoU on "Smart Communities and Eco-friendly Cities", signed between a consortium of Japanese companies and state governments in 2010.

Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) has conducted a preliminary study for the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) project and the draft terms of reference (ToRs) for the Master Plan for the CBIC have been drawn up.

India has been the largest recipient of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan since 2003-04. The ODA loan commitment from Japan during FY 2012-13 was 353 billion yen (Rs. 23,180 crore / US\$ 3.5 billion approx), the highest ever so far. Following the 6th High-level Policy Consultations on Economic Development (ODA Consultations) in April 2012, the Prime Minister of Japan announced in May 2013 that 17.7 billion yen would be made available for the campus development project of IIT-Hyderabad. 13 billion yen has been marked for the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Project. Exchange of Notes for yen loans totaling 71 billion yen for the Mumbai Metro Line-III Project was welcomed by the two Prime Ministers. Exchange of Notes for the IIT project and the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Project were signed in November 2013. The ODA loan commitment from Japan during FY 2013-14 (upto May 2014) is 101.703 billion yen (Rs. 6812 crore / US\$ 1.13 billion approx). On March 31, the GoI signed ODA loan agreements with JICA for a total of up to 183.079 billion yen for three projects of 1) metro construction in Delhi, 2) improvement to the power distribution system in Haryana, and 3) a safe and stable drinking water supply in Agra.

A bilateral currency swap arrangement existing between the two countries was enhanced from \$15 billion to \$50 billion in September 2013.

Republic of Korea (RoK)

Korean President Madam Park Geun-hye visited India from 15-18 January 2014. It was decided to institute a regular dialogue between the national security structures of both countries and also exchange classified military information, establish a CEO's Forum and work towards upgrading the CEPA. In order to boost people-to-people contacts and travel, India has decided to extend visa on arrival facility to tourists from RoK. Nine documents were signed during the course of the visit.

During the visit of President of Korea, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh offered the gift of a Bodhi tree sapling from the revered Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhi Gaya, to Republic of Korea as a symbol of the ancient ties between India and RoK. The sapling of the Bodhi tree was formally presented to the Korean side during the “Bodhi Tree Presentation Ceremony” held on 19 March 2014 which was attended by Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), M.E.A.

The National Security Advisor and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India to the Republic of Korea, Shri Shivshankar Menon called on President Madam Park Geun-hye in July 2013. Shri Menon exchanged views with President Park on the economic, maritime and regional security cooperation between the two countries.

The Korea-India Parliamentary Friendship Society visited New Delhi and called on Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar and the President of the Korea-India Parliamentary Society Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, in July 2013.

The 3rd Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue was held in Seoul in September 2013, with Secretary (East), M.E.A. Shri Ashok Kantha heading a delegation of senior officials from the Ministries of External Affairs, Defence and Civil Aviation. Discussing the ways in which bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural spheres could be taken forward, they also examined the potential for space and nuclear cooperation, upgrading the CEPA and engaging in defence collaboration. The two sides agreed to work together in the area of maritime cooperation, and discussed outcomes for the upcoming visit of the President of the RoK, Madame Park Geun-hye.

The 7th India-RoK Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in New Delhi on 8 November, 2013. External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid led the Indian side, which included representatives of the Ministries of External Affairs, Defence, Civil Aviation, Shipping, Commerce and Industry and representation from the Government of Odisha. Foreign Minister Mr. Yun Byung-se headed the South Korean delegation. The two sides engaged in a comprehensive review of the bilateral relationship, and discussed ways in which more strategic and economic content could be added to the relationship.

The 8th JCM will be held in Seoul in 2014. A wide variety of exchanges also took place between officials in the defence and strategic spheres. The Chairman, Chief of Staff Committee (COSC) Air Chief Marshal N.A.K Browne, headed a Tri-Service delegation to the Republic of Korea in July 2013.

Accepting the invitation extended by his counterpart Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff General Jung Seung-jo, Air Chief Marshal Browne called on the South Korean Minister of Defence, who had travelled to India in 2012, and visited Korean defence training establishments. A reciprocal invitation to visit India was accepted by the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS).

Mongolia

India and Mongolia took stock of their overall relationship during the 4th Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation in March 2013 in order to expand their cooperation further.

The 6th Meeting of the JWG on Defence Cooperation took place in New Delhi in November 2013 to review and expand defence ties. The two countries regularly participated in annual military exercises held in India and Mongolia.

India continued to provide developmental assistance to Mongolia in civil, defence and strategic sectors under annual ‘Grant-in-Aid to Mongolia’, ITEC programme and ICCR scholarships to study in under-graduate and post-graduate courses. The Government of India (GoI), under the first phase, commenced work to upgrade and modernize the Rajiv Gandhi Polytechnic College of Production and Art in Ulaanbaatar to implement two new trades – Computer Programming & Information Technology courses and Printing Technology courses. The work was completed in February 2014. The GoI had decided to implement a total of six trades in phases. In order to facilitate implementation of the new trades, a grant Agreement was signed between India and Mongolia in October 2013. The GoI also looked to the Government of Mongolia for early utilization of an LoC of US\$ 20 million extended by India to Mongolia on easy terms to set up an “India-Mongolia Joint Information Technology Education and Outsourcing Centre” in Ulaanbaatar. The Line of Credit agreement was made effective in August 2012.

The two countries continued to support each other in the United Nations and other international fora. While the bilateral and international cooperation between the two countries progressed satisfactorily, both sides, however, felt the need to diversify the ambit of their economic cooperation to further deepen their ‘Comprehensive Partnership’. India’s Minister of Renewable Energy, Shri Farooq Abdullah, visited Mongolia to participate in the oath taking ceremony of President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj of Mongolia in July 2013. Other visits from India to Mongolia included a 3-member

delegation led by Shri D.P. Agrawal, Chairman, Union Public Service Commission in September 2013; a 4-member delegation led by Shri Subhash Joshi, Director General, Border Security Force, in July 2013; Shri Tarun Kapoor, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in September 2013; Dr. A.J.V. Prasad, Joint Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, in October 2013. Besides, India's External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid called on Mongolian President Elbegdorj on 13 September 2013 in Bishkek on the margins of the 13th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State Summit; also, he held a bilateral meeting with

Mongolian Foreign Minister Mr. Lu Bold in Brunei on the sidelines of 46th AMM/PMC/ARF Meeting earlier in July 2013; and Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar held a meeting with Mongolian Speaker Mr.Z.Enkhbold on the sidelines of the IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2013. From the Mongolian side, its Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr.Damba Ganhuyag visited India to participate in the 11th ASEM Foreign Minister's Meeting in New Delhi from 11-12 November 2013. On the sidelines of the ASEM Meeting, he held a bilateral meeting with Secretary(East), M.E.A., Shri Ashok K.Kantha on 10 November, 2013.



Russian Federation

The 14th Annual India-Russia Summit held in Moscow from 20-22 October 2013 marked the culmination of intense exchanges during the year, including through the multi-layered bilateral mechanism that has evolved to review and deepen the multi-faceted 'special and privileged' strategic partnership that exists between the two countries. During his visit, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh held detailed talks with President Mr. Vladimir Putin that covered a wide range of bilateral, regional and global matters. The Joint Statement ("Deepening the Strategic Partnership for Global Peace and Stability") issued at the Summit outlined positions on bilateral issues and underscored the convergence of views on global issues. Five documents were signed, including a treaty on transfer of sentenced persons and agreements on energy efficiency, standards, biotechnology and Science and Technology cooperation. During the visit, the Moscow State Institute (University) of International Relations (MGIMO) honoured Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with an Honorary Doctorate.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Moscow from 2-4 October 2013 for the XIX session of India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), co-chaired by Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Dmitry Rogozin. He also had a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Russia, Mr. Sergey Lavrov.

Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma visited Moscow in April 2013. He visited St. Petersburg in June 2013 and again in September 2013 to attend the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum and the India-Russia Trade and Investment Forum, respectively. Dr. Girija Vyas, Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, visited Moscow in July 2013, for the National Convention of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India. Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch, Minister of Culture visited St. Petersburg and Moscow in November 2013. Defence Minister

Shri A.K. Antony visited Russia from 15-18 November 2013, to co-chair the annual meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation in Moscow along with his Russian counterpart, Mr. Sergey Shoigu, as also for the induction ceremony of the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya into the Indian Navy, which took place in Severodvinsk. Earlier, INS Trikand, a stealth frigate, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Kaliningrad in June 2013. A joint army exercise, INDRA 2013 took place at Mahajan Field Firing range near Suratgarh in India in October, 2013.

Foreign Minister Mr. Sergey Lavrov visited India in November 2013, for the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Parliamentary relations between India and Russia were strengthened with the visit of the Chairperson of the Federation Council (Upper House of Russian Parliament) Ms. Valentina Matvienko who came to India in February 2013 at the joint invitation of Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Speaker, Lok Sabha. At the invitation of the Russian Minister for Interior, Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde visited Moscow in April, 2013.

Secretary, Russian Security Council Mr. Nikolai Patrushev visited New Delhi in January 2013 for the BRICS NSAs meeting. National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon visited (i) Moscow for a meeting of NSAs of Russia, India and China on Afghanistan in February 2013 (ii) Vladivostok for the 4th meeting of Heads of Security Councils in July 2013 (iii) Moscow for a bilateral meeting in July 2013. A meeting of the Joint Coordination Group at the level of Deputy NSAs took place in New Delhi in May 2013 during the visit of Deputy Secretary of the Russian Security Council, Mr. Yevgeny Lukyanov.

The Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Mr. Dmitry Rogozin, who is also the co-chair of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural

Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) visited New Delhi on 26 February 2014. He held wide-ranging discussions with External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, the Indian co-chair and also met with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma and the National Security Adviser Shri Shivshankar Menon.

Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs) at the level of the Foreign Secretary and Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister (FDFM) were held in March 2013 in Moscow and were led by the Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai from the Indian side and FDFM, Mr. Andrei Denisov from the Russian side. Consultations between the two Foreign Ministries took place on UN and other international organisations (Moscow, February 2013); International Information Security (New Delhi, February 2013); Central Asia (Moscow, September 2013); Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) (Moscow, September 2013); Diplomatic property matters (Moscow, September 2013) and; Consular issues (Moscow, October 2013).

The India-Russia relationship registered sound progress in diverse areas, including trade, investment, economic cooperation and energy. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Unit 1 reached criticality in July 2013. The following Working Groups met in 2013: Trade and Economic Cooperation (September, Moscow); Tourism and Culture (September, Moscow); Information and Communication Technologies (September, Moscow); Science and Technology (October, Moscow); Modernization and Industrial Cooperation (October, Moscow); Priority Investment Projects Energy (October, Moscow); and Energy Efficiency (October, Moscow). The reconstituted India-Russia CEOs' Council met twice in 2013 – in June in St. Petersburg and in October in Moscow during Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit. The Council identified promising opportunities for investments in India in infrastructure development, in pharmaceutical sector and also in telecommunications.

There has been progress in bilateral cooperation, including in defence, energy, high-technology, trade, investment, space, science, education, culture and tourism. Bilateral trade rose to a level of US\$ 10 billion in 2013.

Cultural exchanges and people to people contacts continued to grow and the year witnessed ten Russian Cities hosting festivals of Indian culture.

Belarus

Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar led a 13-member Parliamentary delegation to Belarus from 19-22 May 2013. During her calls on the President and Prime Minister, a wide range of issues were discussed.

The Sixth meeting of the India-Belarus International Government Commission (IGC) on Economy, Trade, Industry, Science, Technology and Cultural Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 23 July 2013. Among the issues discussed were cooperation in science and technology, pharmaceuticals, food industry and small and medium enterprises.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) commissioned its first power project, Grodno Thermal Power Station-2 in Belarus in July 2013 and it has been running successfully.

Bilateral trade declined slightly from US\$ 547.806 million in 2011 to US\$ 494.431 in 2012. The fall was due to reduction in import of potash by India. Indian exports to Belarus registered a 47% growth in 2012.

On the cultural side, several activities including Indian classical dance, fashion show, demonstration of yoga and Ayurveda etc. were organised by the Indian Mission in Minsk.

Ukraine

Protests erupted in the center of Kyiv in November 2013 after Ukraine postponed its accession to the Association Agreement with the European Union. A change in government in Ukraine took place in February 2014 after a series of violent events in Kyiv culminated in the ousting of President Mr. Viktor Yanukovich and a change in the status of Crimea.

India made a statement on 6 March 2014 on the situation in Ukraine suggesting that a solution to Ukraine's internal differences be found in a manner that meets the aspirations of all sections of Ukraine's population. The statement further stressed that it would be important, in this context, for a legitimate democratic process to find full expression through free and fair elections that provide for an inclusive society. India called for sincere and sustained diplomatic efforts to ensure that issues between Ukraine and its neighbouring countries were resolved through constructive dialogue.

The Government of India on 18 March 2014 again emphasized its consistent position on the issue of sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries, with respect to the

situation in Crimea. Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh, in a telephonic conversation with President Putin expressed the hope that all sides would exercise restraint and work together constructively to find political and diplomatic solutions that protected the legitimate interests of all countries in the region and ensured long term peace and stability in Europe and beyond.

Bilateral relations between India and Ukraine continued to intensify during the year. Following the directives of the Joint Statement issued during the State visit of President Mr. Yanukovich to India in December 2012, meetings of several Indo-Ukrainian Joint Working Groups were held in New Delhi. These included Fertilisers (20 March 2013); Trade and Economic Cooperation (20-21 March, 2013); Tourism (8 April, 2013); Pharmaceuticals (15-16 April, 2013) and Science and Technology (22-23 April, 2013). The third round of Consular Consultations was held in Kyiv in May 2013 where India stressed on the need for an early decision on the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

A Defence delegation led by Air Chief Marshal N.A.K. Browne visited Kyiv from 14-19 October 2013. The Air Chief called on the First Deputy Defence Minister of Ukraine and discussed the status of several on-going contracts and agreements. A protocol was also signed for increasing cooperation between the Ukrainian and Indian Air Force.

The fifth session of the India-Ukraine Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation, Chaired by Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed, was held on 13 November 2013 in New Delhi. Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Mr. Ihor Mykolayovych Prasolov, led the Ukrainian delegation consisting of a 15-member official and a 12-member business delegation. An MoU was signed for Cooperation in Joint Ventures and Research and Development in Pharmaceuticals and Biopharmaceuticals between the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, GoI and the State Administration of Ukraine on medicinal products. The Ukrainian business delegation had an interactive session with the Indian business community, organised by the FICCI. As pharmaceuticals constitute the bulk of exports from India to Ukraine, issues faced by Indian pharmaceutical companies and visa problems formed a major part of the discussions. Both sides agreed to work on an agreement on simplification of visa procedures to ease movement of business people and tourists.

South Caucasus

India continued maintaining warm relations with Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. There were exchanges of trade delegations with these countries. The first session of India-Georgia Intergovernmental Commission was held in New Delhi on 29 April 2014. The Indian side was led by Shri Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West), M.E.A. and the Georgian side by Mr. David Jalagania, Deputy Foreign Minister.

Armenia

The seventh round of the India-Armenia FoCs and the sixth Session of the Inter Governmental Commission were held in Delhi in September 2013.

A delegation from the Medical Council of India led by Dr. Vishwas Mehta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare visited Armenia in October 2013. The delegation met with Government and University authorities to assess medical education standards and living conditions of Indian students in Yerevan.

A goodwill Parliamentary delegation comprising 8 Members of Parliament, led by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, visited Armenia from 29 October to 1 November 2013.

In September 2013 the Embassy of India donated life-saving drugs from CIPLA for 24 young children suffering from 'Thalassemia'.

A ten-member Indian ICT delegation paid a business visit to Armenia from 11-14 December, 2013. A first-ever pharmaceutical delegation comprising 24 Indian Pharma companies visited Armenia from 2-5 February 2014.

Azerbaijan

India's relations with Azerbaijan saw further strengthening through exchange of several high level visits. A nine-member Parliamentary delegation from India visited Baku on 24-25 May 2013 to attend the 10th Annual Conference of Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF; a six-member official delegation visited Baku on 24-25 June 2013 and participated in the 5th Coordination Council Meeting of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC); and a 20-member Parliamentary delegation of India visited Baku from 6-10 October 2013 as observers during the Presidential elections in Azerbaijan at the invitation of the Association for Civil Society Development in Azerbaijan.

Minister of Justice of Azerbaijan, Mr. Jikrat Mammadov, visited India on 3-6 April 2013. During the visit, Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) in Civil and Commercial Matters, and MLAT in Criminal Matters and an Extradition Treaty were signed. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited India from 2-5 May 2013. During his visit, a Protocol on Cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of India and Azerbaijan was signed.

Mr. Natig Aliyev, Minister of Energy, visited India to attend the 11th International Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition, PETROTECH-2014 on 12-15 January 2014.

The 3rd Session of the India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission (IAIGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 24-25 February 2014.

Bilateral trade with Azerbaijan in 2013 amounted to US\$ 1.14 billion. India's export was US\$ 49.7 million and import was US\$ 1.098 billion.

Georgia

The fourth round of the India-Georgia Foreign Office Consultations was held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 15-16 July 2013.

A 15-member ICCR-sponsored cultural troupe, 'Sugar n Spice' performed in Tbilisi on 18 September 2013. The event was held in collaboration with the Georgian Ministry of Culture.

A delegation from the Medical Council of India visited Georgia in October 2013 to assess the higher education facilities especially medical degrees, given that there are an increasing number of Indian students in Georgia wishing to avail of higher education. A large number of Indians are also engaged in agriculture and farming in Georgia.

The first ever visit of an Indian pharma delegation to Georgia mounted by Pharmexcil, took place from 5 to 8 February 2014.

Central Asia

The year saw extensive high level interaction with Central Asian countries. The second Track II Central Asia Dialogue was organised in Almaty, Kazakhstan and the second regional Heads of Mission Conference of the Eurasian region was held in Tashkent. Under the bilateral institutional mechanism of a Central Asia dialogue with major powers in the Central Asian region, the Ministry of External Affairs had dialogues with

China, Russia, and Germany/EU. A dialogue with Turkey was held in December 2013.

For effective military diplomacy, resident Defence Attaches have now been posted in each of the five Central Asian countries.

With the aim of increasing connectivity between India and Central Asia, on the Ministry of External Affairs' initiative, the International North South Corridor was revived and the 5th Meeting of the Coordination Council was held in Baku, Azerbaijan in June 2013 after a gap of many years.

Kazakhstan

India's bilateral relations with Kazakhstan are marked by warmth and cordiality. External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid visited Almaty from 25-27 April 2013 to participate in the Third Ministerial Conference of Istanbul process. During the visit, he met with President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev and Foreign Minister Mr. Yerlan Indrissov. He also held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other countries on the sidelines of the conference.

The ICWA, New Delhi with the Institute of Oriental Studies organised the 2nd India-Central Asia Dialogue in Almaty on 17-18 June 2013. Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs chaired the opening session of the Dialogue. A half day seminar on Transport and Connectivity was also held on 18 June 2013. Representatives from governments, freight forwarders, transport companies, experts, academicians etc. participated in the event.

The 3rd JWG Meeting on Trade and Economic cooperation was held in Delhi on 20 to 21 February 2014.

Over 140 companies participated in the biggest ever "India Show" organised by CII in Almaty from 27 to 30 March 2014.

Kyrgyz Republic

Exchange of high level visits intensified with the Kyrgyz Republic during the year. From India, the following visits took place:

- A 5-member DRDO delegation led by Dr. V.K. Saraswat, SA to Defence Minister, Secretary (Defence R & D), DG DRDO, visited Kyrgyzstan from 19-24 April 2013 to inaugurate the High Attitude Field Station at Tuya Ashu.
- Minister of State for Commerce, Dr. D. Purandeswari and a 5-member delegation visited Bishkek on 17-19 July 2013

to participate in the Sixth Inter-Governmental Commission in Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. The Kyrgyz co-chair was Minister of Energy and Mr. Osmonbek Artykbaev. During her visit, the Minister also met with the Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Djoomart Otorbaev and Foreign Minister Mr. Erlan Abdyl daev. A visa-free agreement for holders of diplomatic and official passports was also signed during the visit.

- External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Bishkek on 12-13 October 2013 and met with Foreign Minister Mr. Erlan Abdyl daev and called on President Mr. Almazbek Atambaev. Thereafter, he participated in the SCO Summit on the sidelines of which External Affairs Minister had bilaterals with Iranian President Mr. Hassan Rouhani, Mongolian President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj and SCO Secretary General Mr. Dmitry Fedorovich Mezentssev.
- An Indian delegation from the Ministry of Environment and Forests attended the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum from 20-24 October 2013.

Foreign Minister Mr. Erlan Abdyl daev paid an official visit to India on 13-15 February 2014 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid. He had detailed talks with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and also met with Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Minister of State for Commerce and Industries. During the visit, documents operationalizing a bilateral treaty on mutual legal assistance and an agreement on visa free travel for diplomatic, official and service passport holders were exchanged.

Tajikistan

Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari paid a state visit to Tajikistan from 14-17 April 2013. Vice President was accompanied by Shri Tariq Anwar, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries and four Members of Parliament. During the visit, Vice President called on President Mr. Emomali Rahmon; and a wide range of issues that included security, development partnership, military technical cooperation and forces of terrorism, were discussed. Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari also met with the Chairman of the Lower House of the Parliament, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Defence Minister and Economic Development Minister. He also went to the Khalton Province and saw the hydroelectric project at Nurek. Smt. Ansari gifted two mini-buses and Indian medicines to the largest orphanage of Dushanbe and one mini-bus each to the Women's Sports

Club and Hospital in Nurek. Vice President announced that an IT Centre for Excellence will be set up in the Tajik Technical University.

The JWG on Defence Cooperation met in Dushanbe on 10-11 March 2014.

The bilateral trade figure is modest at US\$ 40 million. ITEC slots have been raised from 100 to 150 per year for Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dr. M. Veerappa Moily visited Ashgabat on 9 July 2013 to attend the Steering Committee Meeting of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. The project's member countries decided to form a consortium for implementation of the project. In a significant development for the practical implementation of TAPI project, the Transaction Advisory Services Agreement (TASA) was signed in Ashgabat on 19 November, 2013 by the concerned countries from TAPI member-countries and the ADB.

The first-ever Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, visited Ashgabat on 26-28 October 2013 and participated in Turkmenistan's 22nd Anniversary of Independence.

Shri A.K. Antony, Defence Minister met Mr. Ismail Ismailov, First Deputy Minister of Defence of Turkmenistan during his transit halt at Ashgabat airport on 18 November 2013.

The "Days of Indian Culture in Turkmenistan" were held in Ashgabat and Mary on 9-11 July 2013.

The first Consular Consultations between India and Ashgabat on 30 May 2013 to discuss issues concerning the welfare of approximately 2000-3000 Indians working in the oil and gas sector in Turkmenistan.

India assumed the Chairmanship of the Eurasia Group of Combating Money Laundering and Terror Finance (EAG) for the next two years at the 19th Session of the EAG held in Ashgabat from 12-15 November 2013.

Uzbekistan

Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited Uzbekistan from 21-24 May 2013. He was accompanied by Minister of State for Environment and Forests Smt. Jayanti Natarajan, and Members of Parliament.

Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari called on President Mr.Karimov besides meetings with Senate Chairman Mr.Ilgizar Sobirov and Speaker Oliy Majlis, Mr.Dilorom Toshmukhamedova. Uzbek Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr.Elyor Ganiev, called on Vice President. Issues relating to peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region, counter-terrorism, bilateral trade and cooperation in various areas were discussed in the meetings. An MoU for upgradation of the Jawaharlal Nehru India-Uzbek Centre for Information Technology was signed by Uzbek Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Secretary (West), M.E.A. in the presence of Vice President. Vice President also visited Samarkand and Bukhara.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, during his visit to Uzbekistan from 13-15 September 2013, inaugurated the 2nd Conference of the Head of Missions (HoMs) of the Eurasian Region. He also had a bilateral meeting with Uzbek Foreign Minister Mr.Abdulaziz Kamilov.

Foreign Secretary, Smt. Sujatha Singh participated in the SCO Heads of Government meeting in Tashkent on 28-29 November 2013.

A two member delegation, led by Textile Secretary Smt. Zohra Chatterji, participated in the Cotton and Textile Fair on 16-17 October 2013 in Tashkent and held meetings with the representatives of the textile industry.

Shri Akhil Kumar, Director (CT), MEA, participated in the roundtable of Regional Counter Terrorism Structure (RCTS) of SCO held on 25 October 2013 in Tashkent.

A 3-member delegation led by Shri K.A.P. Sinha, Joint Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy visited Uzbekistan from 24-28 September 2013 during which a contract was signed between the Department of Atomic Energy and the Navoi Minerals and Metallurgical Company (NMMC) on supply of uranium by Uzbekistan to India.

Bilateral trade rose from a little more than US\$ 200 million to US\$ 260 million in 2013. Main imports from India are drugs and pharmaceuticals, paper and wood products, chemicals and plastics, tea etc. Indian exports rose from US\$ 163.4 million in 2012 to US\$ 217.4 million in 2013. Indian imports constitute mainly chemical and non-ferrous metals and beans.



The Gulf

India enjoys traditionally close political, economic and cultural links with the countries of the Gulf region based on civilization linkages. The friendly ties were further cemented by regular exchanges of visits at political, trade and commerce level. The Gulf region has become India's largest trading region in the world and bilateral trade reached US\$ 181.4 billion in 2012-13. The Gulf Region is a major supplier of crude oil and LNG to India and accounts for over 60 percent of India's crude oil imports. Among India's top five oil sourcing countries, four are from the Gulf region- Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and the UAE. The Gulf countries host about seven million Indians who contribute to the development of their host countries.

Bahrain

Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander, Kingdom of Bahrain paid a visit to the state of Kerala from 17-18 March 2013.

At the invitation of President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa accompanied by a high-level delegation, paid his first state visit to India from 18-20 February 2014. Three MoUs were signed including on the establishment of a High Joint Commission, for cooperation in the fields of Youth and Sports and for cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute and the Diplomatic Institute of Bahrain. The visit provided fresh impetus to our friendly and multi-faceted relationship.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed paid a visit to Bahrain on 4-6 June 2013. He again visited Bahrain from 22-24 October 2013 to jointly inaugurate with Minister of Commerce & Industry of Bahrain "the Bahrain-India Exhibition-cum-Conference" and subsequently on 25 November, 2013 to participate in the 12th Asia Cooperation Dialogue Foreign Ministers Meeting.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Bahrain from 6-9 December 2013 to attend the 9th edition of

the annual regional security summit "Manama Dialogue". During the visit, he also had wide-ranging bilateral talks with the top Bahraini leadership.

Iran

India and Iran share the same neighbourhood and both countries hold consultations at the highest level. In view of India's rapidly growing economy and the concomitant rise in energy demand, the energy sector is an important aspect of the bilateral cooperation with Iran.

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

- At the invitation of National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon, Dr. Saeed Jalili, Secretary Supreme National Security Council of Iran visited India on 2-4 January 2013. During the visit, he called on EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and Finance Minister Shri P.Chidambaram and had a meeting with NSA. An MoU for cooperation between the National Security Council Secretariat and the Supreme National Security Council of Iran was signed during the visit.
- At the invitation of Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Speaker of the Iranian Majlis, Dr. Ali Ardashir Larijani visited India from 24-28 February 2013. During his visit he called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh and met Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar and External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid. There was also a meeting of the India-Iran Parliamentary friendship group during the visit of the Iranian Speaker.
- External Affairs Minister, Shri. Salman Khurshid visited Tehran on 3-5 May 2013 for the 17th session India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting (JCM). He co-chaired the meeting with former Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi. During the JCM, the two sides signed three MoUs viz., (i) MoU between Institute of Standards and

Industrial Research of Islamic Republic of Iran (ISIRI) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), (ii) MoU between the Foreign Service Institute and School of International Relations, Iran and (iii) MoU on cooperation in the field of water resources management. During this visit, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid called on former President Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and met Majlis Speaker Dr. Ali Larijani and Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Senior Advisor to the Supreme Leader. The India Cultural Centre in Tehran was inaugurated by EAM Shri Salman Khurshid during this visit.

- Vice President, Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited Tehran on 4 August 2013 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Iranian President Dr. Hassan Rouhani.
- Former Minister of Petroleum, Mr. Rostam Ghasemi visited India on 27-28 May 2013 and held talks with Shri. Veerappa Moily Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia & Pacific Affairs, Mr. Ebrahim Rahimpour visited India on 25 November 2013 for holding Foreign Office Consultations with Foreign Secretary.
- Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif paid an official visit to India on 27-28 February 2014. During this visit, he called on Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and had meetings with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon.

Iraq

Historically close and multifaceted relationship between India and Iraq was further cemented by exchange of several high level visits during the year.

Prime Minister of Iraq Mr. Nouri Al Maliki paid a state visit to India from 22-25 August 2013. During the visit, four MoUs were signed including one on cooperation in energy sector, on cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, on cooperation between the Foreign Service Institutes of the two Ministries and on cooperation in the field of water resources management.

Other important visits included those of External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid to Iraq on 19-20 June, 2013 and Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Dr. Veerappa Moily to co-chair the India-Iraq Joint Commission Meeting held in Baghdad from 8-9 July 2013.

From the Iraqi side, Minister of Water Resources Mr. Mohanad Salman Al-Sady visited India on 19-24 May 2013. Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq for Energy Affairs, Mr Hussain Ibrahim Saleh al-Shahristani, visited India on 14-15 August 2013 to participate in a conference organised by IISS. Mr Faleh al-Fayadh, National Security Advisor of Iraq visited India from 18-21 December 2013 to hold official discussions with his Indian counterpart.

Iraq became the second largest supplier of crude to India in 2012-13. In terms of capacity building, India offered 80 slots under the ITEC programme and 55 slots for higher studies in India.

Israel

Air Chief Marshal N.A.K. Browne, Chief of the Air Staff, visited Israel from 19-24 January 2013 for bilateral meetings.

The 6th round of India-Israel Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations was held in Israel from 20-23 January 2013. Israel's Chief Scientist Mr. Avi Hasson visited India from 28-30 January 2013 to review on-going bilateral R&D collaboration and joint funding programs.

Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Ashok Gehlot visited Israel from 26 April to 1 May 2013 accompanied by a high level delegation. He met Israel's Minister of Agriculture Mr. Yair Shamir.

Minister of Communications, and Information Technology, Shri Kapil Sibal visited Israel from 15-18 June 2013 and met with Israel's Minister of Communications, Minister of Finance, and Minister of Economy. The Minister announced that India would set up a joint fund with a contribution of US\$ 5 million from GoI to promote joint industrial R & D in IT and electronics.

A 29-member multi-sector business delegation from India visited Israel from 27-31 July 2013 under the aegis of the FICCI to seek collaboration in water management, agriculture, IT, homeland security and other fields.

Shri Francisco D'Souza, Deputy Chief Minister of Goa and Shri Dilip Parulekar, Minister of Tourism of Goa, accompanied by a business delegation visited Israel from 20-25 October 2013. They discussed possibilities of cooperation in tourism with the Israeli Minister of Tourism.

The 7th and 8th round of India-Israel FTA negotiations were held in Delhi from 25-27 June 2013 and Jerusalem from 24-26 November 2013, respectively.

In May 2013, India and Israel launched a joint academic research fund contributing US\$ 5 million annually for five years. The first round (2013-14) will focus on exact sciences and humanities. The fund will support nearly 50 collaborations with upto US\$ 300,000 for an experimental project or US\$ 180,000 for a theoretical project for up to three years. UGC, India and Israel Science Foundation will administer this fund.

The Embassy of India in Israel in collaboration with 'Teamwork Productions India' organised the third edition of the Festival of India in April-May 2013 showcasing India's classical and contemporary cultural heritage.

The first National Convention of Indian Jews in Israel was held in Ramle, Israel on 23 September 2013 with participation of an estimated 5,500 people belonging to the four main groups of Jews from India. The convention provided a common platform for celebrating their Indian heritage through exhibitions, culture, cuisine etc.

Dr. T Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, visited Israel from 21-22 January 2014 to discuss the proposed US\$ 40 million joint R&D fund with Israel.

A 3-member delegation of Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) led by Shri Ajit Lal, Chairperson, JIC visited Israel from 11-15 March 2014 for bilateral consultations.

The annual Service-to-Service defence staff talks were held in Tel Aviv on 11 March 2014, which was followed by the visit of Chief of Army Staff, Gen. Bikram Singh from 17-20 March 2014. Gen. Singh met with the Defence Minister, Chief of the General Staff and Commander of Ground Forces.

Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Dr. Sutanu Behuria, visited Israel from 26-29 March 2014 and met with senior officials of the Israeli Electricity Corporation.

Jordan

At the invitation of the Jordan Independent Election Commission a 2-member delegation from the Election Commission of India paid a visit to Jordan from 2-10 January 2013 to assist them with the preparation of training of district officers for the Parliamentary elections slated for 23 January 2013.

Ms. Abeer Numan, a Senior journalist representing local daily "The Jordan Times" participated in the IPHEX (Indian

Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare Expo) organized by Pharmexcil held in Mumbai from 24-26 April 2013. A 5-member delegation from the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) participated at the 49th Annual Seminar of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) held in New Delhi from 11-13 December 2013. The Jordanian delegation was led by Mr. Amer Al Majali, Chairman, JPMC. Sixteen Indian engineering companies participated in the 10th International Machines and Electro-Mechanical Exhibition-JIMEX-2013 held in Amman from 3-6 June 2013. The companies showcased their products at the "Indian Pavilion" under the umbrella of the EEPC-India (formerly Engineering Export Promotion Council).

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri E.Ahamed paid an official visit to Jordan on 2-3 July 2013 and discussed the entire gamut of issues encompassing bilateral relations especially in economic and commercial fields, as well as regional and international developments.

Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Srikant K Jena paid an official visit to Jordan from 8-11 July 2013. He called on Prime Minister Mr. Abdullah Ensour, Minister for Trade and Industry Hatem Halawani and Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Mr. Malek Kabarati on 9 July 2013. The two sides agreed to boost bilateral relations between the two countries especially in the phosphate sector (currently there are three joint ventures in phosphoric acid production in place).

Kuwait

The close and friendly relation between India and Kuwait continued to expand during the year with an exchange of number of high-level visits.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) & Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, DPM & Minister of Oil Mr. Mustafa Jassem Al-Shimali, Minister of Commerce and Industry Mr. Anas Khalid Al-Saleh, senior officials and 14-member business delegation paid a state visit to India from 7-10 November 2013. During the visit, Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons, MoU between Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and the Saud N. Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute, MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sports & Youth Affairs, Executive Programme for

Cultural and Information Exchanges (2013-16) and Educational Exchange Program on Cooperation in Education and Learning (2013-16) were signed.

Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visited India from 10-13 March, 2013. As a follow-up of the visit of Sheikh Nasser, a delegation led by Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission visited Kuwait on 1-3 July 2013.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited Kuwait to attend the 2nd International Pledging Conference for Syria held in Kuwait on 15 January 2014. He also paid a bilateral visit to Kuwait on 6-7 July 2013.

Other important visits during the period included those of a delegation from Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs from 20-22 May 2013; a delegation from Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) from 25-26 May 2013; a delegation of the FICCI from 29-30 October 2013; a delegation from Ministry of Health for the 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group on Medical Cooperation held in Kuwait on 10-11 November 2013; a delegation from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation to India on 10 November 2013 and a 3-member delegation led by our Secretary (Disinvestment) on 12-13 November 2013.

Our Deputy National Security Advisor visited Kuwait from 8-9 October 2013. Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, President of the National Security Apparatus of Kuwait paid a return visit to India from 17-19 February 2014.

Indian Naval Ships INS *Mysore* and INS *Tarkash* made a goodwill visit to Kuwait on 10-13 September 2013.

A Kuwaiti delegation led by Dr. Naji M. Al-Mutairi, Director General, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) visited India from 18-22 November 2013 and signed a Programme of Cooperation with Department of Science and Technology and an MoU with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in areas of scientific and technical cooperation.

Special Kuwait Cell

The Special Kuwait Cell (SKC) was set up to deal with compensation claims of Gulf War (1990-91) returnees. All valid claims have already been settled. The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) has closed its claims disbursement operations and no claim is due to Indian claimants any more.

Lebanon

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited Lebanon from 30 June to 2 July 2013 and held meetings with the top dignitaries in the Lebanese Government, reviewed the gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. A bilateral Educational Exchange Programme (EEP) was signed between the two sides for facilitating increased exchanges in this sector.

Joint Secretary (WANA), M.E.A. Shri Sandeep Kumar, on his transit through Lebanon on 27 December 2013, paid a visit to the Indian Battalion (INDBATT) of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in South Lebanon. INDBATT has 863 Indian troops and 11 doctors serving at present.

Secretary (East), M.E.A. Shri Anil Wadhwa, visited Lebanon on 28-29 March 2014 to review bilateral relations. He also visited the Indian military contingent (INDBATT) deputed to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Oman

The close economic and politically strong relationship between India and Oman grew further during the year while over seven hundred thousand Indians in Oman appreciably contributed to the value of the people-to-people contacts.

An 11-member Omani Parliamentary delegation visited India from 22-26 April 2013 for the first-ever meeting of the India-Oman Parliamentary Friendship Group. On the invitation of EAM Shri Salman Khurshid, Omani Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah visited India and held official discussions on 28 February, 2014.

Deputy National Security Adviser Mr. Nehchal Sandhu visited Oman on 21-22 October 2013. Secretary (East), M.E.A. Shri Anil Wadhwa paid an official visit to Oman on 20-21 January 2014.

Chief of Naval Staff led a delegation to Oman from 13-16 April 2013 and a National Defence College of India delegation visited Oman from 9-11 September 2013. India and Oman held their biennial joint naval exercises Naseem-Al-Bahr ('Sea Breeze') in the Sea of Oman from 23-26 September 2013. Indian Air Force held the joint biennial air exercise *Al Jisr Al Sharqi* ('Eastern Bridge') with the Royal Air Force of Oman from 6-10 October 2013. From Oman, Commandant

National Defence College led a 6-member defence delegation to India from 27 April to 2 May 2013. The 7th Joint Military Cooperation Committee Meeting was held on 29-30 January 2014, in New Delhi.

Chairman of the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (PAIPED) of Oman led a delegation to India on 19-29 May 2013. An Omani trade delegation visited Kochi, Kozhikode, Chennai and Mumbai in September-October 2013 and composite science & technology delegations visited India from 9-13 June and 21-25 October 2013. CII and FIEO mounted trade delegations from 10-15 September 2013 and 23-24 September 2013 respectively to explore business opportunities and for participation in trade exhibitions. A 5-member delegation from Omani Ministry of Health visited several cities in India during 15-22 March 2014 for exploring possibilities on sourcing of medical equipment and manpower and possible tie-ups for medical treatment in India. A 17-member delegation of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industries visited Bangalore from 23-27 March 2014 to explore possible tie-ups especially in the field of SMEs.

Several visits of experts were exchanged pursuant to signing of work-plan signed for cooperation in the field of agriculture. India and Oman added new flights to cover new destinations on both sides while Spice Jet airlines commenced its services to Oman. Officials from the National Records and Archives Authority of Oman visited the National Archives of India (NAI) in June 2013 and March 2014. Director General, NAI visited Oman from 30-31 December 2013 and a work plan for cooperation in the field of archives was signed in March 2014. Director General, NAI, visited Oman from 30-31 December 2013 and a work plan for cooperation in the field of archives was signed in March 2014. Vice-Chancellor of Dhofar University of Oman visited Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru during 26-28 August 2013 and signed MoUs for cooperation with a number of premier educational institutes in India.

Palestine

India welcomed the US mediated peace talks between Israel and Palestine, which commenced in July 2013 with a nine-month time-line.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed met with Palestinian President Mr. Mahmoud Abbas on 2 July 2013 in Amman. He also visited Palestine from 4-6 July 2013 and met with the whole gamut of Palestinian leadership. A cheque of US\$ 1 million, as part of the budgetary

support pledged by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Palestine in September 2012, was handed over to Prime Minister Mr. Rami Hamdallah.

India released an amount of US\$ 0.18 million as 10% of the total amount of US\$ 1.80 million for the construction and equipping of two schools in Palestine in June 2013. Commissioner General of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Mr. Filipo Grandi visited India from 3-4 September 2013 to review the humanitarian assistance programme with Ministry of External Affairs. A cheque for US\$ 1 million, as part of GoI's contribution to UNRWA for the year 2013 for UNRWA's assistance programmes to Palestinian refugees, was presented to the Commissioner General.

On 25 September 2013, the Representative Office of India, Ramallah started issuance of visas from its Office.

Mrs. Roma Singh, Regional Director, Indian Ministry of Tourism visited Palestine and along with Representative of India to Palestine Mr. B.S. Mubarak met with Ministry of Tourism Officials from Palestine and discussed ways and means to strengthen cooperation in Tourism sector between India and Palestine.

Saudi Arabia

India and Saudi Arabia enjoy cordial and friendly relations reflecting the centuries old economic and socio-cultural ties. The two countries made steady progress in political, economic, defence and security cooperation during the year. Saudi Arabia hosts over 2.9 million expatriate Indians, the largest Indian community abroad. The Kingdom is also the largest supplier of crude oil to India. Saudi Arabia became the 4th largest trading partner of India and the two-way trade in 2012-13 exceeded US\$ 43.78 billion.

Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia paid an official visit to India from 26-28 February 2014. An MoU on Defence Cooperation was signed during the visit.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Saudi Arabia from 24-27 May 2013. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram visited Saudi Arabia from 27-28 January 2014 for the 10th Joint Commission Meeting.

The Second Review Meeting of the 9th Joint Committee was held in New Delhi from 5-7 November 2013. The Saudi

delegation was led by the Deputy Minister for Laws and Regulation Affairs and Foreign Trade Dr. Fahad Abuhimed.

Saudi Deputy Minister of Labour for International Affairs Dr. Ahmad Bin Fahad Al Fuhaid visited India to participate in JWG on Labour issues meeting held on 30-31 May 2013. Saudi Labour Minister Eng. Adel bin Mohammed Fakeih visited India from 1-4 January 2014 for signing an Agreement on Labour Cooperation for Domestic Service Workers Recruitment. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdul Aziz Al Shaikh, Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowment, Call and Guidance of Saudi Arabia paid a visit to India from 15-20 February 2014.

The other important visits during the year included those of Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi accompanied by Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed and Advisor to Prime Minister of India Shri T.K.A. Nair from 27-30 April 2013; Attorney General for India Shri Goolamhusein Essaji Vahanvati from 14-21 May 2013; Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on 3 July 2013 and Secretary (East), M.E.A., on 29 August 2013 to review the Haj arrangements.

The Embassy of India, Riyadh and Consulate General of India, Jeddah spearheaded a major drive to correct the legal status of overstaying Indians in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia availing the concessions announced during the grace period by the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. A network of more than 600 non-remunerative registered volunteers was set up to join hands with the Embassy all across Saudi Arabia. According to Saudi authorities till end of October 2013, over 1.4 million Indians availed the concessions during the grace period, including 434667 Indians who transferred their services to other firms, 481233 Indians who changed their jobs/profession and over 470000 Indians who renewed their licenses/job permits. During the grace period, 1,34,281 Indians left on final exit, this includes those who availed the concessions and also others who left the country on completion of their contractual period. During the period, 52,820 emergency certificates were issued.

The other delegation visits during the year included those of a BPCL delegation in April 2013, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism in May 2013, ITPO along with representatives from 40 Indian Processed Food and Agro Industries to participate in the 'Saudi Agro Food 2013' exhibition held in Riyadh from 15-18 September 2013 and, CII delegation to participate in the 'Saudi Build 2013' exhibition held in Riyadh on 4-7 November 2013.

Qatar

The multi-faceted engagement and cooperation between the India and Qatar further intensified during the year.

Congratulatory messages were sent to Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on his assumption of office as the Emir of Qatar on 25 June 2013; Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the State of Qatar and Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah on his appointment as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar.

The important visits during the year included those of Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram on 18-19 May, 2013 and of a three-member delegation led by Justice K G Balakrishnan, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to attend the 18th Annual Meeting and Biennial Conference of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Human Rights held in Doha from 1-3 October 2013. The second meeting of the JWG on Human Resources was held in New Delhi on 30-31 October 2013.

An 18-member high-level composite delegation led by Sultan bin Rashid Al Khater, Under Secretary in Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Government of Qatar, visited India from 25-26 March 2013. The visiting delegation also participated in "India-Qatar Business Forum" organized by CII and a business event organized by the FICCI.

Bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement, signed in Doha in November 2008, was further renewed for a period of five years. Two ships of the Western Fleet of Indian Navy, INS Tabar and INS Aditya, visited Qatar from 10-13 September 2013, followed by the third meeting of the Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation held in Doha on 15-16 September 2013. A 3-member team from IDSA visited Doha from 6-9 April 2013.

ASSOCHAM coordinated the participation of over 30 Indian companies at Project Qatar, a major exhibition in infrastructure sector in Doha in May 2013. CII and FICCI sent business missions to Qatar in September 2013 and October 2013, respectively.

Syria

Syria is in the throes of a civil war like situation with political deadlock between the government and the rebels; heavy infiltration of extremist Islamists into the ranks of the rebels; a deeply fractious opposition; controversial decision by regional and global powers to arm some sections of the rebels;

exacerbation of the Shia-Sunni divide; as well as worsening security and humanitarian situation. The two rounds of Geneva II talks ended (15 February 2014), without any substantive outcome.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E.Ahamed [MoS(EA)] led the Indian delegation to Kuwait on 29-31 January 2013 to participate in the 'High-level International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria'. India pledged an amount of US\$ 2.5 million towards humanitarian assistance in the form of life saving drugs, food and other essential items to the people of Syria.

Ms. Bouthaina Shaaban, Political & Media Advisor and Special Envoy of Syrian President Bashar Al Assad (PBA) visited India on 5-9 March 2013. She met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid, MOS (EA) Shri E. Ahamed and NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon. She handed over a letter from PBA addressed to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh seeking support of India, BRICS and the international community to push for the implementation of the Geneva Communiqué which has all the elements of the resolution of the Syrian crisis. She again visited India on 20-22 November 2013 and apprised EAM Shri Salman Khurshid, NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon and Secretary (East), M.E.A. of the recent developments in Syria, its impact on the region and the prospects of convening of Geneva II.

India pledged a financial contribution of US\$ 1 million to the Trust Fund set up at the OPCW for use in the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons and related facilities. India also offered the services of its experts in the destruction, verification and training activities.

Joint Secretary (WANA), M.E.A. Shri Sandeep Kumar, visited Damascus from 24-26 December 2013 and held meetings with the authorities in Syria.

MOS (EA) Shri E.Ahamed participated at the 2nd International Pledging Conference for Syria held in Kuwait on 15 January 2014 and pledged US\$ 2 million to UN-Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP), in support of its humanitarian assistance programme for Syria.

EAM Shri Salman Khurshid participated at the Ministerial-level segment of Geneva-II held in Montreux, Geneva, Switzerland, on 22 January 2014. In his statement, he stated that India calls upon all sides to the Syrian conflict to abjure violence so that conditions can be created for an inclusive political dialogue leading to a comprehensive political solution, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the

people of Syria. He also added that India is fully prepared to play its part in the peace process in any manner required of it, conscious of its larger regional and global responsibilities. On the sidelines of the Conference, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid met with his counterparts of US, Denmark, France, Italy, Jordan and Japan.

United Arab Emirates(UAE)

The relations between India and the UAE have traditionally been close and friendly. UAE was India's largest trading partner with two-way trade crossing US\$ 75 billion in 2012-13. UAE is home to an estimated 2 million Indian community.

First meetings of three important mechanisms, namely, (i) India-UAE High Level Task Force on Investment (HLTFI), (ii) Joint Committee on Security Matters (JCSM), and (iii) Joint Committee on Consular Matters (JCCM), established in follow-up to the tenth Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission, were held on 18 February 2013, 18 March 2013 and 17-18 June 2013 respectively. The second meeting of HLTFI held on 3 March 2014, in Mumbai agreed to enhance bilateral investment levels. Sixth meeting of Joint Defence Cooperation Committee was held on 27-28 October 2013 in Abu Dhabi.

The year saw important ministerial level visits, including those of External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid (13 March, 2013); Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed (18-20 January 2013); Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma (18 February, 2013); Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram (23 March and 26 May, 2013); Admiral D. K. Joshi Chief of Naval Staff (16-19 April, 2013); Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Ajit Singh (28 April to 2 May 2013); Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi (27-28 October, 2013); Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Veerappa Moily (9-11 November 2013); Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah (18-24 January 2014).

From the UAE side important high level visits included visits of Foreign Minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on 12 December, 2013; Minister of Economy Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansoori to Bengaluru from 27-29 January 2014; Minister of Energy Mr. Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Faris Al Mazrouei in January 2014; and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court, Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on 3 March, 2014.

Bilateral agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons was put

into operation with both India and the UAE ratifying it. The Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) was signed on 12 December, 2012. An Agreement between India's Jet Airways and UAE's Etihad Airways was signed in April 2013 in Abu Dhabi.

A fleet of four Indian Naval war ships paid a goodwill visit to the UAE in September 2013. Indian Coast Guard Ship – ICGS *Samudra Prahari* and ten Indian Companies participated at the IDEX-NAVEX 2013, held from 17-21 February 2013 in Abu Dhabi.

The Mahatma Gandhi Suraksha Yojana–Pension, Life Insurance and Resettlement Scheme for the overseas Indians in the Gulf region was formally launched at the two day International employers' conference organized by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on 27-28 October 2013 in Dubai.

Bava Haji Pandalingal, President of the Indian Islamic Centre in Abu Dhabi was conferred Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award at the 11th edition of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) organised in Kochi, Kerala from 7-9 January, 2013. Dr. Zakir Naik, President of Islamic Research Foundation, Mumbai was honoured with an Islamic Personality of Year 2013 award. Emirati poet, writer and translator of the poetry Dr. Shihab Ghanem was awarded the prestigious international Tagore Peace Award by the Asiatic Society at the 230th Annual General Meeting of the Asiatic Society in Kolkata in May 2013.

Yemen

India enjoys close historical relations with Yemen and is committed to be a partner in Yemen's path to peace and prosperity.

A 14-member Yemeni delegation led by Mr. Omar Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation participated in the 8th session of India-Yemen Joint Committee Meeting held in New Delhi from 11-12 March 2013. A high-level Yemeni Business Delegation led by Mr. Ahmed Salem Shammakh, Chairman of the Yemen-India Business Council (YIBC) participated in the Indian Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS) held in Mumbai from 14-16 March, 2013. The other visits to India during the year included visit of Minister of Electricity and Energy Mr. Saleh Hasan Sumiya from 4-7 May 2013; and Minister of Public Health and Population, Dr. Ahmed Qasem al-Ansi from 4-7 July 2013.

At the invitation of Judge Mohammed Hussain Al-Hakimi, President of Supreme Commission for Elections and

Referendum (SCER), Mr. V.S. Sampath, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India visited Yemen from 22-24 December, 2013. An MoU on cooperation between ECI and SCER was signed.

A 7-member delegation from CII visited Yemen from 9-12 March 2013 and had business seminar in Sana'a, Mukalla and Aden followed by Business to Business Meeting. A 5-member team from Archaeological Survey of India visited Yemen from 30 June to 10 July 2013.

India extended humanitarian assistance in the form of US\$ 2 million worth of wheat through the World Food Programme, which was handed over by Joint Secretary (Gulf), M.E.A. Shri Mridul Kumar to Dr. Abdulqawi A. Numan, Yemeni First Deputy Minister in Sana'a on 21 November 2013. During the year, India also extended unilateral Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme to give a boost to Yemeni exporters and India and Yemen signed an agreement in the health sector on 9 June 2013.

Arab League

Ambassador Khaled Habbas, Advisor to Secretary General of Arab League, visited India from 25-27 June 2013 to finalise the draft Memorandum of Cooperation and Executive Programme for Arab-India Cooperation for the years 2014-15.

An interactive session of Arab League Ambassadors with Secretary (East), M.E.A. was organized on 21 November 2013 during which issues related to visit of Secretary General of Arab League to India, signing of new India-Arab League Memorandum of Cooperation and Executive Programme were discussed.

Mr. Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, visited India on 17 December 2013 during which the two sides signed a Memorandum of Cooperation between the League of Arab States and India and the Executive Programme of the Arab-Indian Cooperation Forum for 2014-15.

Hajj

The India-Saudi Arabia Bilateral Agreement on Hajj-2013 was signed on 16 March, 2013 in Jeddah. This Agreement specified the Hajj 2013 Quota for India at 170,025 seats comprising 125,025 seats for pilgrims facilitated by Hajj Committee of India (HCOI) Mumbai and 45,000 for pilgrims through Private Tour Operators (PTOs). Consequent upon imposition of 20% reduction (by Saudi authorities) on

all foreign Hajj pilgrims, the net quota for India for Hajj-2013 worked out to 136,020 seats. Of these, 121,420 pilgrims performed the Hajj through the HCOI and the rest through PTOs.

GoI assists Hajj pilgrims in coordination with the Hajj Committee of India through (i) provision of accommodation and other logistical support at Makkah, Madinah and Jeddah, (ii) Deputation of Doctors and Paramedics, Coordinators, Assistant Hajj Officers, Haj Assistants and Khadim-ul-Hujjaj to assist Hajis during Haj, (iii) setting up Hospitals and dispensaries and providing ambulances and supply of

medicines to Hajis in the holy sites in Makkah, Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifa and Madinah, (iv) Facilitating Air travel from 21 embarkation points in India to Jeddah and back, (v) training of trainers who in turn train the pilgrims before they proceed to Saudi Arabia for Hajj.

The Hajj 2013 operations were performed successfully. The last batch of Indian pilgrims returned home on 20 November 2013. The 2-member Indian Haj Goodwill Delegation to Saudi Arabia was led by the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad.



Africa

Algeria

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed [MOS (EA)] visited Algeria from 17-18 April 2013 and called on Prime Minister Mr. Abdemalek Sellal and Foreign Minister Mr. Mourad Medelci. During the meetings, MOS (EA) discussed bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of infrastructure development, hydrocarbons, mining, science and technology, space and hospitality industry. A Roadmap for further strengthening the bilateral relations was presented by MOS (EA) during the visit.

The 4th session of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) between India and Algeria was held in Algiers from 20-22 October 2013.

A 4-member Algerian Defence Delegation led by Gen. Abdelkrim Benyahia visited India from 22-25 October, 2013 at the invitation of the Indian Ministry of Defence and discussed possibilities of cooperation in the field of defence.

Angola

The two projects being set up in Angola under Lines of Credit (LoCs) extended through EXIM Bank of India are under various stages of implementation. Cooperation among public sector entities of both countries in petroleum and natural gas sector as well as non-oil sectors, pursuant to the MoU in petroleum and natural gas sector and other bilateral agreements, is proceeding well. India's exports to and investments in Angola have shown a perceptible increase. Bilateral trade went up substantially from US\$ 446.60 million during 2006-2007 to US\$ 7646.33 million in 2012-2013, with Angola's export to India being US\$ 7157.54 million, primarily oil. Overall bilateral trade during April to August 2013 reached US\$ 2911.38 million. On 18 November 2013, CII signed an MoU with its Angolan counterpart, Association of Industries of Angola (AIA), during the visit of a CII delegation to Angola.

Benin

A 3-member delegation led by the Angolan Minister of Industry, Trade, Small and Medium Enterprises, Mr. Safio Idrissou Affo participated in the 3rd Africa-India Trade Ministerial Conference in Johannesburg from 30 September to 1 October, 2013.

Botswana

Additional Secretary (East & Southern Africa), M.E.A. Shri Ravi Bangar visited Botswana from 15-17 September 2013 and held discussions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development on the issues of Botswana visas, Prohibited Immigrants and the setting up of India-Africa Diamond Institute.

Botswana's Minister of Minerals, Metals and Water Resources visited India from 10-16 November 2013. The purpose of the visit was to explore Indian companies' investment possibilities in Botswana's coal mining and TKR project and diamond beneficiation, including a visit to Indian Diamond Institute, Surat which is the implementing agency for IADI.

India offered close to 200 scholarships to Botswana nationals under various Programmes viz. ITEC, India-Africa Forum Summit, C.V Raman Scholarships etc. Botswana has actively participated in the capacity building programmes offered to it.

Burkina Faso

The Minister of Health, Mr. Lene Sebgo led the Burkinabe delegation to the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in Delhi from 17-19 March 2013. A 19-member multi-sectoral FICCI delegation visited Burkina Faso from 10-14 April 2013. A 3-member Indian delegation led by Shri Arvind Kaushal, Additional Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education visited Burkina Faso from 1-3 December 2013 in connection with the establishment of the Water & Soil Tissue Test Laboratory under the India Africa Forum Summit

(IAFS). An official delegation from Burkina Faso, comprising the Minister of Agriculture and Food security, Minister of Mines and Energy and Director General in the Ministry of Mines and Energy participated in the 10th CII EXIM Bank Conclave held in New Delhi from 9-11 March 2014.

Burundi

Dr. Rose Gahiru, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Govt. of Burundi visited India in June 2013 to meet with officials of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC). A Vocational Training Centre/Incubation Centre is being set-up in Bujumbura by NSIC.

Mrs. Kayitesi Odette, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock visited India in February 2014 to participate in Asia-Africa Agri Business Forum organized by FICCI.

Mr. Tabu Abdallah Manirakiza, Minister of Finance and Economic Development Planning traveled to India in February 2014 to sign two Lines of Credit (LoCs) agreements with Exim Bank of India on behalf of Government of Burundi. The first agreement was for US\$ 4.22 million LoC for a Farm Mechanization project and the second was for a US\$ 0.17 million for preparation of a Detailed Project Report for an Integrated Food Processing Complex in Burundi. Both agreements were signed on 14 February 2014.

Pan Africa e-Network Project is running successfully in Burundi.

Cameroon

The Prime Minister of Cameroon, Mr. Philomen Yang, accompanied by seven Ministers and a large business delegation visited New Delhi to participate in Africa-CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March 2013.

Cape Verde

Two young Cape Verdean Parliamentarians, Ms. Anildalneida Tavares Monteriro & Mr. Joselito Monteiro Fonseca, attended the programme "Leaders of Future" organized by Public Diplomacy Division of M.E.A for young parliamentarians from Francophone countries from 17-23 March 2013 in New Delhi. Cape Verde was represented at the 10th CII- EXIM Bank Conclave of March 2014 in New Delhi by their Director General of Global Affairs in Ministry of External Relations.

Central African Republic [CAR]

The work on Government of India supported LoC project for

US\$ 24 million for construction and commissioning of a 400 MT/day cement plant in Bangui was progressing well. However, the Indian workers have had to be evacuated in view of the disturbed situation prevailing in CAR. Bilateral trade between the two countries increased from US\$ 8.36 million in 2011-2012 to US\$ 9.95 million in 2012-2013.

Chad

A 3-member delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs & African Integration of Chad, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat visited India from 12-14 August 2013. He met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and had detailed discussions covering the entire gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern. A 3-member delegation led by the Chadian Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Hamid Mahamat Dahalob participated in the 3rd Africa-India Trade Ministerial Conference in Johannesburg from 30 September to 1 October, 2013.

Comoros

An agreement to implement the Government of India's concessional credit of US\$ 41.6 million for setting up a power plant in Moroni was signed by the Vice-President and Finance Minister Mr. Mohamed Sollihi on 22 February 2013 at New Delhi and it is in the process of being implemented. The Pan African e-Network project in tele-medicine and tele-education is already functional in Comoros. A proposal to set up a vocational training centre (VTC) in Moroni to impart skills in plumbing, welding, electricity, civil works etc. is under consideration. India has offered a soft loan of US\$ 35 million to Comoros for projects to be selected by the Comorian side.

Cote d'Ivoire

The bilateral relationship gained momentum after post-election crisis was overcome in Côte d'Ivoire. The Prime Minister, Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, along with five Cabinet Ministers, visited India in early 2013. This was followed by a visit of a 50-member business delegation from India to Côte d'Ivoire to explore the investment opportunities there. Ms. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs was on an official visit to Abidjan from 22-24 January 2014 to have bilateral discussions with her counterpart. The Ivorian Minister of Post, Information and Communication Technologies led a six-member delegation at the 10th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March 2014.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Work on the Government of India supported LoC projects for US\$ 42 million Kakobola (9.3 MW) Hydro-Electric Project(HEP), Bandundu Province and US\$ 168 million Katende HEP (64 MW), Kasai Occidental Province have been progressing well. Bilateral trade between the two countries increased from US\$ 15.29 million in 2011-2012 to US\$ 167.10 million in 2012-2013, an increase of more than ten times.

Djibouti

Two Indian Naval ships visited Djibouti port on Overseas Deployment (OSD) – INS Sharda (7-8 July, 2013) and INS Trikand (9-11 August 2013) as part of Indian Navy's routine exercise for logistic support to anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden.

Shri Sandeep Kumar, Joint Secretary (WANA), M.E.A. led a delegation to the 15th Plenary Session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) from 10-15 November 2013.

Egypt

The 9th round of India-Egypt Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs) was held in New Delhi on 24 January 2013. President Mr. Mohamed Morsy visited India from 18-20 March 2013 during which six MoUs and two Letters of Intent (LoI) were signed on IT, Cyber Security, Small and Medium Enterprises, Culture, Space and Solar energy. On the sidelines, the India-Egypt Joint Business Council (JBC) meeting was held on 20 March 2013.

The first meeting of India-Egypt Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in Cairo on 10 March 2013.

On the Defence side, the Indian Navy submarine INS Sindhurakshak visited Alexandria on 22-26 March 2013 and transited through Suez Canal on 28 March 2013 on her return voyage to India from Russia.

24 Indian Pharmaceutical companies, under the umbrella of PHARMEXIL, participated for the first time in the Egypt Pharm Exhibition held in Cairo from 13-15 April 2013. A delegation of senior Egyptian Health officials visited India at the invitation of PHARMEXCIL from 1-5 December 2013.

A 4-member delegation of the Egyptian General Organization for Veterinary Services Delegation visited India for Compliance and Review Audit Inspection of Abattoirs and

Meat Processing Plants in India from 11 June to 4 July 2013, in the context of US\$ 300 million of Indian meat imports into Egypt.

The Fourth Indo-Egypt Joint Defence Committee (JDC) Meeting took place in New Delhi from 29 April to 2 May 2013. The Egyptian delegation also met the three service chiefs and MoD officials and paid field visits to defence organizations.

To enhance bilateral cultural ties, a month-long cultural festival 'India by the Nile' was held for the first time during April-May 2013.

Mr. Nabil Fahmy, Foreign Minister of Egypt, visited India from 4-6 December 2013 during which he met Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon. A wide gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Secretary (East), M.E.A. Shri Ashok K. Kantha, accompanied by Joint Secretary (WANA), Shri Sandeep Kumar, M.E.A. visited Egypt from 21-23 December 2013 for bilateral and follow-up meetings.

A delegation of two officers of Egyptian Navy led by Rear Admiral Ehab Salah Abd El-Latif participated at DEFEXPO-2014 in New Delhi from 6-9 February 2014. Indian Armed Forces delegation comprising of four officers from College of Defence Management visited Nasr Higher Military Academy and Egyptian Command and Staff College on 23-26 February 2014.

Equatorial Guinea

Under the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) process, India offered to set up a Centre on Geoinformatic Applications for Rural Development in Equatorial Guinea, which has been accepted in principle by that government.

Eritrea

India and Eritrea enjoy friendly relations. During 2013-14, three ITEC scholarships for Eritrean nationals were awarded.

Ethiopia

India and Ethiopia enjoy warm and cordial relations in political, commercial, education and other areas. The bilateral commercial relation is led by private sector engagements in trade and investment by Indian companies. Ethiopia values India as an important partner in its development efforts.

Vice president, Sh. M. Hamid Ansari visited Ethiopia on 25 May 2013 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebration of the African Union. During the visit, he had a meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister, Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn on the sidelines, and held discussions on bilateral and various multilateral issues. He also met the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Dlamini Zuma.

A four-member delegation from the African Union Commission led by Ambassador Jean-Baptiste Natama, Chief of Staff of the Bureau of the AUC Chairperson, visited India from 4-7 September 2013. During the visit the Joint Action Plan of the Enhanced Framework of Cooperation of the IAFS-II was adopted.

A delegation led by Sh. Sudhir Vyas, Secretary (West), M.E.A. visited Addis Ababa for the 20th Executive session of the African Union in January 2013. Secretary (West), M.E.A. Shri Dinkar Khullar led a delegation to Addis Ababa to participate in the African Union Executive Council meeting in January 2014.

Mr. Belete Tafere, Minister of Environment and Forest of Ethiopia, attended the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, organised by The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) in New Delhi from 6-8 February 2014.

An agreement was signed on 13 June, 2013 by EXIM Bank of India with the Government of Ethiopia for a Line of Credit of US\$ 300 million for construction of a railway line segment from Asaita in the Afar Regional State of Ethiopia to Tajourah Port in Djibouti.

The Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute and the National Institute of Fashion Technology of India officially launched a three-year twinning partnership scheme on 17 August 2013 in Addis Ababa which will enhance the capacity of Ethiopia's textile industry.

Power Grid - NHPC - BRPL Consortium India signed a contract agreement with the Ministry of Water & Energy of the Government of Ethiopia on 8 May, 2013, for the Management of the existing power plants of Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCO) for two years. The Consortium is currently doing the feasibility study before it takes over the Management of EEPCO.

42 Indian companies participated in the 6th All-African Leather Fair organized by the Ethiopian Leather Industries Association from 20-24 February, 2013. 44 Indian companies from diverse sectors participated in the Addis Chamber

International Trade Fair from 21-27 February, 2013 under the auspices of India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO). 37 Indian companies, under the aegis of Assocham participated in the 6th Agriculture and Food Processing Fair held in Addis Ababa from 20-24 June 2013. A 20-member business delegation of CHEMEXCIL India visited Addis Ababa from 18-20 July 2013.

A Vocational Training Centre/Incubation Centre established under the IAFS mechanism was inaugurated by the Ethiopian Minister for Urban development and Secretary (West), M.E.A. during his visit to Addis Ababa in January 2014.

A 4-member delegation from Addis Ababa City Government Mayor office visited India during 10-13 March 2014 to learn from Indian experience on Social Protection and Social Security issues provided by the Government to the economically disadvantaged groups.

The National Institute of Design, Hyderabad and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion conducted a basketry workshop/training programme in India as well as in Ethiopia in February 2014 under IAFS.

Gabon

Bilateral trade between the two countries increased from US\$ 193.26 million in 2011-2012 to US\$ 870.60 million in 2012-2013, an increase of more than four times.

Ghana

Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Clement Humado, led the Ghanaian delegation to the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in Delhi from 17-19 March 2013. A high-level GoI delegation, led by Shri Sudhir Mital, Secretary (Fertilizer), visited Ghana from 23-28 June 2013 for discussions on India-Ghana Joint Venture Fertilizers Project.

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), in collaboration with the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), conducted the Executive Development Programme (EDP) on International Business at GIMPA, Accra from 30 September to 4 October, 2013. This is an initiative under the India-Africa Forum Summit-I (IAFS-I) decisions.

A two-day conference on the theme; "India-West Africa: A dynamic relationship and emerging trends" was organised jointly by the ICWA and Indian Mission in Accra from 14-15 October 2013.

A 10-member official delegation comprising the Ghanaian Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture Development, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance and senior officials from the Presidency and the Ministries of Energy and Finance respectively participated in the 10th EXIM Bank CII Conclave in New Delhi from 9-11 March 2014.

A 2-member delegation from the Indian Department of Posts visited Ghana from 16-21 March, 2014 in connection with the implementation of Project Arrow in Ghana. The delegation visited four project sites of Ghana Post in Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi and Tamale.

Guinea

The establishment of a Resident Mission of Guinea in New Delhi has further strengthened our bilateral ties. India decided to donate 175 Computers to the Government of Guinea. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur visited Conakry from 21-22 January 2014. She had detailed discussions with the leadership of Guinea on issues of mutual interest. The Guinean Ministers of Technical Education, Professional Training, Employment and Work, Health and Minister of Industry, SMEs and Promotion of Private Sector participated in the 10th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave at New Delhi in March 2014.

Guinea Bissau

Normal life in the country was disturbed due to a coup d'Etat on 12 April 2012. India continued to provide capacity enhancement support to the country especially under the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and ITEC capacity building programmes.

Kenya

Following the 4 March, 2013 elections in Kenya, President Shri Pranab Mukherjee sent greetings to President-elect, Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta. Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, attended the inauguration ceremonies for President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Samoei Ruto, in Nairobi on 9 April, 2013 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister. Dr. Tharoor called on President Kenyatta on 10 April 2013.

Indian firms participated in several business promotion events in Kenya. These included the 17th Kenya International Trade Exhibition 2013 from 4-6 October, 2013 and the 2nd India Sugar Export and International Conference from 13-15 May 2013. The Chairman and Managing Director, EXIM Bank of

India, Shri T.C.A. Ranganathan, participated in a conference organized by the Government of Kenya and the International Monetary Fund on Kenya's Economic Success, Prospects and Challenges held from 17-18 September, 2013 in Nairobi.

Two officers of the Indian Army visited Kenya on short-term deputation for imparting training to personnel of the Kenya Defence Forces.

38 Kenyan nationals were awarded ICCR scholarships for higher education and seven Kenyan nationals availed of training courses organised under the ITEC programme.

Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Dr. Sudha Sharma, attended the 2013 Centre for Inter American Tax Administration (CIAT) Technical Conference held from 9-12 September, 2013 in Nairobi.

Four Indian citizens lost their lives and five others were injured in a terrorist attack on a shopping mall in Nairobi on 21 September 2013.

According to Government of Kenya Statistics, during the year 2013, Indian exports to Kenya amounted to US\$ 2983.79 million and Indian imports totaled US\$ 103.45 million. India was the single largest exporter to Kenya.

Lesotho

Lesotho's leadership is well disposed towards India and holds a favourable view of India's role in Africa. Mr. Moshoeshoe David Sehloho, Principal Secretary, Defence and National Security, Kingdom of Lesotho visited India on 19-23 August 2013 on a bilateral visit.

The 4-member Indian delegation led by Shri Virendra Gupta, High Commissioner, visited Lesotho in September 2013 to attend the second Joint Bilateral Commission for Co-operation (JBCC) meeting which was held in Maseru on 12-13 September, 2013 to discuss the current state of bilateral relations and to follow up of decisions taken at first JBCC and two India Africa Forum Summits. India also reiterated the offer of an additional Line of Credit of US\$ 10 million to the Government of Lesotho.

The Indian Army Training Team stationed in Lesotho since June 2001 made further progress in the professionalization of the Lesotho Defence Force.

India also provided development assistance to Lesotho by providing 70 training slots under the ITEC programme to training of civil servants and through various training courses under the IAFS.

Lesotho's Prime Minister Thomas Thabane accompanied by high level delegation visited India to participate in the 10th CII - Exim Bank Africa Conclave held on 9-11 March 2014 in New Delhi. Lesotho participated as a partner country in the Conclave. On 11 March, 2014 high level bilateral meetings took place between India and Lesotho. Minister of Foreign Affairs traveled earlier to Mumbai on 4 March, 2014 to inaugurate Lesotho's Honorary Consulate and on 5 March 2014 in Hyderabad.

Liberia

President of Liberia, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, became the first Head of State from Liberia to visit India on a State Visit from 9-13 September 2013. During the visit, four Agreements/MoUs were signed, including an Agreement between India and Liberia on Establishment of Joint Commission, MoU between Foreign Service Institutes of India and Liberia, MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Oil & Gas and Agreement between EXIM Bank and Government of Liberia for extending a Line of Credit of US\$ 144 million for funding a power transmission and distribution project in Liberia. The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2012 was conferred upon President Sirleaf during the visit.

Libya

The political and security situation in Libya remained fragile, compounded by institutional deficit and exponential growth of armed militia. The sovereignty of the National government was continuously challenged, particularly in the eastern parts where militia took control of the oil facilities.

A 3-member delegation from the Libyan Air Force participated in the AERO India-2013, Asia's premier air show, held in Bengaluru, India from 6-10 February 2013.

A 6-member Libyan delegation led by Mr. Saeed Ibrahim Al-Khattali, Assistant Under Secretary of Technical Affairs of the Libya Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited India to attend 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership from 17-19 March 2013.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri E.Ahamed paid an official visit to Tripoli from 14-16 April 2013. The visit laid a roadmap of our bilateral cooperation, particularly in the fields of health, education, IT, and pharmaceuticals, sectors as well as cooperation in multilateral fora.

An 11-member Parliamentary delegation from the General National Congress of Libya made a study visit to India in April 2013 to have an exposure in functioning of parliamentary democracy.

A high-level Libyan delegation led by Deputy Minister of Health visited India to attend International Summit on Health & Wellness Tourism held in New Delhi from 26-28 April 2013.

A 27-member Libyan business delegation, the largest from Africa, participated in 'I for Afrika' event organized by the Indo-African Chamber of Commerce in Mumbai from 3-6 October 2013. An MoU for cooperation between the Libyan Business Council and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) was also signed during the visit.

Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz, Libyan Minister of International Cooperation and Foreign Affairs met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid on the sidelines of the 68th UNGA held in September 2013. EAM assured India's assistance in capacity building of new Libya.

India-Libya FOCs at the level of Director Generals (JS level) took place on 10 February, 2014 in New Delhi, for a review of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.

The Chairman of the Libyan Privatization and Investment Board (PIB) visited India to attend the CII-EXIM Bank conclave held in New Delhi from 9-11 March, 2014.

Dr. Tamanna Chaturvedi, from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) visited Libya on 24-25 March, 2014 to discuss the Executive Development Programme under the aegis of IAFS with the Libyan Ministry of Economy.

Madagascar

As part of South-South Cooperation, India's focus in Madagascar has been on capacity building, including training in high skilled/technical fields through courses which are offered through ITEC and IAFS Scholarships. India provided cash assistance of US\$ 1,00,000 to Madagascar as disaster relief for widespread damage caused due to the tropical cyclone 'Haruna' in 2013.

An EdCIL delegation visited Madagascar from 5 to 11 June 2013 and organized workshops and seminars in collaboration with the Universities of Antananarivo and Majunga, which were well attended and it is expected that many students would look at India as a destination for higher education.

Under the Pan African e-network, 97 students utilized Tele-

medicine and Tele-education facilities during the year. Tele-medicine facilities are being offered in collaboration with a local clinic, the Institute Medicale de Madagascar (IMM) and free consultations and diagnosis are being utilized by the Malagasy patients since 2010 from the top Hospitals. 100 persons used the tele-medicine facility during the year 2013-14.

A training programme on Capacity Building on International Business was conducted by IIFT in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and “International Trade Board of Madagascar – ITBM” from 24-28 February, 2014 in Antananarivo under the IAFS.

Malawi

Malawi has successfully utilized two LOCs worth US\$ 30 million and US\$ 50 million extended by the Government of India in 2008 & 2010 respectively. Another Line of Credit proposal worth US\$ 76.5 million for development of fuel storage facilities, development of irrigation network under Greenbelt Initiative and for setting up of refined sugar processing equipment in Salima under Greenbelt Initiative was signed on 13 December 2012. The Ngabu Cotton Ginnery, built under this scheme was formally inaugurated by President of Malawi, Dr. Joyce Banda on 27 August 2013.

On 18 February 2014, President of Malawi, Dr. Joyce Banda laid the foundation of the Strategic Oil Reserve Facilities being constructed in Mzuzu in the northern region of Malawi under Government of India's Line of Credit to the Government of Malawi.

During the second India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-II), it was decided to establish five Rural Technology Parks (RTPs) in Africa by National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) Hyderabad. Accordingly, RTP in Malawi is expected to be functional in 2014. Under a US\$ 5 million grant from the Government of India, a Business Incubation Centre is being established in Malawi to help Malawi's Medium, Small and Micro Enterprise sector.

Four mammography machines donated by the Government of India were formally handed over to Government of Malawi on 5 February, 2014. The donation was a part of the US\$ 5 million grant announced during the visit of the Vice President of India to Malawi in January 2010.

Malawi's Deputy Minister of Industry & Trade Mr. Sam Ganda led a 3-member delegation to South Africa to attend the 3rd Meeting of the India-Africa Trade Ministers and India-

Africa Business Council Meeting, held on 1 October, 2013.

Mali

While there was little interaction on the bilateral front, the country itself saw major political and security related developments. The successful conduct of Presidential elections in July–August 2013 saw the installation of Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita as the President of the country. This was a major development towards restoration of democratic governance in Mali which was seriously challenged as a result of a military coup in March 2012. During the crisis, India had strongly supported efforts to restore constitutional order in Mali as well as to preserve the territorial integrity of the country. Now that the democratic order has been restored, the Government of India has reiterated its willingness to further strengthening its development cooperation partnership with Mali.

Mali was represented at the 10th CII EXIM Bank Conclave in New Delhi from 9-11 March 2014 by the Minister of State for Economy and Finance in charge of Promotion of Investments and Private Initiatives, Mr. Moustapha Ben Barka. He made a presentation on “India-West Africa Partnership – Opportunities Galore”.

Mauritania

The President of Mauritania, Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz laid the foundation stone of a milk processing plant at Nema on 13 August 2013 financed through a Line of Credit worth US\$ 11.3 million extended by the Government of India. The Minister for Commerce, Industry, Handicrafts and Tourism, Mrs. Naha Mint Mouknass led the Mauritanian delegation at the 10th CII EXIM Bank Conclave in New Delhi from 9-11 March, 2014.

Mauritius

Relations between India and Mauritius are time-tested, privileged and multi-faceted. Anchored in shared historical and cultural affinities, this partnership has grown considerably and today encompasses a vast and diverse range of activities and spheres.

Mauritian President Rajkeswur Purryag paid a State Visit to India from 3-10 January 2013. He was the Chief Guest at the 11th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention from 7-9 January 2013 in Kochi, where the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman was conferred on him. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a

state visit to Mauritius from 11-13 March 2013 during which he was the Chief Guest at the country's 45th Independence Day celebrations. President held wide-ranging discussions with President Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag and Prime Minister Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. During the visit, three MoUs relating to cooperation in the fields of health and medicine; persons with disabilities and senior citizens and tourism were signed.

The multi-faceted defense and security cooperation with Mauritius was given further momentum with the visit of the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi to Mauritius from 2-7 February, 2013. An Inshore Survey Vessel 'Pathfinder', costing US\$ 1 million, was gifted to the Mauritian side during his visit.

At the request of the Government of Mauritius, Indian Naval Ship Sukanya was deployed in Mauritian waters from 29 June to 13 July 2013 for Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance, anti-piracy patrols, and outer-island support. Four ships of the 1st Training Squadron of the Indian Navy (INS Sharda, INS Gharial, INS Tarangini and ICGS Varuna) concluded a highly successful and productive visit to Mauritian waters from 24 September to 24 October 2013, during which extensive joint patrolling, surveillance, and a series of specialized training exercises for the Mauritian armed forces were carried out.

Mrs. K.O. Fong Weng-Poorun, Senior Chief Executive, Office of the Prime Minister of Mauritius, visited India from 1-7 August 2013 to participate in the launch ceremony of the MOPV CGS Barracuda, at GRSE Ltd. in Kolkata on 2 August, 2013 and the 6th Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting for the OPV in Delhi on 5 August 2013.

A three-year Agreement between the MRPL and the STC of Mauritius for supply of all petroleum requirements of Mauritius was renewed in July 2013.

The first IOR-ARC Economic and Business Conference, at the level of Trade Ministers, was co-hosted by India and Mauritius on 4-5 July 2013 and inaugurated by Prime Minister of Mauritius, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam. Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry, participated in the Conference.

Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju, Minister of Human Resource Development visited Mauritius from 19-20 November, 2013. An MoU between IIT, Delhi and the Mauritius Research Council for setting up of an International Institute of

Technology Research Academy in Mauritius, and an MoU between Association of Indian Universities and Tertiary Education Council of Mauritius for mutual recognition of educational qualifications were signed during the visit.

Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Indian Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, paid an official visit to Mauritius from 30 November to 2 December, 2013. An inter-governmental MoU on Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises was signed during the visit.

Mr. Jangbahadoor Seetaram, Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives of Mauritius visited India from 31 August to 5 September 2013, during which two institutional-level MoUs between the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority of Mauritius (SMEDA) and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Ahmedabad, and between SMEDA and the National Small Industries Corporation of India were concluded.

The Electoral Commissioner of Mauritius, Mr Irfan Abdool Rahman, paid a visit to India from 10-19 April, 2013. An MoU between the Election Commission of India and Electoral Commission of Mauritius for cooperation in the field of election management and administration was signed during the visit.

Shri Ajay Maken, Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation visited Mauritius in April, 2013. Shri Maken held discussions with Mrs Sheilabai Bappoo, Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, and Mr Anil Kumar Bachoo, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping during his visit.

Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Election Commissioner of India visited Mauritius from 26 May to 1 June, 2013, to participate in the 6th International Electoral Affairs Symposium.

Dr. D.Y. Patil, Governor of Bihar, visited Mauritius from 1-5 May, 2013 at the invitation of the Marathi Mandali Federation of Mauritius.

Shri Govind Singh Kunjwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand State Assembly and Shri M.B. Dahal, Deputy Speaker, Sikkim state Assembly, visited Mauritius from 6-8 September, 2013 and 6-9 September, 2013, respectively.

Former Chief Justice of India, Justice S.H. Kapadia visited Mauritius to participate in the 7th Africa/Asia International Fiscal Association Conference on International Tax Developments, which was held on 16-17 May 2013.

Shri P.S. Raghavan, Secretary (ER&AD), M.E.A. led the Indian delegation to Mauritius for the 10th Session of the Joint Working Group on the India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention, held in Port Louis from 27-29 November, 2013.

The then Attorney General of Mauritius, Mr Yatindranath Varma, visited India from 15-20 March, 2013 and held discussions with Shri Ashwani Kumar, Minister of Law and Justice and the Attorney General of India Mr G.E. Vahanvati.

The Mauritian Minister of Tourism, Mr Michael Sik Yuen, led a delegation of Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) to India on a tourism promotion mission from 20-28 August, 2013.

Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag, President of the Republic of Mauritius visited India thrice in recent past-from 12-17 November, 2013 at the invitation of KIIT University, Odisha; Lucknow from 13-17 December, 2013 where he was Guest at the 14th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World organised by City Montessori School; Kochi from 17-20 February, 2014 where he was Chief Guest at the 2nd Global Ayurveda Festival, organised by the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) and the Government of Kerala.

Chief Justice of Mauritius, Justice Bernard Sik Yuen visited India from 30 November–1 December 2013 to attend the International Conference of Jurists organised by the International Council of Jurists and the All India Bar Association during which he was conferred the “International Jurists Award-2013”.

The Food and Agricultural Research Council of Mauritius and the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Bangalore, India, signed an MoU for the transfer of live and/or preserved beneficial insect specimen for research purposes.

The Indian Coast Guard Ship Sangram called at Port Louis Harbour from 13-16 February 2014 after undertaking maritime patrol and surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region. The ship's officers conducted training for personnel of the Mauritian National Coast Guard and participated in a blood donation drive, among several other social activities.

At the request of the Government of Mauritius, a 22-member Indian Naval Marching Contingent participated in the Mauritian National Day Parade on 12 March 2014 at Anjalay Stadium.

Mr. Cader Sayed Hossen, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection of Mauritius visited India from 26-30 January 2014. He participated in the CII Partnership Summit 2014 held from 27-29 January 2014 in Bangalore, where he also met his counterpart Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry. On 30 January 2014, Mr. Hossen met Shri Veerappa Moily, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Shri K.S. Rao, Minister of Textiles in New Delhi.

A delegation comprising more than 150 eminent Mauritians of Indian origin, including 10 youth participants of the Know India Programme organised by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, represented Mauritius at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held in New Delhi from 7-9 January 2014. Mr S.V. Faugoo, Attorney General and Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security of Mauritius, inaugurated a special exhibition on Indentured Labour curated by the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund.

Mr. Mookhesswur Choonee, Minister for Arts and Culture of Mauritius visited Hyderabad as head of the Mauritian delegation at the second India International Film Tourism Conclave from 18-20 February 2014.

Mr. Motichand Seebah, Permanent Secretary in Prime Minister's Office represented Mauritius, as a Guest country along with Seychelles at the third NSA-level Trilateral Meeting on Maritime Security Cooperation between Maldives, Sri Lanka and India on 6 March 2014 in New Delhi.

Morocco

The Moroccan Minister of Industry, Trade and New Technologies Abdel Kader Amara visited Mumbai on 29-30 May 2013 to participate in a road show organized jointly by the Moroccan Investment Development Agency and the Financial Times newspaper.

On 30 May, 2013 the FICCI and the EXIM Bank of India jointly organized an "India-Africa Partnership Day" themed "Sharing India's Experiences with Africa in PPPs (Public-Private Partnerships)" on the sidelines of the African Development Bank's annual meetings in Marrakesh, Morocco.

On 8 August 2013 India and Morocco signed in New Delhi a Protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between the two countries. The quantum of bilateral trade which stood at US\$ 573.87 million in 2005 soared to US\$ 1.61 billion in 2012. Ranbaxy set up its

own manufacturing plant for production of medicines in Casablanca.

Shri J.D. Seelam, Minister of State for Finance (Revenue) visited Morocco from 3-7 October, 2013 for attending the Climate Parliament Conference organized by UNDP in El Jadida, Morocco.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, visited Morocco from 30 January to 2 February 2014. During the visit, he called on King Mohammed VI and met with Prime Minister, Speakers of both the Houses of Parliament, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation. An MoU on Cooperation in Marine Fisheries, and an Agreement on Environmental Cooperation were signed during the visit.

Mozambique

From Mozambique, a Ministerial visit to India took place including that of Minister of Public Works & Housing, Mr Cadmiel Mutemba (April 2013) Vice Minister of Transport & Communications, Mr Eusebio Saide (May 2013) and Vice Minister of Interior, Mr Jose Mandra (September 2013). A 6-member composite delegation led by National Director for Planning, Ministry of Planning and Development of Mozambique visited New Delhi from 25-29 November, 2013. Ms. Esperança Bias, Minister of Mineral Resources visited India from 12-15 January, 2014 to attend PETROTECH 2014. Mr. Jose Pacheco, Minister of Agriculture led a 20-member delegation, which also included Mr. Armando Inroga, Minister of Industry & Trade to participate in the 10th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership during 9-11 March 2014.

From India, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur (July 2013), Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Anand Sharma (September 2013) and Maharashtra's Minister of Rural Development Shri Jayant Patil visited Mozambique. Delegations from Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India, ONGC, BPRL, BPCL, FICCI, CII, CEL, WAPCOS and several private sector Indian companies also visited Mozambique during the year.

During the visit of Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma, the Confederation of Trade Associations of Mozambique signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CII.

On 3-6 July 2013, the 3rd meeting of India-Mozambique Joint Commission was held in Maputo which reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields

including political, economic, trade, investment, S&T, agriculture and defence. During this visit, Exim Bank signed three LoC agreements with Mozambique worth US\$217 million. These include US\$ 150 million Tica-Buzi-Nova-Sofala road project, US\$ 47 million project to build 1200 houses in Tete, Zambezia and Cabo Delgado and US\$ 20 million water project.

President Armando Guebuza formally inaugurated on 24 April 2013 the cashew processing and packaging plant set up in Nangade district in the northern province of Cabo Delgado with the assistance of US\$ 200,000 provided by India. The US\$ 25 million Government of India's LoC project for setting up of Technology Development & Innovation Centre (TDIC) in the S&T Park in Maluane was handed over to the Mozambican side on 31 August, 2013. Another Line of Credit project of US\$ 13 million for setting up of a solar photovoltaic manufacturing plant was inaugurated by President Guebuza on 22 November, 2013. Assistance to Mozambique in capacity building continued by way of ITEC and ICCR programmes.

Namibia

India donated an amount of US\$ 3.6 million to the Drought Relief Fund of the Government of Namibia to help it combat the emergency in Namibia due to severe drought situation prevailing in the different parts of the country. As a part of India's commitment to capacity building in Namibia, India released a grant of US\$ 4.86 million to University of Namibia (UNAM) in August 2013. The money released was a part of US\$ 12.86 million commitment of India for construction of twin faculties of Mining and Engineering and IT/ Computers at UNAM's northern campus. It was informed by UNAM that the building constructed with the Indian assistance would be named as India Wing.

A 5-member Indian delegation led by Shri Susheel Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, visited Namibia to participate in COP-11 Conference on combating worldwide desertification, held in Windhoek, during 16-28 September 2013.

A 19-member National Defence College (NDC) delegation, led by Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba, visited Namibia on study tour during 12-17 May 2013.

Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister, paid a two-day visit to Namibia on 4-5 February, 2014. He met the Namibian President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister of Information & Communication Technology. During the meetings, matters

relating to Credit Lines facilities to Namibia, setting up of ICT Training Institute, Entrepreneurship Development Centre, SME Skills Centre in Namibia and India-SACU Preferential Trade Agreement were discussed.

A delegation comprising of Governing Council members of Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management under its strategic partnership programme visited Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, the Institute of Administrative and Development Research, Agra and HCM Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration, Jaipur during 11-18 January 2014.

Mr. Calle Schlettwein, Namibian Minister of Trade and Industry, led a business delegation to India to attend the India-Africa Partnership Forum in Bangalore from 24-30 January 2014.

Niger

The Minister of Planning, Land Management and Community Development, Mr. Amadou Boubacar Cisse visited New Delhi from 12-13 September, 2013 and signed an LoC agreement with EXIM Bank worth US\$ 34.54 million for the following two projects: electrification of 30 villages using photovoltaic system (US\$ 9.84 million) and setting up of a solar photo voltaic system of 5 MW (US\$ 24.70 Million).

135 slots were allotted to Niger under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) for the year 2013-2014. Under IAFS-I, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in coordination with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs/Commerce/Chamber of Commerce of Republic of Niger as well as Indian Embassy in Niamey organized a 5-day Workshop from 11-15 November 2013 to develop required skills and professional competency among entrepreneurs, government officials, professionals and corporate executives in Niamey.

The Nigerian Minister of Commerce and Promotion of Private Sector, Mr. Alma Oumarou led the delegation at the 10th edition of CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi from 9-11 March 2014. Mr Amadou Boubacar Cisse, Minister of Planning, Land Management and Community Development again visited New Delhi from 13-14 March 2014 to sign the EXIM Bank's Line of Credit Agreement of US\$ 25 million for potable water for semi-urban and rural communities in Niger.

Nigeria

A 3-member team from ICRISAT visited Abuja from 14-18 April 2013 to tie up arrangements with National Agency for Food & Drug Administration & Control (NAFDAC) in connection with India's donation of Food Testing Laboratory to Nigeria under IAFS-II.

A 17-member Indian National Defence College delegation led by Air Vice Marshal Vipin visited Nigeria from 11-17 May, 2013 after a 6-day study tour. Air Marshal KS Gill, Commandant, National Defence Academy Khadakwasla visited Nigeria from 14-15 September 2013 to participate in the 49th anniversary celebrations of Kaduna-based Nigerian Defence Academy, established with Indian assistance. A 3-member delegation led by Dr. Samuel Ortom, Minister of State for Trade of Nigeria participated in the 3rd Africa-India Trade Ministerial Conference in Johannesburg from 30 September to 1 October 2013.

A 4-member delegation led by Nigerian Minister for Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo visited New Delhi from 7-9 December 2013 to have interaction with BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited) for strengthening Nigeria's power sector. A 6-member delegation led by Nigerian Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Dele Joseph Ezeoba visited India from 9-13 December 2013 on an official visit. At the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March 2014, there was participation of a 20-member strong delegation from Nigeria. At the invitation of the organizers of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Nigerian Minister of Water Resources, Mrs Sarah Reng Ocheke, visited India to participate at the Reinvent the Toilet Fair: India 2014 in New Delhi from 20-22 March 2014.

Republic of Congo (ROC)

Work on Government of India supported LoC project for US\$ 70 million Rural Electrification Project is progressing well. Bilateral trade between the two countries increased from US\$ 606.31 million in 2011-2012 to US\$ 662.99 million in 2012-2013. Senior Minister of Industrial Development and Private Sector Promotion, Mr. Mvouba Isidore led the ROC delegation to the 10th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership, New Delhi from 9-11 March 2014. He was accompanied by the Minister of Trade, Minister of Economic Zones and Minister of Youth. Two officials attended training under IAFS-II in 2013-14.

Rwanda

An agreement between EXIM Bank of India and Government of Rwanda was signed in October 2013 in Kigali for a US\$ 120.05 million Line of Credit for Export Targeted Modern Irrigated Agricultural Project and its Extension. Nyabarongo Hydroelectric Project funded under EXIM Bank LoC of US\$ 80 million, is expected to be completed in early 2014.

In February 2014, Rwandan Minister of Infrastructure, Prof. Silas Lwakabamaba visited India to attend a conference of UN Economic Commission on Africa.

Under ITEC/SCAAP, 30 slots were allotted to Rwanda for 2013-14, out of which 12 slots were utilized. Apart from these, four participants have availed various training courses under IAFS and 12 students visited India on ICCR scholarships. Pan Africa e-Network Project is running successfully in Rwanda.

Sao Tome & Principe

Friendly ties between the two countries continued to remain strong. Implementation of the Pan-African e-Network Project is proceeding smoothly.

Senegal

Government of India approved a line of Credit of US\$ 27.5 million for the 2nd phase of Rural Electrification Project, US\$ 19 million for the 2nd phase of the fisheries development project and US \$ 41.96 million for setting up a Modern Abattoir, Meat Processing, Cold Storage, Rendering and Tannery Plant and Market Place to the Government of Senegal. India continued to provide capacity building training opportunities to Senegal and the country was allotted 30 slots for the year 2012-2013 under the ITEC programme. India also provides an ongoing opportunity for training defence personnel in India for technical skills development.

Senegal being the hub station for the satellite based Pan-Africa e-Network Project, the telemedicine and tele-education programmes continued to be relayed to all African nations from there. The Fann Hospital in Dakar was designated as the Regional Super Specialty Hospital by the African Union and approved by the Ministry of External Affairs. Equipment for Patient End Location (PEL) facility is already functional and operative. There have been increased cooperation and visits of trade, cultural and commercial delegations between the two countries. The 68th Board Meeting of the Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research (ISRA) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) was

held from 7-10 April, 2013 in Dakar in which Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary [D] & DG, ICAR and Ms. Minnie Mathew, Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh participated.

A Road Show on Indian technology transfer for small and medium enterprises in Senegal was held from 3-6 June 2013 at Dakar. The Senegalese Minister of Culture, Mr. Abdul Aziz Mbay visited India from 28-29 July, 2013 and signed an Executive Programme for Cooperation in Cultural matters for the years 2013-2015. From Indian Side, Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch, Minister of Culture signed the programme. Mr. Aziz also met Information and Broadcasting Minister to set up a joint working group in the information and broadcasting sector under the Executive Programme for Cultural Cooperation.

A delegation consisting of Shri Sutanu Behuria, Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry and Shri P.K. Uppal, ED, BHEL visited Dakar from 14-16 July 2013 for development/funding of the projects in Senegal in the area of electricity and power generation. Senegalese Minister of Commerce, Entrepreneurship and the Informal Sector Mr. Alioune Sarr, attended the 3rd meeting of India-Africa Trade Ministers' in Johannesburg which was held from 30 September-1 October 2013.

ICWA in collaboration with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) organized an Academic Conference on "India-Francophone Africa: Issues and Challenges" from 17-18 October, 2013 in Dakar.

Over 30 companies who are members of ASSOCHAM and FIEO, participated in the Dakar International Trade Fair (FIDAK) from 28 November to 11 December 2013.

The Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye visited New Delhi on a working visit on 15 January, 2014. He met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and Smt. Preneet kaur, MOS (PK) and had detailed discussions on bilateral relations.

Seychelles

India-Seychelles relations were significant in various areas including security, development cooperation, tourism and culture. Government of India gifted to Seychelles state of the art aircraft Dornier, which reached there in April 2013 and is being utilized by Seychelles in its anti-piracy operations and surveillance of its EEZ. An MoU between India and Seychelles

on deputation of Indian naval aviation personnel for operational training and basic maintenance of Dornier was signed on 20 September, 2013.

INS Sukanya visited Port Victoria in June 2013. Indian Naval Platoons & Naval Band participated in Seychelles' National Day Parade held on 18 June 2013 to mark the adoption of a new Constitution in 1993. Four Indian Naval Training Ships of the First Training Squadron – INS Sharda, Gharial, Tarangini and Indian Coast Guard Ship Varuna anchored at Port Victoria on a four day visit during the first week of October 2013. The visit was part of the build-up towards Seychelles-India Day Celebrations from 4-6 October 2013.

The year also witnessed increased Parliamentary interaction with Seychelles. A 4-member Parliamentary delegation from Seychelles visited India from 4-9 August, 2013 and had interactions with Lok Sabha Speaker, Deputy Speaker and other dignitaries.

An amendatory Dollar Credit Line Agreement for US\$ 8 million was signed on 6 September, 2013 by the Seychelles Finance, Trade and Investment Minister with EXIM Bank of India to finance purchase of essential commodities from India. The agreement also covers reduction/re-schedulement of US\$ 8 million loan which the Government of Seychelles took in 2006.

The 8th session of the Indo-Seychelles Joint commission was held in New Delhi on 8 May, 2013.

Shri Sudhir Vyas, Secretary (West), M.E.A. visited Seychelles from 4-7 August 2013 and discussed several areas of bilateral cooperation including economic, military, training, research and air links.

A 4-member delegation from the Indian Army visited Seychelles from 20-24 October, 2013 as part of the team to conduct the Initial Planning Conference for the Indo-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise in December 2013.

Cooperation in the spheres of culture, tourism and people to people contacts reached a new high during the year. The first ever Seychelles India Day celebration was held in Victoria, Seychelles during 4-6 October 2013.

India continued extending assistance to Seychelles in human resource development in various ways including ITEC programme and through an "International Business Programme" organized by IIFT to impart training to Seychelles nationals involved in different sector of business and economy.

Seychelles Minister for Natural Resources and Industry Mr. Peter Sinon attended the Asia-Africa Agri Business Forum 2014 which was held in New Delhi from 4-6 February 2014. Vice President of Seychelles, Mr. Danny Faure attended 14th edition of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit which was held on 6-8 February 2014 in New Delhi.

Sierra Leone

Dr. Richard Konteh, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, led the Sierra Leonean delegation to the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in Delhi from 17-19 March 2013. The Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry participated in the 10th EXIM Bank-CII Conclave in New Delhi from 9-11 March, 2014.

Somalia

India participated in the 2nd International Conference on Somalia held in London on 7 May, 2013 where Somalia was assured of India's assistance in capacity building. India reiterated its full support for the Federal Government of Somalia as well as to the UN, the African Union and IGAD for their efforts for stabilizing Somalia in its social and economic developments at the Ministerial Meeting of the Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Partners Forum on Somalia held in September 2013 in New York.

High Commissioner of India, Nairobi met the President of Puntland State of Somalia on 14 October, 2013 and sought his assistance in securing early release of the remaining eight Indian hostages in captivity of Somali pirates.

The Chairman of the Somali Anti Piracy Task Force and Somalia's Special Envoy to India on piracy related issues Prof. Muhyadin Ali Yusuf visited New Delhi in November 2013 and held meetings with officials at Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Shipping.

High Commissioner visited Mogadishu from 21-22 January, 2014 and met Somali President. Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Prime Minister Mr. Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed Mohamed and Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Abdi Dirshe. High Commissioner also took up the cause of the eight seafarers known to be in Somali captivity and one unaccounted for.

The Somali Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Buri Mohamed Hamza visited India from 8-11 March, 2014 to attend the CII-Exim Bank India Africa Project Partnership Conclave. He also called on Secretary (East), M.E.A. Shri Anil Wadhwa, and discussed issues related to piracy, Indian

hostages in Somalia, trial of 120 Somali pirates in Indian custody and India's role in capacity building in Somalia.

South Africa

Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh attended the 5th Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) Summit held in Durban during 26-27 March, 2013. He was accompanied by Finance Minister, Shri P Chidambaram and Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister, Shri Anand Sharma. An "eThekweni Declaration" and an action plan was adopted at the Summit.

Smt. Praveen Mahajan, Chairperson, Central Board of Excise and Customs accompanied by Sh Pashupati Nath Pandey, Additional Director, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence visited South Africa to attend the BRICS Head of Customs Administrations Meeting on 7-8 March 2013.

Chief Election Commissioner Shri V.S. Sampath visited South Africa on 10-14 March, 2013 to attend a Seminar on Electronic Voting and Counting Technologies. Shri Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, Secretary (ER), M.E.A. and Shri Dinesh Bhatia, Joint Secretary (MER), M.E.A. visited South Africa on 22-23 July, 2013 to attend the BRICS Sherpa/Sous-Sherpa meeting.

The 3rd Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development was held in Pretoria on 28-29 October 2013 under the theme: "The negative effect of climate change on world food security". Indian delegation was led by Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries.

A 3-member delegation led by the Health and Family Welfare Minister, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad visited Cape Town on 5-8 November, 2013 to participate in the 3rd BRICS Health Ministerial meeting. Shri T. Ramasami, Secretary Department of Science & Technology visited Cape Town on 9-10 February 2014 to participate in 1st BRICS Science & Technology Ministerial meeting. The theme of the Ministerial meeting was "A Strategic Partnership for Equitable Growth and Sustainable Development".

Dr. B.A. Agrawal, Law Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice visited Cape Town on 9-14 April, 2013 to attend the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel 2013 Conference. Parliament of South Africa organised the 59th Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) under the theme "Effective solutions to commonwealth developmental challenges" during 28 August to 6 September,

2013. Delegations from 25 Indian States legislatures participated in the Conference held at Johannesburg.

Shri Rajiv Mehrishi, Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs accompanied by Ms. Sujata Sudarshan, CEO-Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre and Ms. Tina Kuirakose Jacob visited South Africa on 23-29 April, 2013 to participate in the conference "The Role of Indian Diaspora in deepening economic and commercial relations" held at Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

A 3-member delegation led by Shri Dinesh Bhatia, Joint Secretary (Multilateral Economic Relations), M.E.A. visited South Africa on 2-5 May, 2013 for consultation in connection with 6th IBSA Summit. Smt Riva Ganguly Das, Joint Secretary (Public Diplomacy), M.E.A. visited South Africa on 16-17 May, 2013 in connection with 'India-Africa a Shared Future' event. A 2-member delegation comprising of Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Joint Secretary [UNES], M.E.A. and Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi, visited Cape Town on 25-29 June, 2013 to participate in the 15th BASIC Ministerial Coordination Meeting.

Dr. Arvind Gupta, DG, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) visited South Africa on 27-28 May, 2013 to participate in IDSA-South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) Dialogue.

On 23 May 2013 India hosted 14th Meeting of the Working Group of Heads of Mission of IOR-ARC countries at India House, Pretoria.

A 3-member delegation led by Shri Madhav Lal, Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises visited South Africa on 30 June to 3 July, 2013 to participate in the SAITEX fair and Johannesburg and attended a high level meeting at Durban.

A 2-member delegation led by Shri Praveen Kumar Tiwari, Director, Finance Intelligence Unit attended the Egmont Group Plenary and Working Group meetings held in South Africa on 30 June to 5 July 2013. Shri Prem Anand Sinha, Zonal Director, Narcotics Control Bureau also participated in a workshop on 'Financial Flows Related to Illegal Drug Production and Trade' held at Sun City, South Africa.

A 28-Member Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers' delegation led by Shri A.R. Rather, Finance & Ladakh Affairs Minister, J&K visited South Africa from 24 July to 4 August, 2013. The delegation met Mr. Pravin Gordhan, Finance Minister of South Africa and held meetings

with the South African National Treasury and with the South African Revenue Service in Pretoria.

The 3rd India-Africa Trade Ministers' meeting and 2nd India Africa Business Council meetings were held at Johannesburg on 30 September to 1 October, 2013. Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce & Industry Minister led the Indian delegation.

A 5-member delegation led by Shri Hem Pande, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, visited Cape Town on 29-31 January 2014 to participate in the Access and Benefit Sharing Dialogue [ABS] meeting.

Shri Anshu Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, visited Cape Town on 29 January to 1 February, 2014 to attend the Board Meeting of the STOP-TB Partnership.

A delegation of 40 business people led by Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Elizabeth Thabethe, visited Chennai and Mumbai, in February 2014 for the fifth yearly Investment in Trade Initiative (ITI), aimed at creating market access for South African value-added products and services in India, while also promoting South Africa as a trade and investment destination.

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) *Mhadei* participated in the Cape to Rio Yachting Race 2014 which was flagged off from Cape Town on 4 January 2014.

South Sudan

A serious political and ethnic crisis erupted in December 2013, as a result of the rivalry between President Salva Kiir and ex-Vice President Reik Machar, leading to a shut-down of oil production (mainstay of the economy). Intense facilitation by Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) led to peace agreements on ceasefire of hostilities and release of political detainees, although the ground implementation remained a huge challenge. A 2-member team from Ministry of External Affairs, comprising of Shri Sandeep Kumar, Joint Secretary (WANA) and Shri S.K. Sinha, Joint Secretary (Pers) visited Juba from 5-7 January, 2014 to assess firsthand the political and security situation, including the safety and security of the Indian nationals in the country. The Mission in Juba issued an advisory on 23 December, 2013 to all Indian nationals in South Sudan to leave the country. A large number of the estimated Indians left via air and road routes to neighbouring countries (Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya). Two Indian peacekeepers of UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) were killed in a rebel attack on the UNMISS

compound in Akobo (Jonglei State) on 19 December, 2013. Earlier, on 9 April, 2013, five Indian peacekeepers were killed in an attack on a UN convoy by an armed rebel group in Jonglei State.

An 18-member business delegation, sponsored by India-Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industries (IACCI), Mumbai visited Juba from 29 April to 1 May 2013. The delegation met with relevant ministers and officials of the Government of South Sudan and had fruitful interaction with the South Sudanese companies and Chambers of Commerce.

India's Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan, Shri P.S. Raghavan, accompanied by Joint Secretary (WANA), Shri Sandeep Kumar, M.E.A. visited Juba from 8-9 August 2013 and discussed India's development partnership with South Sudan, including setting up of a Vocational Training Centre, Rural Technology Park and up-gradation of Maternity Centre of Juba Teaching Hospital. Concerns related to OVL's energy interests emerging out of Sudan-South Sudan political disputes were also highlighted.

Teams from National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) visited Juba in August 2013 to discuss the implementation of their projects viz. setting up of Rural Technology Park and Vocational Training Centre, with the concerned authorities of South Sudan.

President Mr. Salva Kiir was scheduled to pay a State Visit to India on 27 August 2013, but the visit was called off from their side on account of the internal political developments.

Sudan

Minister of Finance and National Economy of Sudan paid an official visit to India in July 2013 and signed two agreements- (i) Capitalization of Interests on Line of Credits (extended by the GoI to the Government of Sudan in the past and (ii) Agreement between EXIM Bank and the Government of Sudan for release of US\$125 million second tranche of LoC for Mashkour Sugar Company.

The 5th round of India-Sudan FOCs was held in Khartoum on 28 November 2013, during which the entire gamut of bilateral relationship was reviewed, and challenges identified.

BHEL successfully energized two units (125MW each) of Kosti Power Plant during the period funded out of the LOC by the Government of India to Sudan.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Sudan

from 4-5 February, 2014 and met with the President, Foreign Minister and Minister of Petroleum. The Sudanese side conveyed to EAM that India was the most preferred country in Sudanese external relations. EAM interacted with a cross-section of Indian community of Sudan during the visit. The visit also included conferring of an Honorary Doctorate on EAM Shri Salman Khurshid by the Sudanese Al-Zaiem Al-Azhar University. Arabic version of EAM's play 'Sons of Babur' was released during the visit.

The Sudanese Minister of Industry Mr. El Smaih El Siddiq visited India from 8-11 March, 2014 to attend the CII-Exim Bank India Africa Project Partnership Conclave. He had interactions with CIM, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur and Secretary (East), M.E.A. on bilateral trade and commercial issues.

Swaziland

India has extended two LoCs to Swaziland i.e. US\$ 20 million for setting up of Science & Technology Park and US\$ 37.9 million for Agriculture Development and Mechanization of Agriculture project in Swaziland. These projects are at various stage of development.

India continued to provide assistance in the field of capacity building. Seven Swazi nationals came to India under ITEC in 2013-14. Bilateral Trade between two countries reached US\$ 107.89 million during FY 2012-2013.

Tanzania

A Line of Credit worth US\$ 178.125 million for water supply augmentation projects in Dar-es-Salaam City and Chalinze region was finalized in October 2012. Government of Tanzania has reiterated its request for a second LoC for purchase of tractors and farm equipment after the successful import of over 1800 tractors and related farm equipment under an earlier LoC of US\$ 40 million. By the second quarter of 2013, all the tractors had been sold or leased out. Under an LoC for US\$ 36.56 million for the supply of Ashok Leyland trucks and other vehicles to the Tanzanian defence forces, over 85% supplies had been completed by October 2013. A formal handing over ceremony at which Minister for Defence and National Service participated, was held in Dar-es-Salaam on 7 August 2013.

An exchange of MoUs for the Indian assistance in setting up an IT Resource Centre at the Nelson Mandela-African Institute of Science and Technology at Arusha took place.

Officials from the Gas Authority of India (GAIL) visited Dar-es-Salaam twice during the year to discuss with the Tanzanian Petroleum Development Corporation, the GAIL's interest in business opportunities in all segments of the gas industry in Tanzania.

A large delegation from Tanzania, comprising of all the Members of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Energy and senior officials of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and TPDC visited India in September 2013 on a study visit, particularly to look at India's management of its energy assets including natural gas.

A delegation led by the Minister of Steel, Shri Beni Prasad Verma visited Tanzania on 5-7 April, 2013. He held talks with the Minister of Energy and Minerals and other senior officials. A Letter of Intent on areas of cooperation was signed during the visit.

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Dar-es-Salaam from 8-10 July 2013. She held talks on issues of mutual bilateral, regional and international interests with the Tanzanian President and the Foreign Minister. She co-chaired the 8th meeting of the India-Tanzania Joint Commission.

Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry visited Dar-es-Salaam from 24-26 September 2013. She held talks with the Tanzanian Minister of Trade and Industry and participated at the inauguration of 'The India Show' organized by CII. She also co-chaired the 3rd meeting of the Joint Trade Committee.

An 18-member delegation from the National Defence College visited Tanzania in May 2013 and interacted with senior officers and Ministers from the Tanzanian Defence Forces, Ministry of Defence and National Service, the Tanzanian National Defence College, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation.

The Zanzibar Minister for Labour, Economic Empowerment and Cooperatives visited India from 28-30 May 2013 on a study visit, during which he held meetings with the Minister of Labour and Empowerment in India. He also visited the Barefoot College, Tilonia which has trained some village women from Zanzibar to install and maintain solar power systems and has proposed to set up a training institute in Tanzania for this purpose.

'INS Jamuna', a hydrographic ship of the Indian Navy visited Tanzania in December 2013 and completed detailed hydrographic survey of Dar-es-Salaam port and nearby coastal waters.

President of Zanzibar, Mr. Ali Mohamed Shein, accompanied by a delegation comprising of senior ministers visited India during 1-9 February 2014 at the invitation of the Vice President of India.

A delegation from CHEMEXCIL visited Dar-es-Salaam in July 2013 for B-to-B meetings in order to consolidate and increase bilateral trade in this field. A 25-member delegation of the Indian pharmaceutical industry comprising of medium and small scale businesses organized by PHARMEXCIL visited Tanzania during 12-15 March 2014.

A team of MEA and the National Skills Development Corporation visited Zanzibar and Dar-es-Salaam during 1-5 February 2014 to carry out feasibility study on the proposed Vocational Training Centre to be established in Zanzibar with Indian assistance.

The Gambia

Government of India approved an LoC of US\$ 16.88 million to The Gambia for the completion of prestigious National Assembly building of the Gambia. In view of the high utilization of our training and capacity building opportunities by The Gambian people, The Gambia was allotted 40 slots under the SCAAP programme.

Togo

An Indian Fertilizer delegation led by Shri Sudhir Mital, Secretary (Fertilizers) visited Togo in June 2013 to discuss cooperation in the areas of mining and fertilizers.

A training workshop within the framework of strengthening of partnership between public and private sectors was organized on 26 August, 2013 in Lomé by the Ministry of Commerce in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIT) and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT).

A 3-member Indian delegation led by Shri Arvind Kaushal, Additional Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education visited Togo from 3-6 December 2013 in connection with the establishment of the Agricultural Seed Production-cum-Demonstration Centre in Togo under the India Africa Forum Summit.

The Togolese Minister of Commerce & Private Sector Promotion led a 7-member delegation to the 10th EXIM Bank – CII Conclave held in New Delhi from 9-11 March 2014.

Tunisia

The 3rd Session of the Tunisia-India Joint Working Group (JWG) in Science & Technology was held in Tunis on 24 May 2013. The JWG meeting discussed joint funding for joint research proposals submitted by Indian and Tunisian scientists in diverse fields.

Shri Srikant K. Jena, Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers, paid a 3-day visit to Tunisia from 11-13 July 2013 to mark the commencement of TIFERT plant, the US\$ 450 million India-Tunisia joint venture for manufacturing phosphoric acid.

A 4-member IIFT experts' team visited Tunis from 22-28 September, 2013 and conducted a week-long Executive Development Programme on International Business (EDPIB) for the Tunisian officials in close cooperation with the Diplomatic Training Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia.

A new assembly plant of Mahindra pickup trucks, the first ever in Africa, was set up in Tunisia on 30 October 2013.

The 5th session of Joint Working Group on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals was held in New Delhi on 5 November 2013.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid paid a 2-day official visit to Tunisia from 2-3 February 2014. He called on the President, Prime Minister and met with Foreign Minister and leaders of political parties. He conveyed India's admiration for the significant progress made by the government and leadership of Tunisia in the transition towards a durable democracy, and offered India's assistance in the democratic process.

Uganda

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid accompanied by a high level delegation, visited Kampala in April 2013 to chair the Regional Head of Mission's Conference. During the visit, he called on the President of Uganda and held bilateral talks with the Foreign Minister, Mr. Sam Kutesa, and other Ministers in the Ugandan Government.

Ms. Deepa Das Munshi, Minister of State for Urban Development, visited Kampala in May 2013 to attend the 7th Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

At the request of the Ugandan Government, the tenure of Indian Military Training Team (IMTT) stationed at Ugandan Senior Command and Staff College was extended for another

three-year term. The IMTT is stationed in Uganda since 2010. Pan Africa e-Network Project is running successfully in Uganda.

Delegation of Council for Leather Exports, NASSCOM and STONA visited Kampala to identify suitable business partners during July-September 2013.

Prof. Dr Zerubabel M. Nyiira, Minister of State for Agriculture, Government of Uganda, visited India in February 2014 to participate in Asia-Africa Agribusiness Forum 2014 organized by FICCI.

Ugandan Minister of Finance and Economic Planning and Development, Ms. Maria Kiwanuka visited India in March 2014 to participate in the 10th CII-Exim Bank Conclave.

Zambia

Zambia was the focus country at the 9th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi from 17-19 March 2013. The Zambian Vice President, Dr. Guy Scott led a high level 25-member delegation to the Conclave.

Indo-Zambian trade and business relations remained robust and vibrant during the year and both sides were keen to develop and expand this relationship. A 10-member delegation of the CII's Eastern Region visited Zambia during 26-28 June, 2013 with the objective of exploring new business and investment opportunities. In the pharmaceutical sector, the Goa-based pharma company, NRB Pharma Limited, started construction of a US\$10 million pharmaceutical plant at the Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone (MFEZ).

Health-care also remained an area of continuing interest on both the Indian and Zambian side. India's Apollo Hospitals signed an MoU on 26 July, 2013 with Zambia Medical Association for sharing of skills, capacity building, conducting of medical camps, training of doctors and rendering skill improvement to technical staff.

Mr. Emmanuel Chenda, Minister of Commerce, Trade & Industry of Zambia attended the India Engineering Sourcing Show 2014 organized by Engineering Export Promotion Council in Mumbai during 22-24 January 2014.

Mr. Greford Monde, Deputy Minister of Agriculture & Livestock of Zambia attended the Asia-Africa Agri Business Forum organized by FICCI in New Delhi during 4-6 February, 2014.

The Mayor of Lusaka, Mr. Daniel Chesenga, visited India to participate in the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave organized in New Delhi during 9-11 March, 2014.

Zimbabwe

An Agreement was signed on 21 June 2013 in Harare between Exim Bank of India and Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe extending US\$ 28.6 million LoC for the upgradation of Deka Pumping Station and River Water Intake System in Zimbabwe. M/s Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) has been appointed Project Management Consultant for the project.

A Buyer-Seller meet-cum-exhibition of Indian handicrafts was organized during 28 September to 6 October 2013 in Harare by Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts, India.

The 2nd Joint Trade Committee meeting was held in Harare on 27-28 March 2013. The Indian side was led by Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textile and the Zimbabwean side by Prof. Welshman Ncube, the then Minister of Industry and Commerce. Shri Anand Sharma, again visited Harare during 2-4 February 2014 to review the progress made on decisions taken during the 2nd Joint Trade Committee meeting.

A delegation led by Shri Beni Prasad Verma, Minister of Steel, visited Zimbabwe during 8-10 April 2013 and held discussions, among others, with Minister of Mines and Mining Development, Minister of Tourism and Hospitality, and Minister of Industry and Commerce of Zimbabwe.

Shri Harish Rawat, Minister of Water Resources led a delegation to Zimbabwe during 14-18 April 2013 and held discussions with Minister of Energy and Power Development and Minister of Water Resources Development and Management.

Developments under India-Africa Forum Summits (IAFS)

Implementation of the decisions taken during the two IAFS held so far continued during the year 2013-14. On 15 March 2013 an agreement was signed between Ministry of External Affairs and National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) for establishment of Vocational Training Centre in Egypt. NSIC in turn signed an agreement with the Egyptian nodal agency on 19 March 2013 during the visit of the President of Egypt. A training programme was held under IAFS at the Central

Tool Room Training Centre at Bhubaneswar in September 2013.

A 4-member delegation from the African Union Commission (AUC) led by Ambassador Jean-Baptiste Natama, Chief of Staff of the Bureau of the AUC Chairperson, visited India during 4-7 September 2013. During the visit the Joint Action Plan of the Enhanced Framework of Cooperation of the IAFS-II was launched in New Delhi. The visiting delegation also held deliberations with senior officials in the Ministries of Agriculture and Commerce & Industry and visited NSIC, IIFT, Telecommunications Consultants India Limited and, Water and Power Consultancy Services.

In order to enhance institutional engagement between India and Africa various conferences and visits were organized during the year, which included 9th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership on 17-19 March, 2013. VimoSEWA conducted field visits and workshop in Durban, South Africa during April-May 2013 under their project: "Strengthening African People's organisations and NGOs". VimoSEWA has conducted field visits and workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during 13-28 August 2013.

A delegation of young Members of Parliament from various African countries visited India during 8-16 March, 2014. The visit was organized by Ministry of External Affairs under the IAFS decisions. They also participated in the India Africa Conclave.

8th CII Industrial Services Training Programme was held

during 9-18 March 2014, New Delhi. This year 28 representatives from Chambers of Commerce from 18 countries participated.

137 candidates have been selected from 30 African countries for the 4th CV Raman Fellowship Programme for research in Universities and other Indian institutions in the area of science and technology in partnership with Ministry of Science & Technology and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Agreement between Ministry of External Affairs and NSIC was signed on 28 March 2014 for setting up of a Vocational Training Centre in Banjul, Gambia.

Developments related to India's relations with the African Union

Since the inception of the African Union, India has been regularly participating in its various summits. Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari led the Indian delegation to the special Golden Jubilee Commemorative Summit of the African Union on 25 May 2013.

A 4-member delegation from the African Union Commission (AUC) visited India during 4-7 September 2013.

Shri Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West), M.E.A. led a delegation to Addis Ababa in January 2014 to participate in the Annual African Union Summit.



Albania

Following the new government's assumption of office in September 2013, India's Ambassador to Romania concurrently accredited to Albania visited the country from 19-21 December 2013 and met the new Foreign Minister of Albania, Mr. Ditmir Bushati. They discussed issues of bilateral, regional and multilateral interest. Mr. Bushati also expressed a desire to attract Indian investments in sectors like Pharma, IT, Power and Infrastructure.

Austria

India and Austria share close and cordial relations. Bilateral relations were further strengthened during the year through exchange of high level visits, business delegations and cultural troupes.

A 2-member delegation led by Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi visited Austria from 3-6 February 2013. During the visit, a Social Security Agreement was signed between the two countries on 4 February 2013.

A delegation led by Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs [MoS(PK)], Smt Preneet Kaur visited Austria from 26-28 February 2013 to attend the 5th meeting of the Global Forum on UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

Indian Minister of Culture Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch visited Austria from 5-8 April 2013 and visited the Conservation Centre at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna as well as the exhibition 'India of the Maharajas' on display at Schloss Schallaburg.

Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Shri V. Narayanasamy visited Vienna from 30 June to 3 July 2013 to take part in the Nuclear Security Summit organized by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The 13th Session of the India-Austria Joint Economic Commission was held on 11 September 2013 in New Delhi.

Dr. Reinhold Lopatka, State Secretary in the Austrian Foreign Ministry led the delegation to India on 11-12 November 2013 to attend the 11th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM-FMM) in New Delhi.

Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH)

India-BiH relations are friendly and warm. Both countries have been paying attention to intensification of bilateral relations. Foreign Minister and Chairman of the Moderate Bosniak Party SDP, Dr. Zlatko Lagumdžija, accompanied by a large business delegation, visited India from 24-28 March 2013. During his visit, he met Shri Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister, Smt. Preneet Kaur, MoS(PK) and Shri Farooq Abdullah, Minister for New and Renewable Energy. Dr. Lagumdžija addressed a business forum meeting titled "Doing Business with Bosnia and Herzegovina" organized jointly by the Foreign Trade Chamber (FTC) of BiH and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Bulgaria

Relations between India and Bulgaria continued to flourish during the year. Foreign Minister Mr. Kristian Vigenin visited India on 11-12 November 2013 to participate in the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Angel Velitchkov led the Bulgarian delegation for the India-Bulgaria FOCs in New Delhi on 16 January 2014. Deputy Minister of Economy and Energy Ms. Anna Yaneva visited India on 22 January 2014 to participate in the India Engineering Sourcing Show in Mumbai. Deputy Minister of Defence Ivan Ivanov visited India on 6-9 February 2014 and participated at the DEFEXPO INDIA-2014. A 2-member delegation from the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy and Energy visited India on 27-28 March 2014 to attend India-Central Europe Business Forum in New Delhi organized by M.E.A. in collaboration with FICCI.

Bulgaria participated in SATTE tourist exhibition held in New Delhi in 2013 and also in 2014.

Second edition of the Namaste Bulgaria Indian Film Festival marking 100th anniversary of Bollywood was held from 30 May- 6 June 2013 at Sofia's House of Cinema. Sofia University's Indology Department marked its 30th Anniversary with a Conference 'From India, to India- Perceptions and Perspectives' on 9-10 September 2013.

Croatia

Bilateral relations between India and Croatia continued to be friendly and cooperative and were further strengthened through sustained interactions during the period.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Mrs Preneet Kaur [MoS(PK)] visited Croatia on 11-13 February 2014 and held discussions with her counterpart Dr. Vesna Pusic First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign & European Affairs and signed the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with the Croatian Finance Minister Mr.Slavko Linic.

The public sector HLL Biotech of India entered into an Agreement with the Croatian Institute of Immunology, under which the Croatian institute will deliver vaccines for measles and also transfer the technology to the Indian side for production of the vaccines in India. The estimated volume of business would be around US\$ 5 billion in the next five years.

The Indian Embassy, in cooperation with Croatian NGOs, Lotos Association and the Mahatma Gandhi Cultural Centre, organised the fifth 'Days of Indian Culture' in Zagreb from 25 April to 10 May 2013. The theme for this year was '100 Years of Indian Cinema'. A 3-member Croatian writers' delegation paid a return visit to India, hosted by the Sahitya Akademi from 16-23 September 2013.

Cyprus

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs visited Cyprus from 10-13 April, 2013. During her visit, discussions were held with President Nicos Anastasiades, Chairman of the Cyprus-India Friendship Group in the Cyprus House of Representatives, Mr.Averof Neophytou and Foreign Minister Mr.Ioannis Kasoulides on bilateral, regional and international issues. UN reforms and India's candidature for permanent membership of the UNSC were also subjects of discussion.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Mr.Ioannis Kasoulides visited India to attend the ASEM FMM-11 held in New Delhi on 10-12 November 2013. During his visit, the Cyprus Foreign

Minister met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid on 10 November 2013.

A delegation from Cyprus, led by the Director of Department of Inland Revenue, Mr. George Poufous visited India during 26-27 November 2013 for negotiation on amendment/protocol of the India-Cyprus Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).

Czech Republic

Mr. Martin Kuba, Minister of Trade and Industry visited India to attend India Engineering Sourcing Show-2013 in Mumbai on 11-15 March 2013. He was accompanied by an official and business delegation and had meetings with Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma, and Minister of Coal Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, among others.

Dr. Jaroslav Vacek, Director, Institute of South and Central Asian Studies in Charles University, Prague received the 'Presidential Award for Classical Tamil' for year 2009-2010 from the President of India on 9 October 2013 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The 6th round of Foreign Office Consultations was held in Prague on 2 May 2013.

Mr Jan Kohout, Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic visited India from 6-11 November 2013, to attend the ASEM FMM 11 held in New Delhi from 10-12 November 2013. He met with External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister for Heavy Industries Shri Praful Patel and Minister of Industry and Commerce Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Culture Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch, and Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Shri Manish Tiwari. He also met with important dignitaries of Association of Indian Movie Producers with a view to strengthening of cooperation between India and the Czech Republic in the sector of film industry.

A Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) delegation visited Czech Republic from 9-13 September 2013 for finalizing and signing of agreement on Cryptography course at Masaryk University. 13 officers from DRDO, including one officer from Indian Navy, attended the course on 'Short Term Intensive Course in Information and Communication Technology (ICT)' from 22 September to 20 December 2013 at Masaryk University. The course was conducted based on the cooperation agreement between DRDO and Masaryk University.

Secretary (Textiles), Ms. Zohra Chatterji visited the Czech Republic from 16-21 September 2013 and had meetings at the Technical University of Liberec for cooperation in the field of textiles, technical textiles and jute.

A delegation consisting of 24 officers from the College of Defence Management visited Czech Republic from 27 October to 2 November 2013 as a part of International Strategic Management Tour.

The Czech Republic was made the Focus country in the India-Central Europe Business Forum (ICEBF) which was organized by the M.E.A. in collaboration with FICCI from 27-28 March 2014.

Denmark

India-Denmark relations continued to be affected by the non-extradition of Niels Holck, aka Kim Davy to India for his involvement in the Purulia Arms Dropping Case in 1995.

The Protocol amending the Convention between India and Denmark for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital was signed in Copenhagen on 10 October 2013 by Ambassador, Shri Niraj Srivastava and the Danish Tax Minister Mr. Holger K. Nielsen.

Estonia

Mr. Urmas Paet, Foreign Minister of Estonia visited India from 12-13 February, 2013 and had meetings with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister for Corporate Affairs and Shri G.K. Vasan, Minister for Shipping. During the visit Mr. Paet inaugurated the Estonian Embassy and attended a business seminar organized by the FICCI.

From India, Ministerial level visits to Estonia included the visits of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Corporate Affairs, Shri Sachin Pilot in April 2013, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Smt. Lakshmi Panabaka, from 14-16 June 2013 and Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan from 20-22 September, 2013.

From Estonia, Mr. Jaak Aaviksoo, Minister for Education and Research of Estonia visited India on 13-16 October 2013 to attend the Indian Conference on Cyber Security and Cyber Governance in New Delhi. During his visit, Mr. Aaviksoo signed an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Biotechnology. Justice Minister Mr. Hanno Pevkur visited India on 9-11

December, 2013 and attended the roundtable "E-governance and transparency – Experience Sharing" organised by the FICCI. Minister for Economy and Communications Mr. Juhan Parts visited India from 3-8 February 2014 and had a meeting with Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, and Law and Justice. The discussions focused on the court case of Estonian marines and IT co-operation. The two Ministers signed an agreement to increase academic and practical co-operation in IT, especially on e-governance and cloud computing that would allow Estonian companies to offer their products and services in public and private co-operation projects.

Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia Mr. Vaino Reinart, visited India to attend the ASEM FMM-11 held from 11-12 November, 2013.

Finland

Ms. Krista Kiuru, Minister for Housing and Communications visited India on 15-19 January 2013 and had meetings with Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs, and Mr. Sam Pitroda, Chairman of National Innovation Council of India.

Ms. Marja Risslakki, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Employment, accompanied by a big delegation, visited India from 15-19 April 2013 to participate in the Fourth Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM4) held in Delhi.

Finland launched its 'India Action Plan' in April 2013 to expand cooperation in various sectors and particularly in business sector.

Foreign Minister of Finland Dr. Erkki Tuomioja visited India on 5-7 May, 2013. During his visit, he had meetings with External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, and Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram, and Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs [Mos (PK)], Smt. Preneet Kaur, visited Finland from 10-12 June 2013, and met Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade, Mr. Alexander Stubb, State Secretary for Finance Ms. Tuire Santamaki-Vuori and Mr. Pertti Salolainen, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Finnish Parliament.

Smt. Lakshmi Panabaka, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas accompanied by a delegation from ONGC and

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. visited Finland on 11-14 June, 2013 and attended an Indo-Finnish Business seminar organized by Finpro where a large number of Finnish companies participated.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industries visited Finland on 17-19 June 2013. He addressed the Finnish Industry Roundtable, organized by Director General of Confederation of Finnish Industries, which was attended by fifteen leading Finnish companies, including Nokia, Siemens, ABB, Metso, among others.

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State for Environment and Forests visited Finland from 16-20 September 2013 to attend the 'Koli Forum 2013'. During her visit, the first Joint Working Group meeting on Clean Technologies and Waste Management was held in Helsinki.

Mr. Alexander Stubb, Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade of Finland visited India from 14-18 October 2013. Minister of International Development of Finland, Mr. Pekka Haavisto visited India to attend the ASEM FMM-11 held from 11-12 November 2013. Former Finnish President Ms Tarja Halonen attended the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2014 held from 6-8 February 2014.

An India Day was organized in the Finnish Parliament on 24 October 2013 for Members of Parliament to know about India's culture and other aspects including political and economic relations.

Greece

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs [Mos (PK)], Smt. Preneet Kaur, paid a visit to Greece from 30 January to 3 February 2013. Smt. Preneet Kaur and Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Kourkoulas signed a bilateral Agreement on Exemption for Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports at the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 1 February 2013.

Prasar Bharati CEO Mr. Jawahar Sircar visited Athens between 19-21 May 2013. He met Mr. Gikas Manalis, CEO of Hellenic Radio and Television (ERT) and discussed bilateral cooperation in broadcasting and exchange of audio-visual material for television.

The Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal visited Greece from 25-28 July 2013 on a study tour en route to attend the 51st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Canadian Regional Conference.

The Speaker of the Haryana Legislative Assembly, Shri Kuldeep Sharma visited Greece from 20-22 August 2013, on a study tour en route to attend the 59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at Johannesburg.

Minister of State for Human Resource Development Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Athens from 15-17 September 2013 to participate in the International Herald Tribune's series of Global Conversations entitled 'Democracy under Pressure'.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Kyriakos Gerontopoulos led a 3-member delegation to New Delhi to attend ASEM Foreign Minister's Meeting held on 11-12 November 2013.

A high-level 21-member delegation from the Uttar Pradesh Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association led by Shri Muhammad Azam Khan, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Urban Development, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, visited Athens on an official study tour from 16-18 January 2014.

Holy See

After the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI in February 2013, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was elected as the new Pope by the collegium of Cardinals. A delegation from India led by Prof. P.J. Kurien, Chairperson of Rajya Sabha including Shri Anto Antony, MP took part in the installation ceremonies of the new Pope held on 19 March 2013.

Hungary

Foreign Minister of Hungary, Dr. Janos Martonyi invited External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid, to address the Annual Conference of Hungarian Ambassadors held on 16 July 2013 in Budapest. He was the first Foreign Minister outside NATO and EU to be invited as the Chief Guest for this conference. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid also visited Balatonfured and was accorded a unique honour to plant a sapling at the same place where his maternal grand-father Dr. Zakir Hussain had planted a tree in 1968. During his stay, he met Prime Minister of Hungary Mr. Viktor Orban and discussed bilateral relations as well as preparations for his forthcoming visit to India.

Minister of Water Resources Shri Harish Rawat, led the Indian delegation and delivered a keynote address on 'Green Economy for Blue Water' at the Budapest Water Summit held from 8-11 October 2013.

Hungarian Prime Minister, Mr. Viktor Orban, accompanied

by a 100-strong business as well as an official delegation visited India on 16-18 October 2013. Apart from holding delegation level talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, he called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari and, Chairperson of UPA Smt. Sonia Gandhi. MoUs on Traditional Systems of Medicine, Cooperation in the field of Sports, Cooperation in the areas of Defensive Aspects of Microbiological and Radiological Detection and Protection and Cultural Exchange Programme for 2013-15 were signed. In addition, Letter of Intent on Revision of Air Services Agreement and Indo-Hungarian Strategic Research Fund (enhanced contribution of Euro 2 million each for 2014-17) were also signed. Mr. Orban delivered a keynote address at ICWA on 'Hungary and Europe in a Changing World'. He also addressed the meeting of Business Forum organized jointly by FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM in New Delhi as well as another Business Forum organized by CII in Mumbai. He also gave a presentation on Hungary at a meeting with Indian investors at the Mumbai Stock Exchange. The visit of the Hungarian PM, for its focused attention to economic content, was a major success and an important milestone in bilateral relations.

Dr. Janos Martonyi, Foreign Minister of Hungary visited India to attend ASEM Foreign Ministers' meeting held in New Delhi from 11-12 November, 2013. Dr. Martonyi met External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid, and discussed bilateral matters.

Apart from the visits, a number of Joint Working Groups also met prior to the Hungarian Prime Minister's visit during the year. These included (i) Indo-Hungarian Joint Defence Committee (ii) Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation and (iii) Joint Science and Technology Committee.

Iceland

President Mr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson of Iceland visited India from 31 March to 6 April 2013. During the visit, he inaugurated the Third Pole Environment (TPE) Conference on 1 April 2013. He called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and also met other Indian Ministers. A delegation led by Shri Milind Deora, Minister of State for Shipping visited Iceland in July 2013 at the invitation of Icelandic Minister of Interior, Shipping and Transport. A non-governmental initiative resulted in the first Arctic Circle conference being held on 13 October, 2013. Dr. Mihir Shah, Member Planning Commission attended the Conference. This conference brought together around 1000 participants and other

stakeholders from the Arctic states and those dealing with Arctic affairs under one roof. India Week was celebrated in Iceland from 20-25 August 2013 as part of Reykjavik Culture Night.

Latvia

India- Latvia bilateral relations touched a new high with the opening up of the Latvian Embassy in New Delhi in January 2014. The Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs visited India from 15-20 September 2013. He met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and Smt. Preneet Kaur, MoS(PK). The Agreement on Prevention of Double Taxation and Tax Evasion was signed during the visit. The Latvian Foreign Minister also attended the ASEM FMM-11 held in India on 11-12 November, 2013. Director General level Foreign Office Consultations were held in Riga in April 2013 to review bilateral cooperation. Latvia also participated in the India-Central Europe Business Forum (ICEBF) which was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with FICCI, from 27-28 March, 2014.

Lithuania

Foreign Office Consultations were held in Lithuania on 24 October 2013 when among other things, issues relating to bilateral political, trade and commerce, culture, education, exchange visits of political dignitaries, cooperation in multilateral fora such as UNSC, NSG, EU, and pending agreements were discussed. Lithuanian Foreign Minister, Mr. Linas Linkevicius, visited India to participate in the ASEM FMM 11 Summit on 11-12 November 2013 and met with EAM on the sidelines of the summit. During this meeting, short-stay visa waiver agreement for diplomatic passport holders with Lithuania was signed.

Macedonia

President of the Macedonian National Assembly Mr. Trajko Veljanoski led a Parliamentary delegation on an official visit to India during 5-8 March, 2013. During the visit, he met Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari, the Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar and Smt. Preneet Kaur, MoS(PK). The delegation also witnessed a joint session of the two houses of Parliament.

The Foreign Minister of Macedonia, Mr. Nikola Poposki visited India on 16-17 December 2013. During the visit, he met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid, Smt. Preneet Kaur, MoS(PK) and Minister of State for Commerce and

Industry Dr.E.M.Sudarsana Natchiappan and representatives of CII. An agreement on double taxation avoidance and an MoU on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry and the Directorate of the Diplomatic Academy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Macedonia was signed.

Malta

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur paid a four day official visit to Malta from 7-10 April, 2013. A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement aimed at providing yet another institutional framework and to facilitate greater trade and economic exchanges, was signed between the two countries during the visit.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. George W. Vella, participated in the ASEM FMM-11 held in New Delhi during 11-12 November, 2013 and met EAM on its sidelines. An Agreement for Waiver of Visas for Diplomatic passport holders was also signed during the visit.

DG level Foreign Office Consultations between India and Malta were held in New Delhi where the two sides took stock of bilateral relations on 31 October 2013.

'Days of India in Malta' were celebrated from 2-6 October 2013 that included performance by a 10-member Indian folk dance troupe, a film & food festival and an exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi.

Moldova

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur visited Moldova from 22-25 September 2013. During her visit, Smt Kaur met the President Mr. Nicolae Timofti, Prime Minister Mr. Iurie Leanca, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Mrs. Natalia Gherman, Minister of Health, Mr. Andrei Usatii, the Deputy Minister of Economy Mr.Dumitru Godaroja and Minister of Culture Ms. Monica Babuc.

Montenegro

There is considerable goodwill and feeling of friendship for India in Montenegro. Ambassador of India to Vienna who is concurrently accredited to Montenegro visited Montenegro on 18-20 April 2013. He called on Deputy Prime Ministers Mr. Duska Markovic, Mr. Vujica Lazovic and Mr. Rafet Hasovic. He presented his credentials to the President of Montenegro Mr. Filip Vujanovic on 27 May 2013.

Norway

The year saw several Ministerial and official bilateral visits. Deputy Minister of International development, Mr Arvinn Gadgil attended the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit in February 2013. During 2013-14, Joint Working Groups (JWGs) were held in the areas of environment on 29 May 2013 in Oslo; education on 15 May 2013 in Norway and again on 14 February 2014 in New Delhi; and maritime matters on 31 May, 2013 in Oslo.

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State for Environment and Forests visited Norway from 27-31 May 2013 to attend the 7th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Norway from 11-13 June 2013 and met his counterpart, the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Mr. Espen Barth Eide, who accompanied him for a two-day long visit to the Arctic region of Svalbard. During his visit, he called on Norwegian Prime Minister Mr. Jens Stolterberg and met Defence Minister Ms.Anne-Grethe Strom-Erichsen.

Mr. Borge Brende, Norwegian Foreign Minister visited India to attend the ASEM FMM held from 11-12 November, 2013 and also met External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma. Secretary of State for Defence of Norway, Mr. Oystein Bo visited India from 10-14 December, 2013. During the visit he met Minister of State(Defence), Shri Jitendra Singh, Deputy National Security Advisor, Mr. Nehchal Sandhu and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral D. K. Joshi.

Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission visited Oslo to attend a high level meeting on 'Energy and the Post-2015 Agenda' on 9 April 2013.

A delegation from Norwegian Government Pension Fund visited India during 9-12 April 2013 and had meetings with Finance Minister Shir P. Chidambaran and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

A delegation headed by Shri S.B. Singh, Advisor from Ministry of Shipping visited Norway from 28-31 May 2013 to attend the 3rd JWG meeting on Maritime Transport.

The 6th round of FOCs at DG level was held in New Delhi on 1 November 2013.

Shri V.S.Sampath, Chief Election Commissioner visited Norway from 5-10 September 2013 to observe the Parliamentary elections held on 9 September 2013.

Poland

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Ms. Preneet Kaur, visited Poland from 27-30 January, 2013. She met the Foreign Minister of Poland, Mr. Radoslaw Sikorski and discussed bilateral relations as well as other issues of mutual interest. A Protocol amending the Agreement between India and Poland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income was signed during the visit.

Shri Janardan Dwivedi, MP and eminent Hindi scholar, visited Poland from 21-24 June 2013. He delivered lectures in Warsaw and Wroclaw Universities on 'Indian Tradition & Modern vision'. Minister of Steel, Shri Beni Prasad Verma led a delegation to Poland from 27-31 October 2013 to explore opportunities between the two countries in areas of coal mining and technology.

Polish Foreign Minister Mr. Radoslaw Sikorski visited India to participate in the ASEM FMM-11 Summit from 11-12 November 2013 and met with External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid on the sidelines of the meeting. Bilateral and global issues, including the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Poland that falls in 2014 were discussed.

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of Environment and Forests, led a delegation to attend COP-19 in Warsaw in 10-14 November 2013.

The 7th meeting of the India-Poland Joint Working Group on Defence took place in New Delhi on 9-10 December 2013.

As part of the 60th anniversary celebrations, a Polish delegation visited India to participate in the "Energy Summit" in New Delhi in February 2014 and in the 5th Asian Mining Congress. A large business delegation from Poland took part in the 5th International Mining, Exploration, Mineral Processing Technologies, Metals & Machinery Exhibition held on 13-16 February 2014 at Kolkata. Poland was the Guest of Honour country at the New Delhi World Book Fair in February 2014. Poland also participated in Delhi Jazz Festival and Polish-Indian Museum Summit.

The inauguration of the conference "India and Poland- 60 years of diplomatic relations: legacy and ways forward," took place at the University of Warsaw on 6-7 March 2014. Addressing one of the panels, Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Ms. Katarzyna Kacperczyk emphasized cooperation between Poland and India, especially in the field of mining, energy, IT

and defence. A 6-member delegation from India attended the seminar.

Romania

India and Romania are celebrating 65 years of establishment of bilateral relations and several events have been organized to mark the event.

Mr. Titus Corlatean, Foreign Minister of Romania visited New Delhi on 7-8 March 2013. Mr. Corlatean called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid and a Joint Statement on 'Establishing Extensive Partnership' (with focus on high level visits, bilateral cooperation in the fields of S&T, Trade, Culture, Education, Multilateral cooperation- UNSC expansion etc) and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement were signed during his visit on 8 March 2013.

Mr. Titus Corlatean, Foreign Minister of Romania again visited New Delhi during 10-13 November 2013 for participation in 11th ASEM Foreign Minister's Meeting and also had a bilateral meeting with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid on the sidelines of ASEM.

Romania's Minister Delegate for SMEs, Tourism & Business Environment Ms. Maria Grapini visited India during 22-24 April, 2013. An MoU on Cooperation in the field of Textiles was signed.

A Textile delegation led by Joint Secretary (Exports), Ministry of Textiles visited Romania from 19-21 June 2013. Two MoUs for cooperation were finalized which are likely to be signed during the next JEC.

A 2-member delegation from Romania participated at India-Central Europe Business Forum, which was held at New Delhi from 27-28 March 2014 and made a presentation on business/investment opportunities in Romania.

An MoU for Cooperation in the field of IT was finalized.

Serbia

The highlight of the year was the standalone visit of Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs to Serbia from 18-21 November 2013. The visit signalled desire on both sides to take the historic relationship to a new level. In keeping with the special relationship, she was received very warmly by the top leadership of the country, including Mr. Tomislav Nikolic, the President of Serbia and Mr. Ivica Dacic, Prime Minister of Serbia. Foreign Minister Ivan Mrkic of Serbia and Smt Preneet Kaur officiated at the

commissioning of the first phase and soft launch of the second phase of IT Park at Indija on 20 November 2013. Two agreements (i) on WTO Accession of Serbia and (ii) 99 year lease for the Embassy Residence were signed during the visit.

A Serbian company "Agropanonka MTZ Finke" along with Mahindra & Mahindra India opened an assembly line for Mahindra tractors in Novi Sad in April 2013. Indian tractor manufacturer Sonalika signed an agreement with the Serbian company "FPM Agromehanika" from Boljevac in March 2013 for assembling of tractors. Usha Industries signed Letter of Intent for a JV for the exploration of Boron and export to India.

Embassy of India, Belgrade organized the visit of a high level delegation from Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) to participate in the CII Partnership Summit in Bangalore from 27-29 January 2014.

The Serbian defence industry led by state run company YugoImport SDPR and Sloboda arms factory participated in Defexpo from 6-9 February 2014 in New Delhi.

Indian Embassy in Belgrade launched the Indian Cultural Centre in Serbia on 27 September 2013. The Mission, in collaboration with the Museum of Yugoslav Film Archive (Kinoteka), organised a festival of Indian films "100 Years of Indian Cinema" from 17-22 September 2013.

Slovak Republic

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. Miroslav Lajcak visited India from 17-19 June 2013. He had meetings with the EAM Shri Salman Khurshid, Smt. Preneet Kaur, MoS(PK) and also called on the Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari and Defence Minister Shri A.K. Antony.

The 7th Session of the India-Slovakia Joint Economic Committee was held in Bratislava on 11-12 July 2013 following a gap of nearly seven years. The session was co-chaired by the Minister of State for Commerce, Dr.D. Purandeswari, and the Slovak State Secretary for Economy, Mr. Pavol Pavlis.

Dy. Prime Minister and Foreign and European Affairs Minister, Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, made a second visit to India during the year to participate in the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting from 11-12 November 2013.

Slovenia

The Minister for Economic Development and Technology, Mr. Radovan Zerav, visited India during 27-30 January, 2013 accompanied by a business delegation. They attended the CII Summit at Agra and also visited Kolkata.

An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, visited Slovenia during 26-30 May, 2013. The Speaker met the President and the Prime Minister apart from holding talks with her counterpart. The delegation also visited the towns of Bled and Brda, where she inaugurated the bust of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur attended the Bled Strategic Forum at Bled during 2-3 September 2013, where she was one of the Speakers at the main panel on 'A Changing Europe in a Changing World.' During the visit, she met the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Slovenia.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr. Karl Erjavec attended the 11th ASEM Foreign Minister's Meeting New Delhi, during 11-12 November 2013. On the sidelines, he met External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and discussed bilateral relations. The Agreement on Short-Stay Visa Waiver for Holders of Diplomatic Passports was signed after their bilateral meeting. An Agreement on code-sharing between Air India and Adria Airway of Slovenia and an MoU between Prasar Bharati and RTV-Slovenia for content sharing was also signed during the Slovenian leader's visit.

The eight session of India-Slovenia Joint Economic Committee Meeting was held in New Delhi on 17 July, 2013. Issues of mutual interest were discussed including cooperation in SMEs, financial & banking issues, S&T. The following sectors were identified as focus areas for cooperation: IT, tourism, power, film production, mining, travel facilitation as also cooperation between business chambers.

India and Slovenia held the 8th Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) in Ljubljana on 3-4 February, 2014. The FOC were held at the level of JS/DG.

Some of the major MoUs between Indian and Slovenian companies that were signed during the year included - MoU between Kolektor and CMC Commutators, Belgaum; MoU between Iskra Avtoelektrika and ROOTS, Coimbatore and MoU between the Indian company Orient Electricals and Slovenian company ETI Elektroelement.

A Commemorative birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Children's Day was celebrated at Dobrovo, in southern Slovenia on 14 November 2013.

The Embassy of India in Ljubljana held the "Days of India in Slovenia" festival 18-30 January 2014.

Sweden

Ministerial visits from Sweden to India include those of Mr. Jan Björklund, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education from 21-23 May 2013 and Mr. Peter Norman, Minister for Financial Markets from 11 October 2013. The Swedish Foreign Minister, Mr. Carl Bildt took part in the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi on 11-12 November 2013. He also met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid on the sidelines.

The other important visits from Sweden to India include those of State Secretary for Foreign Trade, Mr. Gunnar Oom, from 27-28 February 2013 and Mr. Daniel Johansson, State Secretary for Enterprise and Energy from 17-19 April 2013. Parliamentary contacts were strengthened with the visit of a 6-member multiparty delegation from the Parliamentary Friendship Group to India from 2-6 September 2013.

Ministerial visits from India to Sweden in 2013 include those of Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State (IC) for Corporate Affairs from 11-13 April 2013; Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of State for Power from 13-16 May 2013; Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare from 21-23 May 2013 and that of Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs from 12-14 June 2013. During these visits the Ministers discussed important areas of bilateral cooperation with Swedish Ministers.

Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) were held in Stockholm on 26 April 2013 which was led by Secretary (West), M.E.A. from the Indian side and by State Secretary, Mr. Frank Belfrage from the Swedish side. The bilateral Joint Committee on Science and Technology and the Joint Working Group on Defence met in New Delhi on 23-28 January 2013 and 24-25 October 2013 respectively.

A delegation to attend the first India-Sweden Cyber Dialogue from the Swedish ministry of Foreign Affairs visited New Delhi from 18-19 March 2014.

Switzerland

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry

addressed the gathering of Swiss business leaders at the Investment Round Table in Geneva in April 2013. He also had an interactive session with the representatives of Swiss industry and businesses. Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Youth Affairs & Sports led a delegation for discussions with International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne in May 2013 in the context of suspension of Indian Olympic Association (IOA). A delegation led by Capt. Ajay Singh Yadav, Power Minister, Haryana visited ABB facilities in Zurich in June 2013 in connection with the improvement of power supply in the State through Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd. (HVPNL).

Swiss Foreign Minister Mr. Didier Burkhalter participated at the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting at Gurgaon in November 2013.

A high level Indian delegation led by Minister of Finance Mr. Chidambaram and including Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Urban Development Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma and Minister of State (I/C) for Power Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia participated at various sessions at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting at Davos held from 22-25 January 2014. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Prithviraj Chavan also participated at the event.

The second Financial Dialogue between India and Switzerland was held in New Delhi on 12 June 2013.

A 2-member delegation from Enforcement Directorate, comprising of Mr. Samir Bajaj, Joint Director and Mr. A.C. Singh, Deputy Legal Adviser, visited Berne from 8-9 August 2013 for discussions with the Federal Department of Justice.

India-EFTA bilateral Trade and Investment agreement negotiations were held in Geneva and New Delhi during the year. The thirteenth round of negotiations was held in New Delhi from 25 November 2013 with the participation of delegates from Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The 150th Birth Centenary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda were held in the town of Saas Fee on 30 August 2013.

Turkey

Minister for New & Renewable Energy, Shri Farooq Abdullah, visited Turkey for bilateral meetings during 24-27 June 2013.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Turkey during 23-25 July 2013 for bilateral meetings at an invitation from the Turkish Foreign Minister. He also called on the Turkish President and the Prime Minister.

Other dignitaries who visited Turkey included the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, and the Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, both in August 2013.

President Shri Pranab Mukerjee visited Turkey during 5-7 October 2013 at an invitation from the President of Turkey. In a bid to strengthen the bilateral legislative framework, five inter-governmental agreements were signed during the visit, along with 6-agreements in the education sector.

The Turkish Minister of Science, Industry and Technology, Mr Nihat Ergun visited India to participate in the Partnership Summit from 27-29 January 2013.

An important area of political cooperation between Ankara and New Delhi is ensuring political stability in Afghanistan. Several Turkish and Indian scholars attended conferences and seminars held in India and Turkey during 2013.

India also participated in all the meetings of the Conference on Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Turkey and in other capitals, including in Astana, Kazakhstan.

India and Turkey held the Second Consultations on Central Asia on 11 December 2013 in New Delhi.

European Union

India and the European Union have completed fifty years of their engagement. The core of the relationship has been economic, in tune with the EU construct itself, but over the years and in particular following the coming into force of the Treaty of Lisbon and the creation of the European External Action Service, the political and security dimensions of the India-EU 'Strategic Partnership' have gained in significance. Enhancing educational, cultural and people-to-people contacts is a priority.

The EU is India's largest trading partner and one of its largest sources of foreign direct investment as well as cutting-edge technology. Negotiations to conclude a broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement continued during the year. Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma met EU Trade Commissioner Mr. Karel De Gucht on 15 April 2013 in Brussels to impart momentum to the process, and again in end May 2013 in Paris on the sidelines of the OECD meeting. The

Chief Negotiators have also been meeting frequently. Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma also met with EU Agriculture Commissioner Mr. Dacian Cioloş in April 2013.

Total bilateral trade with the EU amounted to US\$ 102,696.28 million in the period 2012-13 with exports worth US\$ 50,421.74 million and imports of US\$ 52,274.54 million. This was a decline of 8.08% as compared to total bilateral trade in the period 2011-12 when it amounted to US\$ 109,427.74 million.

An India-EU MoU on Competition was signed between the two sides on 21 November 2013 in New Delhi. Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Competition Mr. Joaquin Almunia and Chairman of the Competition Commission of India Shri Ashok Chawla inked the MoU which will facilitate exchange of information and strengthen cooperation in the area of competition law enforcement.

Cooperation in the field of Science & Technology is moving apace. A meeting of the Co-chairs of the India-EU/Member-States Group of Senior Officials (GSO) took place in Brussels on 17-18 June, 2013, followed by the first meeting of the GSO in Brussels on 8 October 2013 via video-conferencing. The ninth meeting of the S&T Steering Committee took place in Brussels on 9 October 2013. Water challenges, bio-economy, affordable health, IT and energy were identified as potential areas of cooperation. An India-EU Innovation Prize on Affordable and Inclusive Innovation has also been agreed as a symbol of the Indo-European research and innovation partnership launched at the India-EU Summit in February 2012.

The EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy Mr. Tonio Borg visited India on 10-13 April 2013 to discuss the EU's new regime on APIs, clinical trials, etc. The fifth meeting of the India-EU JWG on Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology took place at Brussels on 23-24 September 2013.

Secretary, Atomic Energy Commission attended the second Coordinating Committee Meeting under the 'Agreement for Cooperation between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of India in the Field of Fusion Energy Research' in Brussels on 25 November 2013.

The 7th India – EU Energy Panel meeting was held in Brussels on 27 March 2014. The Panel was co-chaired by Secretary (West), M.E.A. Representatives from Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

and Bureau of Energy Efficiency participated in the Panel. Earlier, the Joint Working Group on Clean Coal Technologies met on 17-19 June 2013 in Brussels and the JWG on Coal held its 8th meeting on 28 November 2013 in Chennai.

The Joint Working Group on Textiles and Clothing had its seventh meeting in Brussels on 28 May 2013. The sixth India-EU Joint Seminar on Employment & Social Policy was held at Brussels on 24-25 June 2013 on the theme of "Social Protection." The eighth round of the Joint Working Group on ICT took place in Brussels on 4 September 2013, and was preceded by an ICT Industry Business Dialogue on 3 September, 2013. A Digital Video Conference was held between the Central Statistical Office and Eurostat on 10 September 2013 at Luxembourg to discuss further development on the MoU signed in February 2012.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Baroness Ms. Catherine Ashton visited New Delhi for the ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting on 11-12 November 2013. She met NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon on the margins of the meeting.

The second India-EU Counter Piracy Dialogue was held in Brussels and at the EU Naval Force Headquarters at Northwood, UK on 9-10 September 2013. The eighth India-EU Ad-hoc Dialogue on Human Rights was held in New Delhi on 27 November 2013. The third India-EU Foreign Policy Consultations were held on 24 January 2014 in New Delhi.

Exchanges between the Indian and European Parliament (EP) continued during the year. Chairperson of the Delegation for Relations with India (D-IN) in the EP Mr. Graham Watson led a delegation of nine Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to India on 29 April to 3 May 2013. A delegation of six MEPs from the EP's Committee on International Trade also visited India on 28 October to 1 November 2013. From the Indian side, a delegation of 10 officers from the Lok Sabha Secretariat visited the European Parliament on 17-21 June 2013.

Following up on the Joint Declaration on Culture signed in December 2010, the first India-EU Policy Dialogue on Culture was launched in New Delhi on 18 April 2013 between Smt. Sangita Gairola, Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Mr. Jan Trzeczyński, Director General Education, Training, Culture and Youth, European Commission. An important area identified for future cooperation was sharing of expertise on the "Europeana Digital Platform" to help in the digitization of India's artistic wealth.

The second India-EU Senior Officials Meeting on Education and Multilingualism took place in Delhi on 17 April 2013 between Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Department of Higher Education and Director General, Education, Training, Culture and Youth, European Commission Mr. Jan Trzeczyński. Cooperation in the areas of mutual recognition of qualifications, curriculum development, university rankings and skills development were identified for future collaboration.

An 'India Evening' was organized at the European Commission Headquarters at Berlaymont in Brussels on 9 April 2013 showcasing inter alia an exhibition of figurative Indian art entitled 'Kalpana.' The event was inaugurated by Ambassador of India Shri Dinkar Khullar and Executive Secretary General of the European External Action Service Mr. Pierre Vimont.

The President of the European Council Mr. Herman Van Rompuy addressed the gathering at the opening ceremony of the Europol India festival which was jointly inaugurated on 4 October 2013 by President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and King Philippe, King of the Belgians. European Commission President Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso inaugurated the second major exhibition of the festival entitled 'Indomania' on 15 October 2013.

West Europe

Andorra

Issues pertaining to bilateral relations with Andorra were discussed in consultations held during Additional Secretary (EW), M.E.A.'s call on Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra Mr. Gilbert Saboya Sunye on 31 March 2014.

Belgium

The President of India paid a State visit to Belgium from 2-5 October 2013 at the invitation of the King of the Belgians. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee held discussions with King Philippe, King of the Belgians and Prime Minister Mr. Elio di Rupo on issues of mutual interest pertaining to our bilateral relations. Five MoUs were signed between universities of India and Belgium with a view to giving an impetus to research and innovation in both countries. This was the first ever visit by an Indian President to Belgium. During the visit, the President jointly inaugurated 'Europol India' Festival with the King of the Belgians. The festival, co-sponsored by ICCR will

showcase Indian art and antiquity, music and dance, cinema, theatre, literature, philosophy and cuisine at multiple venues in Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid paid a bilateral visit to Brussels on 30-31 January 2013 during which he met the Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Mr. Didier Reynders.

Princess Astrid, sister of the King of the Belgians, led an economic mission to India on 23-30 November 2013. She was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Mr. Didier Reynders and Minister- President of Flanders region Mr. Kris Peeters. The delegation held talks with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid on 25 November, 2013 during which issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The 13th Economic Joint Commission Meeting between India and Belgium and Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) took place in Brussels on 1-2 July 2013. Both sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation in areas such as transport, infrastructure, higher education, science & technology, customs and measures to diversify bilateral trade. The Joint Commission has set a trade target of € 15 billion by 2015 for trade between India and Belgium.

The 3rd Meeting of the India-Belgium Joint Committee on Science and Technology was held in Brussels on 27-28 May 2013.

An India House for promoting cultural ties with India has been set up at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) in collaboration with Leuven town authorities. This was inaugurated on 5 October 2013 by President of ICCR, Dr. Karan Singh. An MoU was also signed between ICCR and the University of Leuven to establish a Chair on Modern Indian Studies.

Annual bilateral trade with Belgium for the year 2012-13 was US \$ 15,554.17 million with exports amounting to US \$ 5,507.30 million and imports worth US \$ 10,046.87 million. Cumulative FDI inflows from Belgium over the period April 2000 to July 2013 were US\$ 492.23 million.

France

Since the establishment of strategic partnership in 1998, there has been significant progress in all areas of bilateral cooperation with France through regular high level exchanges and growing cooperation in areas of defence, nuclear energy and space. France has consistently supported India's increasing

role in international fora.

The traditionally close and friendly relations between India and France were further strengthened by the visit of President Mr. Francois Hollande to India on 14-15 February 2013. President Hollande met Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 14 February, 2013. Four agreements were signed relating to culture, space cooperation, railways and education.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Paris on 10-11 January 2013 to prepare for President Hollande's visit to India in February 2013. Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch, Minister of Culture was on a two-day official visit to France on 3-5 April 2013. Shri P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister visited Paris on 17 May 2013. Shri Ajit Singh, Minister for Civil Aviation visited during 16-19 June 2013 for the inauguration of the 50th Paris International Air Show and for bilateral discussions.

Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Urban Development visited Paris during 26-27 June 2013 to participate at the Mouvement des Entreprises de France (MEDEF) International Business Roundtable. Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce & Industry Minister (CIM) led a four member delegation to Paris during 8 & 9 July 2013 and attended the 6th India-France CEO Forum meeting. During the visit, he met French Minister for Foreign Trade.

Minister of State for Environment & Forest Smt. Jayanti Natrajan participated in the Marine Protected Area Congress and Ajaccio Ministerial Conference on Ocean Conservation and had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Philippe Martin, French Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development and Energy on 26 October 2013.

France and India have a Strategic Dialogue at the level of National Security Advisors which provides both sides an opportunity to review key elements of the bilateral agenda between India and France and particularly the overall global security situation and emerging challenges. Diplomatic Advisor to President Mr. Paul Jean-Ortiz met National Security Advisor, Shri Shivshankar Menon in New Delhi on 12 July 2013. The last round of the Dialogue was held in Paris on 30 January 2014.

Annual Foreign Office Consultations, at the level of Foreign Secretaries took place in Paris on 17 June 2013. First round of the India-France Cyber Dialogue was held in Paris on 24 May 2013.

To strengthen commercial and technical cooperation between India and France, representatives of Directorate General of

Civil Aviation (DGCA) India and Direction Generale de l'Aviation Civile (DGCS) France met on 2 April, 2013 in Paris and 3 April, 2013 in Toulouse to hold the Third Steering Committee Meeting on Civil Aviation. The first meeting of the India-France Joint Working Group on Sustainable Urban Development was held in Paris on 20 September, 2013. The 9th Meeting of India-France Joint Working Group on Information Technology was held in Paris on 15 October 2013.

India-France commenced a new Annual Economic and Financial dialogue between their Ministries of Finance. The first such dialogue was held in Paris on 29 October 2013.

France is ranked fifth in the list of India's trading partners among EU countries (after Germany, Belgium, UK and Netherlands). Total bilateral trade for the period 2012-13 was US\$ 9,638.39 million with exports amounting to US\$ 4,986.03 million and imports worth US\$ 4,652.36 million. India had a trade surplus of US\$ 333.66 million. France is the ninth largest foreign investor in India with cumulative FDI inflows of US\$ 3,685.37 million over the period April 2000 to July 2013 which represents 2% of total FDI equity inflows into India for the period.

During the Science Seminar and Technology workshop in Bangalore in February 2013 discussions continued on joint collaborative efforts. India's advanced weather satellite INSAT-3D was launched on 25 July 2013 and India's advanced communication satellite GSAT-7 was launched on 29 August 2013 on board the Ariane launch vehicle from Kourou, French Guyana.

Defence cooperation is one of the principal elements of the strategic partnership between the two countries. General Bikram Singh, the Chief of Army Staff came on a good will visit to France from 27 to 30 May 2013. In the month of October 2013 there were service to service staff talks, Military sub committee meeting, and meeting of the sub committee on Defence industry, procurement and Research & Technology where ongoing cooperation was reviewed and discussion was held on possible future areas of cooperation.

An annexe to Maison de L'Inde in Cite Internationale de Universite de Paris, with 72 additional rooms for Indian students and scholars was completed on 31 October 2013. During the visit of President Hollande to India in February 2013, a number of MoUs/Letters of Intent were signed between Indian and French Institutes in the field of science & technology and education. The Scientific Council and Industrial Research Committee meeting of the Centre for

Promotion of Advance Research (CEFIPRA) was held at Grenoble, France in May 2013. Raman Charpak fellowship jointly funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and French Embassy was launched in April 2013 by CEFIPRA to promote PhD and post Doctorate students.

The Centenary of Indian cinema was celebrated in a big way by a large number of film festivals in France who dedicated full thematic festivals to Indian cinema, including the Cannes International Film Festival. On the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekanand, Mission organized Dr. Karan Singh's lecture on the 'Universal Message of Swami Vivekanand' in association with UNESCO and Ramakrishna Mission.

Agreement on Mutual exemption for Short-Stay Visas for Diplomatic Passport holders was signed during the visit of Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai on 17 June 2013 in Paris with his counterpart Secretary General Mr. Pierre Sellal.

Germany

Bilateral relations between India and Germany continued to expand rapidly, with growing multi-faceted cooperation. The highlight of the year was the 2nd round of Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) which was held in Berlin on 11 April, 2013. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation; he was accompanied by five senior Cabinet Ministers –External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid; Minister of New and Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Minister of Science and Technology Shri S.Jaipal Reddy; Minister of Commerce, Industry & Textiles Shri Anand Sharma; and Minister of Human Resource Development Shri M.M.Pallam Raju. Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel led the German side, accompanied by five key Cabinet Ministers and three Ministers of State.

In addition to discussions on accelerating the momentum in bilateral relations, six important Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) in the fields of agriculture, higher education, science & technology and renewable energy were signed during the 2nd IGC. Another ten MoUs in the fields of vocational education & training, railways, S&T and renewable energy were signed on the side-lines. Earlier, EAM Shri Salman Khurshid visited Germany on 27-29 January 2013 to prepare for the IGC. During the visit, he called on Chancellor Merkel and held wide ranging consultations with the then German Foreign Minister Mr. Guido Westerwelle.

President of Germany Mr. Joachim Gauck paid a State visit to India on 4-9 February 2014 at the invitation of the President.

He was accompanied by a high level delegation including Ministers, Member of Parliament and business leaders. President Gauck held wide-ranging discussions with President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and PM Dr. Manmohan Singh on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. The two sides signed annual umbrella agreements on bilateral developmental financial and technical cooperation on the sidelines of the visit.

Advisor on Foreign and Security Policy to German Chancellor Dr. Christoph Heusgen visited New Delhi on 1 January, 2014 and held consultations with NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon. NSA visited Munich to attend the 50th Munich Security Conference on 31 January to 2 February 2014 during which he also held discussions with Dr. Heusgen.

A year-long festival, 'Days of India in Germany', marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, was celebrated during the year 2012-2013. The festival was formally closed on 11 April 2013 in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Foreign Minister of Germany Mr. Guido Westerwelle was the guest of honour at the closing ceremony attended by a cross-section of German public including politicians, diplomats, executives, academics, and PIOs.

Foreign Office Consultations were held in Berlin on 9 September 2013.

During the 2nd round of Intergovernmental Consultations in Berlin, it was agreed to set up a High Technology partnership Group (HTPG), with the aim of promoting high-tech trade between India and Germany. The first meeting of HTPG was held in Berlin on 9 September 2013 with the Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh and the German Delegation by State Secretary Dr. Harald Braun. A working group meeting of the HTPG was also held on 5 March 2014 in Berlin. This was preceded by bilateral disarmament, arms control, non proliferation and export control talks on 4 March 2014.

Pursuant to the Joint Declaration of Intent on Development of Seeds signed during the second IGC in April 2013 between Ministry of Agriculture and German Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, a German seeds delegation visited India on 1-7 December 2013 during which three areas of cooperation were identified, viz. (i) plant variety protection; (ii) conservation and use of genetic resources; and (iii) seed legislation.

The first meeting of the Indo-German Joint Working Group on Quality Infrastructure was held in New Delhi on 12-13

December 2013 as a follow up to the Joint Declaration of Intent signed during the second IGC in April 2013 on Quality Infrastructure for Cooperation in Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Product Safety.

Germany is the largest trading partner of India in the EU. Indo-German bilateral trade had registered an increase of 26.29% in 2011-12 and reached US\$ 23,543.93 million. However, the global economic slowdown impacted the trade between the two countries in 2012-13 and it declined by 8.38% to amount to US\$ 21,571.99 million (exports – US\$ 7,246.20 million; imports – US\$ 14,325.79 million).

Germany is the eighth largest foreign direct investor in India. During the period April 2000 to July 2013, cumulative FDI inflows from Germany have been to the tune of US\$ 5,998.45 million. Germany is also a crucial source of technological know-how in several sectors.

A Parliamentary delegation led by Vice President of Bundestag Dr. Hermann Otto Solms visited India on 28 March to 7 April 2013.

German Federal Minister of Health Mr. Daniel Bahr led a 15-member delegation comprising Members of Parliament, senior Government officials and industry representatives to India from 27–30 April 2013 to strengthen relations between India and Germany in the health sector with focus on health insurance and medical technology.

Minister of State for Power Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia visited Berlin on 12-13 May 2013. He had discussions with Germany's Minister of State for Economic Co-operation & Development Ms. Gudrun Kopp on the implementation of the Joint Declaration of Intent on Establishment of Green Energy Corridors concluded during the April 2013 Inter-Governmental Consultations.

Prime Minister's Special Envoy Shri S. K. Lambah visited Berlin on 13-15 May 2013 to participate in the meeting of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan organised by the German Foreign Office.

The Annual Summit of the International Transport Forum was held in Leipzig on 2-4 May 2013. Member, Planning Commission Shri B. K. Chaturvedi and Adviser, Planning Commission Shri Manoj Singh participated in the Summit.

Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Shri Praful Patel, visited Frankfurt on 12–13 September 2013. He inaugurated the India Day at the 65th International Motor Show in Frankfurt.

A delegation of Members of Parliament led by Shri Yashwant Sinha (BJP), MP, Lok Sabha visited Berlin, Stuttgart and Frankfurt on 8–14 September 2013. The delegation was hosted by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, a political foundation affiliated to SPD. The theme of the visit was “The Economy of Tomorrow- towards a New Model of Sustainable and Inclusive Growth”. The delegation met a number of interlocutors from Germany. Other members of the delegation were Shri Vivek Gupta (TMC), Shri Jayaprakash Hegde (INC), Dr. Ajoy Kumar (JVM) and Shri Shivkumar Udasi (BJP).

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh transited through Frankfurt on 25–26 September 2013 and on 30 September to 1 October 2013, on his way, to and from USA, for a bilateral visit and to attend the UNGA session in New York. He had a telephonic conversation with Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel on 25 September 2013 and congratulated her on victory of the CDU/CSU in the Federal elections held on 22 September 2013.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid met his counterpart Mr. Guido Westerwelle on 26 September 2013 on the side-lines of UNGA, in New York. Issues of bilateral, multilateral, trade and economic importance were discussed.

Minister for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries Shri Sharad Pawar visited the Anuga Food Fair 2013 held in Cologne, on 5-8 October 2013. Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industry Shri Tariq Anwar visited Berlin on 16-18 January 2014 to participate in the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) and the sixth Berlin Agriculture Ministers’ Summit 2014.

Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari transited Frankfurt on 25-26 October 2013 on way to Peru. Foreign Minister Mr. Guido Westerwelle visited India for the 11th ASEM Foreign Minister’s Meeting:” on 11-12 November 2013. He met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid on the margins of the ASEM Ministerial.

The 22nd meeting of the Indo-German Consultative Group was held in New Delhi on 7-10 November 2013. IGCG is a forum for track II dialogue between India and Germany which meets annually and makes recommendations based on its deliberations for the further strengthening of bilateral relations.

Science & Technology cooperation has been an important pillar of Indo-German relationship. Indo-German Science & Technology Centre is progressing well and both governments have decided to extend the cooperation till 2017, with equal

annual contribution of €2 million from each side. Department of Science & Technology is actively engaged in utilizing the Beamline at the PETRA/FLASH facility at Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron (DESY), Hamburg. Facility for Anti-Proton and Ion Research at Darmstadt is also an example of flourishing Indo-German cooperation in pure science. A number of symposia and interactions happened at institutional level during this period.

The following short-term Chairs at German Universities were operationalized during the year: (i) Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz (ii) Eberhard Karls University, Tuebingen and (c) Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg. ICCR established a long-term Chair on Corporate Responsibility and Governance at Leipzig Graduate School of Management (HHL). The Gisela-Bonn Award for 2013 was conferred upon Dr. Arndt Michael for his outstanding contribution towards creating a better understanding of India in Germany and deepening Indo-German relations through his prominent writings about India’s role in contemporary world. The 8th meeting of Indo-German Defence Technical Cooperation Sub Group (DTSG) was held in New Delhi on 14-15 May 2013.

Ireland

Irish Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Ms. Frances Fitzgerald visited India in March 2013 on the occasion of St Patrick’s Day. Minister of State for European Affairs Mr. Paschal Donohoe visited India in November 2013 to attend the ASEM Foreign Ministerial Meeting. During his visit, he also met Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur on 11 November 2013 and held discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues.

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Mr. Richard Bruton led a large Business and Education delegation to India. During the visit, he had wide ranging discussions with Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma.

Two scientists from Department of Electronics and Information Technology visited Dublin on 19-20 September 2013 to finalise joint R&D projects in Pervasive Communications and Computing, Green Communication Technologies etc with the Dublin City University.

Bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 883.85 million during the period 2012-13 (exports – US\$ 386.69 million; imports – US\$ 497.15 million). Cumulative FDI inflows from Ireland over the period April 2000 to July 2013 amounted to US\$ 301.55 million.

Italy

Bilateral relations between India and Italy remained cordial and friendly. Investigation and judicial proceedings surrounding the Enrica Lexie incident of 15 February 2012 in which two Italian marines allegedly opened fire on an Indian fishing vessel off the coast of Kerala resulting in the death of two Indian fishermen, remained in focus. The two sides continued to consult each other, including to address the negative public fall out associated with the issue.

Union Agriculture and Food Processing Minister Shri Sharad Pawar led the Indian delegation to the 38th session of the FAO Conference in Rome on 15-22 June 2013.

Union Health Minister Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad participated in the 50th meeting of the CODEX Alimentarius held in Rome on 1-5 July 2013.

Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Prof. K.V. Thomas participated in the 40th session of Committee on Food Security, FAO held in Rome on 7-11 October 2013.

In April 2013, the Italian Institute for Conservation and Restoration (ISCR) of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities presented in Rome the publication of a bilingual volume titled 'Painted Ajanta-Studies on the techniques and the conservation of the Indian rock art site'. The volume focuses on the work carried out in India in the framework of the 'MoU on Cooperation for the Conservation of the Paintings of the Ajanta and Ellora Caves' between India and Italy.

As part of the centenary celebrations of Indian cinema, a retrospective on Indian cinema was organized on 16 August 2013 within the framework of the "Isola del Cinema" film festival.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, a seminar entitled 'Between Ethics and Politics: Gandhi Today' was organized at LUISS University in Rome involving leading academicians from various reputed universities in Rome and deliberating on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi.

Bilateral trade during the period 2012-13 was US\$ 9,083.87 million (exports – US\$ 4,372.61 million; imports – US\$ 4,711.27 million). This was a decline of 9.2% over the previous year 2011-12 when bilateral trade stood at US\$ 10,004.78 million. Cumulative FDI inflows from Italy for the period April 2000 to July 2013 amounted to US\$ 1,224.25 million.

Liechtenstein

An Agreement between India and Liechtenstein on the Exchange of Information on Tax Matters was signed in Berne on 29 March 2013.

The Head of State of the Principality of Liechtenstein Reigning Prince Hans Adam II, along with the acting Head of State Hereditary Prince Alois, paid a private visit (to participate at the Board meeting of M/s Rice Tec AG in Gurgaon) to India from 13-19 October 2013.

Luxembourg

The 13th Economic Joint Commission Meeting between India, Belgium and Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) took place in Brussels on 1-2 July 2013. During the meeting India and Luxembourg discussed ways to enhance cooperation in trade and investment and set a trade target of € 200 million by 2015.

The total annual trade between India and Luxembourg in 2012-13 was US \$ 56.29 million with India's imports from Luxembourg at US \$ 48.09 million and exports worth US \$ 8.20 million. FDI inflows from Luxembourg to India between April 2000 and July 2013 were US \$ 489.06 million.

The Netherlands

The two countries explored possibilities of working together in diverse fields such as water management, infrastructure and logistics including ports and highways, water transportation, ICT, biotechnology, agriculture, agro-processing, dairy farming, horticulture, floriculture, creative and design industry. Trade and investment cooperation, a key component of the India-Netherlands relationship, showed satisfactory growth. Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 12,944.11 million in 2012-13 with exports worth US\$ 10,565.02 million and imports amounting to US\$ 2,379.09 million. This was an increase of 9.98% over 2011-12. Netherlands is the sixth largest source of FDI inflows. Over the period April 2000-July 2013, cumulative inflows from Netherlands amounted to US\$ 9,485.53 million.

During the period, following Ministerial level exchanges took place between the two countries:

- (i) Minister for Urban Development & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Kamal Nath (13-14 May 2013): An MoU on Technical Cooperation in the field of "Spatial Planning, Water Management and Mobility Management" was signed.

- (ii) Minister for Communications & Information Technology and Law & Justice Shri Kapil Sibal (19-21 June 2013).
- (iii) Minister of State (IC) for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Jitendra Singh (27-28 June 2013).
- (iv) Minister of State (Shipping) Shri Milind Deora (22-24 July 2013).
- (v) Minister of Agriculture, State Government of Kerala Shri K. P. Mohanan (25-28 July 2013);
- (vi) Visit of Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Ms. Lilianne Ploumen to India (2-5 September 2013).
- (vii) Visit of Dutch Foreign Minister Mr. Frans Timmermans for the ASEM Foreign Ministerial Meeting (11-12 November 2013). He met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid on the margins of the ASEM Ministerial.
- (viii) Visit of Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports Ms. Edith Schippers to India (29-31 January 2014).

Geospatial World Forum was held at Rotterdam on 13-16 May 2013. Senior-level officials from the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and Department of Space as well as representatives from the private sector took part in the Forum.

The ceremony for launching and naming of the dredger DCI DREDGE – XXI built by IHC Holland for Dredging Corporation of India was held at Kinderdijk on 8 August 2013. This was the third dredger built by IHC Holland for Dredging Corporation of India. Earlier two dredgers in this series were launched in November 2012 and February 2013 respectively.

The annual Indian Diaspora Conference with the theme “The Rise of Indian Diaspora in Europe” was held on 29 September, 2013 at the Louwman Museum in The Hague.

During the visit of Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports Ms. Edith Schippers to India on 29-31 January 2014 two MoUs on Cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Public Health and on Technical Cooperation in the Field of the Development of Sports infrastructure were concluded.

A delegation of Uttar Pradesh Branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association led by Speaker of the UP Legislative

Assembly visited Netherlands on a study tour on 11-13 January 2014.

Bilateral political director - level consultations between the foreign offices of the two sides were held in The Hague on 14 March 2014.

A delegation led by External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid participated at the Third Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague on 24-25 March 2014. On the margins of the Summit, EAM called on Queen Maxima and met Dutch Foreign Minister Mr. Frans Timmermans on 25 March, 2014.

Portugal

Portuguese Foreign Minister Mr. Paulo Portas and Secretary of State for Culture Mr. Jorge Barreto Xavier visited India on 3-7 March 2013. He had meetings with EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma. He also signed a bilateral Social Security Agreement with Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi.

The Foreign Minister of Portugal Mr. Rui Machete visited New Delhi for the ASEM Foreign Ministerial Meeting on 11-12 November 2013. He met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid on the sidelines of the ASEM meeting.

A National Defence College delegation comprising of 18 officers visited Portugal on 19-25 May 2013 as part of Foreign Country Study Tour. Their visit was hosted by the Portuguese Ministry of Defence.

A protocol of cooperation between the National Archives of India and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Portugal was signed in the field of archives on 11 March 2014 at New Delhi on the Foundation Day celebration of the National Archives of India.

India-Portugal bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 906.67 million with exports worth US\$ 528.46 million and imports of US\$ 378.21 million.

San Marino

India and San Marino signed on 19 December 2013 a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) in Rome which is expected to further strengthen tax cooperation between India and San Marino.

Spain

Chief of Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal N.A.K Browne paid an official visit to Spain on 7-12 April, 2013 at the invitation of the Spanish Chief of Air Staff.

A 17-member delegation comprising of officials of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), visited state of the art Spanish bio-tech centers and facilities in Madrid and Barcelona on 20-22 May, 2013 under an on-going programme of cooperation with the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI), Spain.

A delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) visited Madrid on 5-6 September, 2013 to discuss possibilities of bilateral cooperation including in the fields of water desalination/purification and city waste management.

A statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen of Spain on 2 October, 2013 on the occasion of International Day of Non-Violence.

Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Gonzalo de Benito visited India to attend the ASEM Foreign Ministerial Meeting on 11-12 November 2013.

Chief Minister of Catalonia (Spain) Mr. Artur Mas accompanied by a business delegation visited India (New Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru) on 23-29 November 2013. The visit focused on enhancing trade and investment relations between India and the region of Catalonia in Spain.

A delegation led by the Agriculture Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Shri Ghulam Hassan Mir visited Spain on 13-18 December 2013 under the National Saffron Mission Programme and visited Saffron fields in Albacete.

Bilateral Foreign Office Consultations were held with Spain in Madrid on 28 March 2014 during which the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as international and regional issues were discussed.

Bilateral trade between India and Spain for the year 2012-13 was US\$ 4681.41 million (exports – US\$ 2,865.75 million; imports – US \$ 1,815.66 million). This was a drop of 2.65% over the figures for 2011-12 which stood at US \$ 4,809.06 million. Cumulative FDI inflows from Spain over the period April 2000-July 2013 amounted to US\$ 1,578.52 million. Setting up of joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions continued to take place between Indian and Spanish firms in sectors such as auto components, power and renewable energy.

The fifth consecutive Apparel Buyer -Seller meet organized in Spain (Madrid and Barcelona) by the Apparel and Export

Promotion Council (AEPC) on 19-24 September 2013 reportedly generated business worth US\$ 24 million in a span of four days.

Cultural exchanges continued to contribute to further strengthening of bilateral ties. Spanish translation of Indian Constitution was released on 16 December 2013 at the Centre for Political Studies and Constitutions in Madrid. In the sphere of Education, seven scholarships were granted to Spanish nationals for the academic year 2013-14 through ICCR under the India-Spain Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP).

United Kingdom

India's multi-faceted bilateral relationship with the UK continued to strengthen. Prime Minister Mr. David Cameron visited India on 18-20 February 2013 and on 13-14 November 2013. During the February 2013 visit, Prime Minister Cameron was accompanied by the largest British trade delegation ever to visit India. His delegation comprised Ministers, Members of Parliament, university Vice-Chancellors and leaders of the India-UK CEO Forum. Bilateral talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh were held on 19 February 2013. A joint statement was issued which emphasized that while substantial progress had been made since the India-UK Summit of May 2010, there was considerable potential for further expanding the relationship, particularly in trade and investment. During his working visit to India in November 2013, Prime Minister Cameron held talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on bilateral, regional and international issues. He also paid a short visit to Kolkata on 14 November 2013 where he met Chief Minister, West Bengal and interacted with students of IIM, Kolkata.

Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall visited India on 6-14 November 2013. Prince of Wales called on the President on 8 November 2013. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest pertaining to India-UK bilateral relations as well as issues of global interest.

Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited the UK on 31 October to 1 November 2013. He delivered a public lecture on "Identity and Citizenship" at Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar visited UK on 9-11 October 2013 to deliver a lecture at the University of Cambridge.

There was a regular exchange of visits throughout the period. Important visits from India included:

- Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma on 6-10 February 2013 for investment promotion, on 22-25 June, 2013 to review bilateral trade and investment and to take part in investment promotion events, and on 17 September, 2013 to inaugurate the London Office of the Export & Credit Guarantee Corporation of India.

- Minister for Culture Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch on 31 March to 2 April, 2013 to inaugurate the Tagore Centre for Global Thought at India Institute, King's College.

- Minister of New & Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abullah on 17 April, 2013 to represent India at the ceremonial funeral of Baroness Margaret Thatcher.

- Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram for the sixth Economic and Financial Dialogue on 15-17 May, 2013.

- External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid on 13-16 June, 2013 to deliver a lecture at Oxford University on "India

- A Political Economy for the 21st century".

- Minister for Minority Affairs Shri K. Rahman Khan on 16-19 June, 2013

- Minister of State for Defence Shri Jitendra Singh on 9-11 September, 2013

- Minister of State for Power Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia on 13-16 September, 2013 for Roundtable discussions with UK power sector companies seeking investment.

- External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid met Foreign Secretary Mr. William Hague on 16 November, 2013 on the margins of CHOGM 2013 in Colombo.

- External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid on 12-14 March, 2014 for annual Foreign Minister level consultations with UK Foreign Secretary William Hague and for participating at the 43rd Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) meeting. During the visit, EAM interacted with India-UK All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) and delivered a lecture at the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London on "Challenges of Democracy in India." (A bilateral dialogue on UN multilateral and West Asia issues was also held on the margins).

- National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon visited London on 2-3 February 2014 for the India-UK Strategic Dialogue.

From the UK side, the visits included:

- Cabinet Minister without portfolio in the PM's Office Mr. Kenneth Clarke along with a delegation of pharmaceutical companies on 4-7 May 2013.

- Cabinet Minister responsible for Government Strategy & a Senior Advisor to UK Prime Minister Mr. Oliver Letwin in May, September and November 2013.

- Minister for Energy & Climate Mr. Gregory Barker on 30 June to 3 July 2013.

- Minister of State for Trade and Investment Lord Stephen Keith Green on 19-21 September 2013.

- Minister for External Affairs and International Development of Scotland Mr. Humza Yousaf on 10-16 October 2013. His visit coincided with the arrival of the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay for the 2014 Commonwealth Games to be held in the Scottish city of Glasgow.

- Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills Dr. Vince Cable visited India for the 9th India-UK Joint Economic Committee meeting (JETCO) held in New Delhi on 9 December 2013.

- Regular Foreign Office Consultations are held with the UK. The last round of these consultations was held in London on 19 June 2013. The Indian delegation was led by the Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai and the UK delegation was led by Permanent Under Secretary Simon Fraser.

- The 15th meeting of the India-UK Round Table was held in New Delhi on 6-8 December 2013. The Round Table is a high level, non-Governmental group which meets to deliberate and make recommendations for further strengthening of bilateral relations.

- The first meeting of India-UK Joint Working Group on Afghanistan established during the visit of PM David Cameron to India in February 2013 was held on 14 January 2014 in New Delhi.

- The 15th Meeting of the India-UK Defence Consultative Group (DCG) was held in New Delhi on 3-4 February 2014.

UK continued to be among India's top 20 trading partners. Total bilateral trade for the period 2012-13 was US\$ 14,905.62 million (exports – US\$ 8,612.54 million; imports – US\$ 6,293.09 million). This was a decline of 5.21% over the previous year 2011-12 when bilateral trade stood at US\$ 15,724.23 million. UK is the third largest investor in India. Over the period April 2000-July 2013, cumulative FDI inflows from UK amounted to US\$ 17,621.65 million.

According to the latest figures released by the UK Trade and Investment in its 2012/13 Inward Investment Annual Report, India has 89 FDI projects in the UK which created 7,255 jobs during 2012-13. As per this Report, India is the fifth largest investor in the UK.

The two sides have identified cyber issues as an area for bilateral cooperation. The second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Cyber Issues is due to be held.

India-UK S&T collaboration constituted the fastest growing element of the India-UK relationship. Bilateral initiatives supported by the two governments involved several scientific agencies from both sides, including some which are based on PPP model.

The following bilateral MoUs were signed during the year:

- MoU between the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India and the UK Home Office for collaboration in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence (CBRN) (February 2013);
- MoU between the Ministry of Human Resource Development of India and the UK Department for Business,

Innovation and Skills entitled “A Framework for implementation of community colleges under the India – UK Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) 2013 – 2016 and “A Framework for implementation of School Leadership Programme under UKIERI 2013 – 2016 (February 2013);

- MoU between the Ministry of Labour and Employment of India and the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills entitled “A Framework for Skills Development under the UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) 2013 -2016 (February 2013).

- Programme of Cooperation on Industrial Research and Development between the Department of Science and Technology (DST), India and Technology Strategy Board (TSB) of the Government of the United Kingdom (2013 – 2016) (March 2013).

- MoU between Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence, UK on a Strategic and technical cooperation with regard to evidence-informed healthcare policy and practice signed on 14 June 2013 at London.



Canada

The visit of Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Stephen Harper to India in November 2012 lent significant momentum to the growing India-Canada relationship. Several steps have been taken to follow-up on the announcements made during the visit and advance the relationship, which include convening the inaugural meeting of the newly-established India-Canada Strategic Dialogue co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and the Canadian Foreign Minister; the first meeting of the India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue co-chaired by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Canada's Minister of Natural Resources; and meetings of the India-Canada Security Dialogue at the level of the Deputy National Security Advisor and his Canadian counterpart. The year 2014 became witness, nearly 15 years after a previous gubernatorial visit from Canada, to the State Visit of the Governor General of Canada Mr. David Johnson to India from 22 February to 2 March 2014.

A key development has been the entry into force in September 2013 of the India-Canada Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy which was signed in 2010. Other developments include the finalization of the India-Canada Audio-Visual Co-production Agreement, the Understanding on Social Security with the province of Quebec and bilateral agreements signed in the fields of Energy, Community Colleges, Researcher Mobility, and Health. Technical negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement [CEPA] progressed well and both countries reiterated their commitment to finalize a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement [BIPPA] on a priority basis.

The Governor General of Canada Mr. David Johnston paid a State Visit to India from 22 Feb-2 March 2014. During the visit, the following agreements were signed: (a) India-Canada Audio-Visual Co-production Agreement (b) Programme of Cooperation on collaboration between Department of Biotechnology and Grand Challenges Canada to address

health and development needs (c) MoU between National Skill Development Corporation [India] and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges [Canada] (d) Letter of Intent between Ministry of Human Resource Development and Mitacs Inc. [Canada] for academic and research development.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Canada from 21-23 September 2013 and co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the India-Canada Strategic Dialogue with Canada's Foreign Minister Mr. John Baird on 22 September 2013 at Toronto. Both leaders reviewed the gamut of India-Canada bilateral relations and held useful discussions on regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid also visited Ottawa on 23 September 2013 and held meetings with Minister of International Trade Mr. Ed Fast, Minister of Natural Resources Mr. Joe Oliver, and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Mr. Chris Alexander.

Following the decision to upgrade the India-Canada official-level Energy Forum into a Ministerial Energy Dialogue, the first meeting of the India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue took place on 28 October 2013 in Ottawa. It was co-chaired by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission on the Indian side and the Minister of Natural Resources on the Canadian side. During this meeting, India and Canada signed the Terms of Reference for the Ministerial Energy Dialogue, establishing three core pillars of cooperation i.e. Hydrocarbons, Coal, and Power & other Energy markets. In addition to this, the two sides also signed an MoU for cooperation in the field of petroleum and natural gas and an Expression of Intent for collaboration between Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission and the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram led a delegation to Canada from 14-15 April 2013 to encourage Canadian investments into India. He met Canadian Finance Minister James Flaherty and Foreign Minister John Baird and held discussions with leading Canadian companies.

Shri Arvind Mayaram, Secretary, Department of Economic

Affairs, co-chaired the first meeting of the India-Canada Economic and Financial Sector Policy Dialogue on 8 July 2013 in Ottawa with Mr. Jean Boivin, Canada's Associate Deputy Minister of Finance.

Inaugural meetings of the India-Canada Security Dialogue, led on the Indian side by the National Security Council Secretariat and on the Canadian side by the Office of the National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister took place at the level of the Deputy National Security Advisers. Mr. David Vigneault, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet Security and Intelligence of Canada's Privy Council visited India from 23-26 April 2013 for the first round of discussions. Follow-up discussions were held during the visit of Shri Nehchal Sandhu, Deputy National Security Adviser's visit to Canada from 24-27 June 2013.

The 12th India-Canada Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in Ottawa on 10 December 2013. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Joint Secretary (CT-CS & PP&R), M.E.A., while the Canadian side was led by Mr Artur Wilczynski, Director General of the Security and Intelligence Bureau, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The two countries shared their respective threat assessments and discussed bilateral and multilateral cooperation in combating terrorism.

During Prime Minister Stephen Harper's visit in November 2012, both countries reiterated their commitment to achieving the target of \$ 15 billion annual trade by 2015. During 2011 and 2012, bilateral trade stood at \$ 5.2 billion. For the duration from January-November 2013, total bilateral trade stood at US\$ 5.250 billion.

Technical negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement [CEPA] progressed during the year; the 7th and 8th rounds of bilateral discussions were held in 2013. Both countries reiterated their commitment to finalize a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement [BIPPA] on a priority basis.

Science & Technology

The fourth meeting of the India-Canada Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee took place on 5 April 2013 in New Delhi. It was led by Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology and Mr Simon Kennedy, Canadian Deputy Minister of International Trade. The Committee reviewed the progress in ongoing activities and finalized an Action Plan for 2013-2014 which envisages collaboration in the areas of Energy Security, Environment,

Food Security, Biotechnology and Health, Sustainable Infrastructure, Aerospace, Science Communication, India-Canada Industrial R&D, Research Mobility and Nanotechnology.

The first meeting of the India-Canada Joint Working Group on Education was held on 4 April 2013 in New Delhi and identified focus areas for cooperation, which included community colleges and industry-academia linkages. The Indian delegation was led by Prof. Ved Prakash, Chairman, UGC and the Canadian side by Mr. Peter McGovern, Assistant Deputy Minister, International Business Development, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Agriculture

The third meeting of the India-Canada Joint Working Group on Agriculture took place in New Delhi on 4 April, 2013. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Mukesh Khullar, Joint Secretary (IC), Ministry of Agriculture, while the Canadian side was led by Dr. Jaspinder Komal, Director General, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. Priority areas of cooperation were identified that included animal development, emerging technologies and agriculture marketing. Premier of Alberta Ms. Alison Redford visited India from 11-17 January 2014. During the visit, Joint Statements for promoting agricultural cooperation were signed separately between Alberta and Meghalaya, and between Alberta and Punjab.

Mining

Ministry of Mines participated with a large delegation in the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention 2013 [3-6 March 2013] as well as PDAC 2014 [2-5 March 2013] in Toronto. The first meeting of the India-British Columbia Joint Working Group established under the MoU for cooperation in geology and mineral resources between Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Energy and Mines of British Columbia, was held on 12 March 2013 in Vancouver. The second meeting of the Steering Committee established under the MoU concerning cooperation in the field of Earth Sciences and Mining between Ministry of Mines and Department of Natural Resources Canada, was held on 4 March 2014 in Toronto. The first meeting of the India-Quebec Joint Working Group, established under the Agreement for cooperation in the field of mineral resources between Ministry of Mines and the Quebec Ministry of Economic Development, Innovation, and Export Trade and

the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife, was held on 5 March 2014 in Toronto. The seventh meeting of the India-Ontario Joint Working Group, established under the MoU for cooperation in geology and mineral resources between Ministry of Mines and the Province of Ontario, was held on 7 March 2014 in Sudbury, Ontario.

The bilateral MoU for cooperation in the fields of Earth Sciences and Mining between Ministry of Mines and Natural Resources Canada was renewed for another four years on 13 January 2014 in New Delhi.

Steel

Union Minister of Steel Shri Beni Prasad Verma paid an official visit to Canada from 14-16 July 2013. During the visit, an MoU was signed between Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) and McMaster University, Hamilton, to strengthen research co-operation in the areas of steelmaking, beneficiation etc.

A Letter of Intent for cooperation between Ministry of Steel and Department of Natural Resources Canada in the iron and steel sector was signed on 13 January 2014 by Minister of Steel Shri Beni Prasad Verma and Canada's Minister of Natural Resources Mr. Joe Oliver in New Delhi.

Transportation

The first meeting of the India-Canada Joint Working Group on Transportation was held on 5 February 2014 in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Shri Niraj Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Mr. Scott Streiner, Assistant Deputy Minister, Transport Canada.

United States

India and the United States continued their intensive engagement in 2013 in diverse areas of bilateral cooperation including defence, security, counter-terrorism, trade and investment, higher education, science & technology, energy and health. Strategic and political consultations continued on a range of regional and global issues of mutual interest, which were augmented with the addition of an additional dialogue on the Indian Ocean Region. The year witnessed over seventy exchanges of senior-level visits, which was capped by the official visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the US in September 2013. From the US side, major visits included that of US Vice President Mr. Joseph R. Biden to India in July 2013 and the visit of US Secretary of State Mr. John F. Kerry in

June 2013. Key bilateral dialogues held during the year included the second Ministerial Homeland Security Dialogue held in Washington DC in May 2013, the fourth meeting of the India-US Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi in June 2013, the second Higher Education Dialogue in New Delhi in June 2013, the visit of Minister of Civil Aviation to the US for the India-US Civil Aviation Summit in October 2013, and visit of Dr. Ernest Moniz, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy to India for the India-US Energy Dialogue in March 2014.

Visit of Prime Minister to the US

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited the United States from 26-30 September 2013 and held his third Summit-level meeting with US President Barack Obama on 27 September 2013. The two leaders welcomed the transformation of the India-US relationship over the past decade and agreed that the strategic partnership was set to further intensify in the coming years, based on shared democratic values and the extensive engagement already underway in a wide range of areas.

Key decisions that emerged from the Summit-level meeting included the expansion of bilateral defence ties in terms of co-development and co-production; enhancing strategic consultations to cover the Indian Ocean Region; setting up a Joint Working Group on Climate Change and phasing down the use of HFCs; and expediting the conclusion of a Bilateral Investment Treaty. Both leaders also welcomed the growing cooperation in energy, including the finalisation of a preliminary commercial contract to build a nuclear power plant in Gujarat, and the launching of a new initiative in the area of renewable energy.

Visit of US Vice President

US Vice President Mr. Joseph R. Biden paid an official visit to India from 22-25 July 2013, the first such visit by a serving US Vice President in 27 years. He held discussions with Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari, called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and met Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Strategic Dialogue

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and US Secretary of State Mr. John F. Kerry co-chaired the fourth meeting of the India-US Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi on 24 June 2013. They reviewed the progress in bilateral relations and agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in

energy, science & technology, education, defence, cyber security and counter terrorism. Both sides reiterated their commitment to the full implementation of the Civil Nuclear Agreement and agreed to work together for India's membership of the four multilateral export control regimes. They also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Iran and the Asia-Pacific region.

Secretary Mr. John F. Kerry was accompanied by a high-level delegation that included US Energy Secretary Dr. Ernest Moniz, Commander of the US Pacific Command Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, Director of the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy Dr. John Holdren, National Aeronautics and Space Administrator Dr. Charles Bolden, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development Mr. Rajiv Shah, Chairman of the Export-Import Bank Mr. Fred Hochberg, and Director of the US Trade & Development Agency Ms. Leocadia Zak. These officials held separate meetings with their Indian counterparts on the sidelines of the Strategic Dialogue.

Political and Strategic Consultations

There were sustained senior-level political and strategic consultations on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Consultations on the security situation in Afghanistan were held in February 2013 and December 2013; the second meeting of the India-US-Afghanistan Trilateral Dialogue took place in New Delhi in February 2013. The fourth meeting of the India-US-Japan Trilateral Dialogue was held in Washington DC in May 2013, followed by the fifth meeting in Tokyo in November 2013. The sixth round of the India-US East Asia Consultations was held in Washington DC in March 2014. Consultations on Central Asia were also held in March 2014. Useful exchanges on a wide range of international issues also took place during the visits of Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai (February 2013); US Deputy Secretary of State Mr. William Burns (May 2013), US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Ms. Wendy Sherman (May 2013); National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon (August 2013) and Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh (December 2013). Consultations on regional issues were also held in New Delhi with visiting US Ambassadors to Nepal (February 2013), ASEAN (February 2013), Pakistan (April 2013), Bangladesh (October 2013) and Sri Lanka (November 2013) and the visit of US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Ms. Nisha Desai Biswal (March 2014).

Both sides agreed to expand these consultations with the addition of a new dialogue on the Indian Ocean Region and a dialogue on UN/Multilateral Issues.

Counter terrorism/Security

Cooperation in counter-terrorism continued to strengthen with regular exchanges between law enforcement and intelligence agencies of the two countries. The second Homeland Security Dialogue co-chaired by Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde and the then US Secretary of Homeland Security Ms. Janet Napolitano was held in Washington DC in May 2013 and helped strengthen ongoing operational and capacity-building cooperation. Both sides reviewed cooperation in megacity policing, combating illicit finance and counterfeiting, cyber security and port and border security.

Pursuant to the agreed outcomes of the second Homeland Security Dialogue, Ministry of Home Affairs organized a Police Chiefs Conference in New Delhi on 4-5 December, 2013 with the participation of senior Police Chiefs from the US and senior officials of the US Department of Homeland Security. Several US companies participated in the Exhibition of Homeland Security Systems and Technologies which was held alongside the Conference. With a view to facilitating expedited entry of Indian travelers to the US, India's inclusion in the US Global Entry Trusted Traveler Network Programme is also being explored.

Bilateral consultations were held on the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and Extradition-related issues in New Delhi on 15-17 January 2013, including India's request for the extradition of David Coleman Headley and Tahawwur Rana for their involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Defence

Bilateral defence cooperation saw continued expansion with growing defence trade, joint exercises, personnel exchanges, cooperation in maritime security, counter piracy operations etc. Chief of Air Staff Air Marshall N.A.K Browne visited USA in July 2013 followed by the visit of Chief of Army Staff General Bikram Singh in December 2013. From the US side, key visits included that of US Secretary of Navy Mr. Ray Mabus in May 2013, Commander of US Pacific Command Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III in June 2013, Chief of Army Staff General Raymond T. Odierno in July 2013 and Deputy Secretary of Defence Dr. Ashton Carter in September 2013.

General Vincent Brooks, Commanding General of the US Army Pacific, visited India in February 2014 for the Army Executive Steering Group meeting.

In 2013, major US defence platforms were inducted into the Indian defence forces including the Boeing P-8I long range maritime reconnaissance aircraft in the Indian Navy and C-17 Globemaster-II in the Indian Air Force. In December 2013, India and the US signed a \$1 billion contract for six additional C-130J Super Hercules aircrafts. These efforts received a substantial thrust in the 'Joint Declaration on Principles for Defence Cooperation' announced during Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit in September 2013, wherein the United States agreed to treat India on par with its closest partners in terms of technology release and both sides agreed to identify transformative co-development and co-production projects within a year.

Bilateral cooperation in defence research and development continued apace through discussions in the 15th meeting of the Joint Technical Group held in Washington DC in January 2013. Useful discussions took place during the visit of Secretary, Defence (R&D) & SA to Defence Minister, Shri Avinash Chander to the US in August 2013 as well as the visit of US Assistant Secretary of Defence for Research & Engineering Mr. Alan Shaffer to India in November 2013.

The US Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) resumed its recovery operations in India in November 2013, after a gap of five years.

Economic and Financial Cooperation

During April-December 2013, Indian exports of goods to the US amounted to US\$ 29.30 billion and Indian imports amounted to US\$ 16.73 billion resulting in a trade surplus of US\$ 12.57 billion. During April-December 2013, US became India's second largest trading partner in goods. From April 2000-January 2014, total FDI inflows from US to India stood at US\$ 11.84 billion, making US the fifth largest contributor of FDI to India. With a view to addressing specific aspects of bilateral trade and investment, India and the US are holding working-level discussions in preparation for the next meeting of the Trade Policy Forum to be held in New Delhi in 2014. During Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to the US in September 2013, India and the US agreed to expedite negotiations towards early conclusion of a Bilateral Investment Treaty.

Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram and US Treasury

Secretary Mr. Jack Lew co-chaired the fourth meeting of the India-US Economic and Financial Partnership in Washington DC on 13 October 2013. The meeting took stock of developments in the two economies as well as the global economy and discussed cooperation in global fora, including the G-20. RBI Governor Shri Raghuram Rajan and US Federal Reserve Board Chairman Mr. Ben Bernanke also participated in the meeting.

The reconstituted India-US CEOs Forum met in Washington DC in July 2013. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman (Planning Commission) Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma and Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

India and the United States made progress towards commercial implementation of the bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, with the signing of a Preliminary Contract between Nuclear Power Corporation India Limited (NPCIL) and Westinghouse in September 2013 to develop a nuclear power plant in Gujarat. The fifth meeting of the India-US Working Group on Civil Nuclear Energy held in Mumbai in July 2013 discussed ongoing research collaboration projects in the field of nuclear energy. The two sides also discussed possible cooperation under the aegis of the Global Centre of Nuclear Energy Partnership. In October 2013, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission signed an Arrangement on Exchange of Technical Information and Cooperation in Nuclear Safety Materials. The information exchange under the Agreement will include information related to regulation of safety, waste management, environmental impact of designated nuclear energy facilities and nuclear safety research programs.

Energy

Energy cooperation under the framework of the India-US Energy Dialogue continued with collaborative projects in the areas of oil & gas, coal, power and energy efficiency, new technologies & renewable energy. The Co-Chairs of the Energy Dialogue, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia and US Secretary of Energy Dr. Ernest Moniz, reviewed bilateral energy cooperation during their meetings in New Delhi in April 2013 on the sidelines of the fourth Clean Energy Ministerial and in June 2013 on the margins of the Strategic Dialogue. US Under Secretary of Energy Mr. David Sandalow also discussed energy cooperation

with Indian officials during his visit to India in April 2013. In May 2013, India and the US signed an MOU to establish a new Working Group on Sustainable Growth under the Energy Dialogue. Mr. Amos Hochstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy at the US Department of State in the Bureau of Energy Resources, visited India in February 2014. Dr. Ernest Moniz, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) visited Delhi and Mumbai in March 2014. Dr. Moniz and Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, co-chaired the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue in New Delhi.

Useful discussions were held on long-term trends in global oil and gas markets during the third and fourth rounds of the India-US Dialogue on Energy Security held in New Delhi in May 2013 and November 2013 during the visit of US State Department Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Issues, Ambassador Carlos Pascual to India.

On the margins of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to the US, India and the US signed an MOU to expand clean energy cooperation with a new initiative - Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy [PEACE] - to strengthen India's off-grid clean energy system by supporting development and financing of innovative clean energy solutions for rural areas lacking access to affordable energy.

The awards announced in 2012 under the aegis of the Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre with equal public and private funding commitments from the Indian and US side, resulted in the establishment of three public-private multi-institutional consortia in 2013 to promote joint innovative research and development in clean energy: (i) the Solar Energy Research Institute for India and the United States; (ii) the US-India Joint Centre for Building Energy Research and Development; and (iii) the US-India Consortium for development of Sustainable Advanced Lignocellulosic Biofuel Systems.

Climate Change

India-US cooperation in the field of climate change was strengthened with the decision to establish a Climate Change Working Group in September 2013. The two countries also agreed to reconvene the India-US Task Force on HFCs to deal with the phasing down of HFCs. Minister of Environment & Forests Smt. Jayanti Natarajan discussed bilateral cooperation in this area with US Special Envoy Todd Stern at the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change in Warsaw, Poland, in November 2013.

Higher Education

Minister of Human Resource Development Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju and US Secretary of State Mr. John Kerry co-chaired the second meeting of the India-US Higher Education Dialogue in New Delhi on 25 June 2013 where they announced the second round of awards for Joint Research partnerships under the Singh-Obama 21st century Knowledge Initiative; the final list of 126 Raman Fellows supported by the University Grants Commission for Post-Doctoral research in US Universities; and the 'Connect India' Programme aimed at attracting U.S. students to pursue short term courses in India. Four MOUs were also signed on the sidelines of the meeting to foster institutional cooperation between Indian and US institutions in areas such as community colleges, open online courseware and cyber systems. Both sides discussed ways of enhancing two-way student mobility, research collaboration, faculty development, cooperation in establishing Community colleges, collaboration in Cyber Systems, and Technology Enabled Learning including Massive Open On-Line Courses (MOOCs). In May 2013, Minister for Human Resources Development Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju visited the USA and met senior US officials, including US Secretary of Education Mr. Arne Duncan. In February 2013, US Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Ms. Tara D. Sonenshine led a large U.S. delegation including representatives from twelve community colleges, to the Conference on 'Mainstreaming Skills in Education' hosted in New Delhi in February 2013.

Science & Technology

The robust cooperation between India and the United States in science and technology continued to grow in 2013. Both sides actively collaborated in basic and applied sciences; atmospheric, environmental and earth sciences; health and medical sciences; data sharing; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education; innovation; and 'women in science' as per the action plan for 2012-2014 finalised by the India-US Joint Committee Meeting. Joint initiatives funded by the two Governments such as the India-United States Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF), Science & Technology Endowment Fund, and the Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative continued to successfully promote science & technology cooperation. In 2012-2013, the IUSSTF supported over 30 bilateral workshops, four

advanced schools, 10 virtual joint research centres, three innovation/technology transfer programs, and dozens of student and faculty fellowships. Five new awards were announced in June 2013 by the Science and Technology Endowment Board. The US will be the Partner Country for the Science and Technology Summit to be hosted by India in November 2014.

Space

The fourth meeting of the India-US Joint Working Group on Space Cooperation was held in Washington DC in March 2013. It reviewed existing cooperation programmes between NASA and ISRO and decided to consider new cooperation initiatives, including future missions to the Moon and Mars. In September 2013, ISRO and NASA signed a Technical Assistance Agreement for the development and launch of a joint Radar Satellite mission system (dual frequency L & S band). NASA also extended deep space navigation support for ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission of November 2013.

Civil Aviation

Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Ajit Singh also visited the US from 29-31 October 2013 to attend the India-US Aviation Summit. The meeting was attended by senior US officials, including Transportation Secretary Mr. Anthony R. Fox and Director of US Trade and Development Agency Ms. Leocadia I. Zak. In December 2013, Ministry of Civil Aviation and the US Transportation Security Administration signed a Memorandum of Agreement on Sharing Sensitive Information to facilitate cooperation in aviation security including sharing technical information on detection/scanning systems deployed at airports.

UN Peacekeeping

The 10th meeting of the India-US Joint Working Group on UN Peacekeeping was held in Washington DC on 13 February 2013. Both sides exchanged views on various aspects of UN peacekeeping and cooperation in training UN Peacekeepers, including institutional arrangements between Indian and US peacekeeping institutions. A 'Joint Declaration of Principles on Peacekeeping Training' was issued by both countries in December 2013.

Other Areas

On 12 December 2013, Dr. Devyani Khobragade, Acting Consul General of India in New York, was arrested by officers

of the Diplomatic Security Service of the US State Department on charges of 'visa fraud' and 'false statement' and later released by a US Court on bail. The Government of India took up this issue with the US Government and conveyed its strong objection to both the arrest of Dr. Khobragade and the manner in which action was taken. Pursuant to India's refusal to waive her immunity for trial in the U.S, Dr. Khobragade returned to India in January 2014 after the US granted her full diplomatic immunity. On 14 March, 2014, the United States Department of Justice obtained a second indictment against Dr. Khobragade, despite the fact that the first indictment and arrest warrant were earlier dismissed by the US Court on 12 March 2014. India has reiterated that the case has no merit and the Court in the United States has no jurisdiction in India over her. Both sides have agreed to work towards addressing the issues arising as a result of the episode, including all aspects related to diplomatic privileges and immunities.

Latin America and Caribbean Countries

India's bilateral relations with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region have been strengthened in recent year through high level visits, regular Foreign Office Consultations and Joint Commission Meetings, bilateral agreements, development cooperation projects and cultural contacts. India also nurtures strong historical and cultural linkages with the Caribbean region which is home to a large Indian Diaspora. As part of commitment to South-South cooperation, India's assistance to countries in the region through the ITEC scholarship programme, Lines of Credit, Grant-in-aid, setting up of IT Centres has seen significant scaling up in recent years. Trade and investment relations with LAC region have grown from US\$ 2 billion in 2000 to US\$ 46 billion in 2012. India has Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Chile and MERCOSUR (Southern Market). India joined the Pacific Alliance as an Observer in February 2014. India's trade with the Pacific Alliance in 2012-13 was US\$ 13.75 billion. Trade with Pacific Alliance countries is 30% of the total trade with Latin America.

LAC region is undergoing rapid integration process, formation of CELAC (Community of Latin America and Caribbean States) is reflective of this process. Central American Integration System (SICA) is another important regional organization and India values its relation with SICA countries and in further deepening these relations. Bilateral trade with SICA countries is enhancing at a rapid pace reaching a level of US\$ 1.25 billion in 2012-13. The

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is another regional grouping with which India has strong relation and our bilateral trade was US\$ 3.07 billion in 2012-13 with the region.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid chaired the LAC Regional HOM's Conference in Rio from 16-17 October 2013. The conference discussed Political and Economic trends in Latin America, and India's engagement with the LAC region.

5th CII India-LAC Conclave

5th CII India-LAC Conclave was organized in New Delhi on 9-10 December 2013. Eleven countries from LAC region participated in the Conclave. Mutual cooperation and business opportunities were discussed in a number of areas including energy, infrastructure, ICT, agriculture, mining, commodities trade, investments, financing, logistics, pharma, chemicals, tourism, travel and developmental partnerships.

Argentina

Relations between India and Argentina gained a new momentum in 2013 with increased bilateral visits on both sides. Argentine Foreign Minister Mr. Hector Timerman led a high level delegation to India from 15-18 June 2013. During the visit, he co-chaired, along with External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, the 4th India- Argentina Joint Commission Meeting (JCM). The issues on which deliberations were held included political, economic and commercial, agriculture, science & technology, defence and culture. They also exchanged views on regional developments and global issues of common interest.

Governor of Mendoza Province of Argentina, Mr. Francisco Pérez visited Gujarat and New Delhi from 15-16 April 2013. He participated in a seminar organized by CII to deepen bilateral cooperation between Mendoza Province of Argentina and India. Governor of San Luis Province of Argentina Mr. Claudio Poggi visited India on 7-13 May 2013 for the Inauguration of first Commercial, Cultural & Tourism Office of the Govt. of San Luis Province, Argentina at Chennai.

Dr. Sudha Sharma, Member, CBDT, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance and Mrs. Promila Bhardwaj, Director General of Income Tax (International Tax), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance visited Argentina to attend the 47th General Assembly of the Inter American Central Tax Administration organized by the Centre of Inter American Tax Administration (CIAT) at Buenos Aires, Argentina from 22-25 April 2013. Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Ministry of

Science & Technology and Prof N Balakrishnan, IISc Bangalore visited Argentina from 1-3 October 2013 to attend the 24th meeting of the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). During the visit, Programme of Cooperation (POC) in Science and Technology was signed by Dr. Ramasami and Dr. Lino Barañao, Minister of S & T Argentina. Secretary Tourism, Shri Parvez Dewan visited Argentina from 14-16 November 2013 to inaugurate the Fifth Festival of India held in Buenos Aires from 15-24 November 2014. Secretary Textiles, Smt Zohra Chatterjee inaugurated the Artisan's Fair which was also part of the Festival of India.

Additional Chief Secretaries of Government of Madhya Pradesh Shri Antony de Sa and Shri P.K Dash led separate official delegations to Argentina from 24-27 June, 2013 and 9-11 October, 2013 respectively to study possibilities of import, transfer of technology and cooperation in areas of silo bags, food storage and preservation; and to promote trade and commerce.

The bilateral trade between India and Argentina rose by an impressive 14% year on year. The total bilateral trade in the financial year 2012-13 was US\$ 1.7 billion as compared to US\$ 1.5 billion in 2011-12.

Dr. Antonio Juan Bonfatti, Governor of the Province of Santa Fe and Dr. Lino Baranao, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovative Production, Argentina visited India in February 2014 to attend BioAsia 2014 held in Hyderabad and to identify areas of common interest and explore possibilities of undertaking joint ventures, particularly in alternative energy and agriculture.

Bolivia

India and Bolivia continue to enjoy warm and friendly bilateral relations. Since the opening of the Bolivian Embassy in New Delhi in 2012, the relations have been strengthened further. Although trade at US\$ 57.38 million in 2012-13 is much below potential, the two countries are working closely to expand and diversify trade. New areas of cooperation such as Agriculture, food processing, renewable energy and education are also being explored.

Brazil

The strategic partnership with Brazil was reinforced with increased bilateral engagements this year. External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid co-chaired the Sixth India – Brazil Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) with his counterpart Mr. Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado on 15 October 2013 in

Brasilia. An Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons was signed. Agreement on Cooperation between Foreign Service Institute, India and Rio Branco Institute, Brazil signed in 2007 was renewed. The bilateral agreement signed in 2007 on mutual assistance in customs matter entered into force after the JCM. The two sides recalled that the coordination in multilateral fora and the ongoing cooperation in IBSA, BRICS, BASIC, G-4 and G-20 as an extremely important dimension of the Brazil-India Strategic Partnership. The entire gamut of bilateral relations viz. trade, economic, mining, energy, agriculture and food processing, S&T, defence, environment and sustainable development, social and health issues, education, culture, tourism, sports, consular issues and cooperation in legal issues were discussed in the JCM.

A 4-member delegation from Ministry of Women and Child Development visited Brazil on 29 April 2013 to 2 May 2013 to implement Statement of Intent (SoI) for promotion of gender equality and advancement of the rights of women and children signed during President Dilma's visit to India in 2012. Dr. Laxman Kumar Behera of Institute of Defence Studies & Analysis, New Delhi was on deputation to Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), as second short term ICCR Chair at FGV, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from March–May 2013. This chair was established in 2012. Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lt. Gen. S.K. Singh visited Brazil from 7-9 August 2013 and had meetings with General Enzo Martins Peri, Commander of Brazilian Army, General Joaquim Silva E Luna, Chief of the Army Staff. Dr. Charanjit Singh Atwal, Speaker of Punjab Legislative Assembly visited Parana and Sao Paulo in Brazil from 7-11 September 2013 for a pre-Conference Study tour in connection with 59th Commonwealth Parliamentary conference held in South Africa. In the same context, Shri Ramendra Chandra Debnath, Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Tripura visited Rio de Janeiro from 9-12 September 2013. Shri Avinash Chander, Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister visited Brazil to participate in Project Management Review Meeting and held discussions at M/s EMBRAER in Rio de Janeiro from 2-6 September 2013. The 9th India–Brazil Science Council Meeting was held on 27 September 2013 in Rio de Janeiro. The meeting was co-chaired by Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Chairman, Scientific Advisor to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and, Prof. Jacob Palis, President, Brazilian Academy of Sciences. Shri M.F. Farooqui, Secretary (Telecom), DOT participated in the Futurecom 2013 in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil from 21-24 October 2013.

The first ever India-Brazil Track 1.5 Dialogue between the

Ministry's Public Diplomacy Division and FUNAG, a public foundation associated with the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, was held in Brasilia on 3 October 2013. Embassy of India, Brasilia in cooperation with the state governments of Brazil organized a Festival of Indian films to commemorate the centennial year of Indian cinema in seven major cities of Brazil from 4 August to 3 October, 2013 with the screening of widely acclaimed Indian movies chosen from different Indian languages.

The International Congress on Ayurveda was organised in the State of Goiania in Brazil on 12-14 November 2013. The event was co-sponsored by Department of AYUSH, Ministry of health and family welfare, Government of India and State Government of Goiania.

A large number of commercial delegations from India visited Brazil during the year. Indian companies also continued to participate in sectoral trade fairs in Brazil and exhibited their products in events covering pharmaceuticals, sugar mills and machinery, textile machinery, tourism, handicrafts, automotive/vehicles etc.

Chile

The relations between India and Chile continued to strengthen during the year. Mr. Luis Mayol, Minister of Agriculture of Chile visited India from 11-12 June 2013 and held bilateral discussions with Mr. Charan Das Mahant, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries and Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry in New Delhi. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, accompanied by a high-level delegation visited Chile from 11-15 September 2013 at the invitation of the Senate of Chile. During the visit, Dr. Farooq Abdullah met the Chilean Foreign Minister, Mr Alfredo Moreno Charme and also met Chilean Energy Minister Mr. Jorge Bunster and briefed him on the energy situation in India.

India and Chile have finalized plans to expand the bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and are keen to expand the PTA with the intention of elevating it into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in future. The Government of India has approved the signing of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Chile.

The first India-Chile Colloquium was organized by the Embassy of India and University Mayor on 21-22 October 2013. Delegations from the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) and Sports Goods Export Promotion

Council delegation (SGEPC) visited Chile in November 2013 and organized Buyer Seller Meets with the Chilean importers.

Shri J.D. Seelam, Minister of State (Revenue), Ministry of Finance represented India in the oath taking ceremony of new President of Chile, Dr. Michelle Bachelet on 10-11 March 2014.

Colombia

India-Colombia relations continued to grow during the year. Mr. Diego Molano Vega, Minister of Information Technology (IT) of Colombia visited India from 17-24 August 2013. Commercial relations continued to expand further. A 26-member PHARMEXCIL delegation visited Bogota for Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) and meetings with health authorities. A 12 member delegation from AEPC visited Bogotá from 24-25 October 2013 for BSM. A 13-member contemporary Indian dance group led by Shri Astad Deboo sponsored by ICCR was in Bogota and performed on three days on 31 October to 2 November 2013. First Lady Mrs. Maria Clemencia de Santos from the Republic of Colombia visited India from 16-21 February 2014 at the invitation of Export Promotion Handicrafts Council.

Ecuador

India-Ecuador relations were further strengthened during the year. Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State (Commerce & Industry) accompanied by CII delegation visited Ecuador on 18-20 April 2013. An MOU on Economic Cooperation between the Department of Commerce of the Government of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of the Republic of Ecuador was signed during the visit. From April to September 2013, bilateral trade stood at US\$ 1280.05 million. A 26-member PHARMEXCIL delegation visited Ecuador on 29-30 July 2013 for BSM and met with the health authorities. An MoU for establishment of an IT Center in Ecuador was signed between Ministry of External Affairs and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing [CDAC] in February 2014. The project is likely to be executed soon. Vice President of Ecuador, Mr. Jorge Glas visited India as the chief guest at the India-LAC conclave in December 2013. He met Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari during his visit and discussed bilateral political and economic relations.

Guyana

Our traditionally warm & friendly relations with Guyana

expanded and strengthened further. India participated in the 175th Anniversary Celebrations of Indian Arrival in Guyana. India extended a Grant of Rs. 15 lakh for the purpose and also actively participated in a Seminar on Indian indentureship.

Mexico

India's Privileged Partnership with Mexico continued to grow and develop during the year. Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, visited Mexico from 10-13 April 2013. During the visit, bilateral economic relations, WTO-related issues and matters such as business visas, were reviewed and, it was agreed that regular dialogue at the ministerial level would give fresh impetus and direction to burgeoning bilateral economic ties. During the visit, the Indian Embassy, the Mexican Business Council for Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology (COMCE), and CII jointly organised a Mexico-India Business Seminar in Mexico City, which was attended by a wide spectrum of Mexico's business and industry representatives.

India was chosen by Mexico's Federal Institute of Access to Information & Data Protection (IFAI) as the Guest Country of Honour this year for its 10th National Transparency Week, held from 2-4 October 2013. Participants from India included the Chief Information Commissioner of India, Mrs. Deepak Sandhu. About 40 Indian companies have already established their presence in Mexico, including in IT, pharmaceuticals and auto components. In April 2013, the Samvardhana Motherhood Group inaugurated an auto-parts factory in Puebla which would produce automotive parts for car manufacturers like Volkswagen and Audi. In July 2013, Zydus Pharmaceuticals launched its commercial operations in Mexico. In November 2013, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories opened an office in Mexico City to support its manufacturing facility in Cuernavaca. Mexican investments in India too are on the rise. Cinepolis from Mexico started the first Megaplex (thirteen screens) of India in Pune. EEPC India mounted a trade delegation of 15 firms from the engineering sector to Mexico City from 20-22 October 2013.

On 16 September 2013, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Mexico, Smt. Shiela Dixit, Chief Minister of Delhi inaugurated the replica of the Labna Arch Monument at the Garden of Five Senses, New Delhi. A delegation of Parliamentarians led by Ms. Gabriela Cuevas, Head of the Mexican Senate's Foreign Relations Committee visited India during 22 to 28 January 2014. India-Mexico Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 7 March 2014. Secretary (West), M.E.A Shri Dinkar Khullar co-chaired the

FOC from Indian side with Mr. Carlos de Icaza, Vice Foreign Minister of Mexico. Mr. Carlos de Icaza also met EAM Shri Salman Khurshid.

Paraguay

The Embassy of India in Buenos Aires, in association with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India hosted an Indian Food Festival in Paraguay from 19-28 September 2013, an event attended by many from the Paraguay Foreign Ministry and eminent local business persons.

Peru

The year marked 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Peru. Bilateral relations received a fillip with the official visit of Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari from 26-29 October 2013, which was the first VVIP visit to Peru since 1998. An Agreement on Defence Cooperation, an MoU on Establishment of a Joint Commission, an Exchange Programme on Cooperation in the field of Education and a Letter of Intent for Cooperation in the fields of Museum Development, Conservation of Movable Cultural Property and Dissemination and Promotion of Cultural Heritage were signed. A new Indian Chamber of Commerce (INCHAM) was launched by Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari on 28 October 2013. A Festival of India was organized in Lima from 26-28 October 2013, which was jointly inaugurated by Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari and the Vice President of Peru Ms. Marisol Espinoza.

An eight-member Peruvian Parliamentary delegation paid an official visit to India from 19-24 April 2013. A 24-member delegation from the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) visited Peru on 31 July to 3 August 2013. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary, Minister of State for Railways visited Peru from 29 January to 1 February 2014 at the invitation of Mr. Carlos Paredes Canales, Minister of Transportation & Communication in order to develop a work programme related to the transportation and communication sector.

Uruguay

A delegation from National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) [Mr. Shailendra Kumar, AGM (MIN), Mr. Debkumar Kundu, Senior Manager(DB)] visited Uruguay and Argentina from 22 to 30 July 2013 to explore opportunities for Mining and investing in Mines in these two countries. In May 2013, Karnataka Chamber of Commerce

and Industry delegation visited Uruguay in which 12 delegates from the Chamber participated.

Venezuela

India's relations with Venezuela received a significant boost as Venezuela emerged as India's third largest supplier of crude oil in 2012. After the demise of Mr. Hugo Chavez Frias, former President, Mr. Nicolas Maduro Moros won the Presidential elections held on 14 April 2013. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee congratulated President Mr. Nicolas Maduro soon after his election. To celebrate 100 years of Bollywood Cinema, Venezuela's Cinemateca Nacional, in collaboration with the Indian Embassy, screened seven Indian films with Spanish subtitles in its theatres across Venezuela from 24 to 31 May 2013. Noted Hindi poet Shri Laxmi Shanker Bajpai represented India in the 10th World Poetry Festival held in Venezuela from 16 to 22 June 2013. Two photo exhibitions on India, "A Cultural Glimpse of India" at the Central Library of the Simon Bolivar University in Caracas on 6 May 2013 and "India: Enclave of a Subcontinent" at the Central University of Venezuela on 20 May, 2013 were also organized. Mr. Rafael Ramirez, Minister of Petroleum and Mining and President of PDVSA, Venezuela's State Oil Company, paid a visit to India and held wide-ranging talks with his counterpart, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Shri Veerappa Moily, on 24 September 2013. As a follow-up of the visit to India by Minister Ramirez, the 1st Business Round Table Venezuela-India: Identification and Development of Opportunities to explore greater bilateral cooperation in the energy and allied sectors, was held in Caracas on 7-9 October 2013. Eight Indian companies from public and private sector participated in the round-table. Nine MoUs were signed after the successful completion of discussions on 9 October 2013.

The 2nd India-Venezuela Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in New Delhi on 20 December 2013. External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, and the Foreign Minister of Venezuela Mr. Elías José Jaua Milano, co-chaired the Meeting. The entire gamut of bilateral relations including cooperation in sectors such as economic, commercial, agriculture, IT, energy, science and technology, space, health, culture and consular were discussed. Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2013-2016 was also signed.

Central America

Belize

India's relations with the Belize continued to deepen and

widen. India and Belize signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement on 18 September 2013 in Belmopan.

Costa Rica

The warm and friendly relations with Costa Rica strengthened further during the year. Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State (Commerce & Industry) accompanied by a CII delegation visited Costa Rica on 13-15 April 2013. During the visit, an MOU between the two countries on Economic Cooperation was signed. Costa Rican Foreign Trade Minister Ms. Anabel González visited Bangalore and Delhi from 18-19 September 2013 to promote trade and investment in the field of IT and Services in Costa Rica. Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, Nobel Peace Prize Award Winner and former President of Costa Rica visited India from 25 March to 4 April 2014 under the ICCR's 'Distinguished Visitors' Programme'. He met President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari and also participated in lectures organized by ICCR.

El Salvador

Smt. Krishna Tirath, Minister of State for Women & Child Development visited El Salvador from 1-4 June 2013. During the visit, she met with First Lady Dr. Vanda Pignato and also visited the prestigious 'Ciudad Mujer' project at San Martin. She also had separate meetings with vice President and Foreign Minister. In implementation of the offer made by Minister, ten young women leaders from El Salvador visited India in February-March 2014 to learn and share from each others' best practices and experiences in the area of empowerment of women.

Guatemala

Bilateral friendly relations between India and Guatemala entered a new phase during this period. The Government of Guatemala opened its Resident Diplomatic Mission in New Delhi on 4 April, 2013. This is the 20th Embassy from the LAC Region in New Delhi. India had opened its Embassy in Guatemala in 2009. The Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri M.Hamid Ansari and the Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar extended an invitation to the President of the Congress of Guatemala to visit India. The Vice President of Guatemala received a symbolic cheque of US \$ 100,000 for disaster relief from the Government of India for the earthquake that struck Guatemala, at a ceremony organized at the National Palace on 3 May 2013. A delegation of EEPC visited Guatemala on 23 to 26 October 2013 and held a highly successful buyer-seller meet.

Honduras

Government of India approved a Line of Credit of US\$ 26.5 million for the Jamastran Valley Irrigation project in Honduras.

Nicaragua

The bilateral relation with Nicaragua gained a new momentum during this period. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Mr. Samuel Santoz Lopez paid an official visit to India from 20-23 August 2013. During the visit, he met with External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and discussed several issues of mutual interest. Two cartons of medicines were handed over to the Foreign Minister of Nicaragua. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister also met with Minister of State (Shipping) Shri Milind Murli Deora and discussed India's participation in the ambitious inter-oceanic Nicaragua Canal Project. The visiting Minister also had interaction with the industry at CII. Government of India approved an LoC of US \$ 10 million for setting up two electric substations in Nicaragua. The Foreign Minister of Nicaragua participated in the 5th CII India-LAC Conclave held on 9-10 December 2013.

Panama

During this period the close and friendly relations between India and Panama received a significant boost from exchange of visits by ministers and business delegations. Dr. D Purandeswari, Minister of State (Commerce & Industry) led an official and business delegation to Panama from 16 to 18 April 2013. On 18 April, she inaugurated the 'India Show' in Panama. Government of India approved a line of credit of US \$ 10 million for the 'Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity and Drug Discovery'.

Caribbean Countries

Cuba

The year 2013 witnessed a high point in India-Cuba relations with the visit of Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari. At the invitation of Cuban First Vice President, Shri Ansari led a high-level delegation which included Minister of State for Human Resource Development Shri Jitin Prasada, four Members of Parliament and senior officials to Cuba on 29- 30 October 2013.

During this visit, Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari

separately called on Leader of the Cuban Revolution Commandante Fidel Castro and President of Cuba Mr. Raul Castro. Mr. Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudaz, First Vice President, and Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Vice President Shri Ansari also visited the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. He also inaugurated the Festival of India organised by Ministry of Culture. During the visit, an MoU for Co-operation on Broadcasting between Prasar Bharati (PB) and Cuban Institute of Radio & Television (ICRT) was signed. India donated US\$ 1 million to Cuba for installing artificial hockey turf.

The Cuban Foreign Minister Mr Bruno Rodriquez Parrilla paid an official visit to India from 25 to 27 May 2013. In the presence of Foreign Ministers of both the countries, a Cultural Exchange Programme was signed. Cuban Foreign Minister delivered a lecture at ICWA on 'Cuba-LAC Relations with India'.

Minister for New and Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah led a high level delegation to Cuba from 15-18 September 2013.

Government of India approved Line of Credit for the Cuban LoC proposal of Modernization of the LABIOFAM Injectable Plant (Animal Vaccine) (US \$ 5.05 million) and Chemical Bulk blending Plant (US\$ 2.71 million).

Dominican Republic

National Day Reception commemorating the 66th Indian Independence was hosted by Ambassador in Santo Domingo on 14 August 2013. This was the first time when Indian National Day Reception was hosted in Dominican Republic. The event was attended by Minister for Foreign Trade & Investment, Mr. Jean Alan Rodriguez, Vice Foreign Minister Alajandra Liriano and people from all walks of life. Dr. Mercedes Yovanna Rodriguez Silver, Vice Minister of Administration & Finance led a 3-member delegation to Pharmexcil-2013 held in Mumbai from 24 to 26 April 2013. An Indian Food Festival was held in Santo Domingo from 14-21 October 2013.

Haiti

A high-level 3-member delegation consisting of Senior Officers of Central Armed Police Forces led by Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh, Director General Assam Rifles visited Indian Police Units Contingents deployed in the UN Mission at Haiti from

5-9 August 2013, to have the first hand information of the three contingents viz. Assam Rifles, Border Security Force and CISF deployed there. During their visit, the delegation met senior officers of United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), who commended the performance of Indian contingent and requested Indian Officers to continue sending their contingents. In view of the exceptional performance by the Indian contingent, they have been assigned high profile and important tasks, inter alia, of guarding the President's House.

Jamaica

A delegation led by Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Secretary in the Ministry of Earth Science visited Jamaica to defend India's application for exploration of Polymetallic Hydrothermal sulphides in the Indian Ocean ridge and to participate in the 19th session of the International Seabed Authority held in Kingston from 8 to 26 July 2013. Mr. Anthony Hylton, Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce of Jamaica visited India in February 2014 to attend the NASSCOM India Leadership Forum. During his visit, he met the leaders of Indian Industries as well as important government officials. Cash assistance of Rs. 4.78 crore was given to Jamaica as the first installment of total cost of US\$ 2.1 million for installation of flood lights at Sabina Park Cricket Stadium in Kingston, Jamaica.

Suriname

Bilateral relations between India and Suriname remained cordial and friendly. An MoU between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Suriname Standards Bureau (SSB) was signed on 15 June 2013 in Paramaribo. The Governor of the Central Bank of Suriname Mr. Gilmore Hoefdraad visited Mumbai in July 2013 and discussed cooperation in banking sector and the possibility of opening of a branch of an Indian bank with the then Governor of Reserve Bank of India. A 4-member delegation led by Opposition Party (VHP) leader Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi, visited India in August 2013 and called on Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi to discuss issues relating to the Indian Diaspora in Suriname. In June 2013, three Professors, Prof. Nivedita Singh from GB Pant Institute, Prof. Kapil Kumar from IGNOU and Dr. Archana Kumar from Banaras Hindu University participated and presented papers in a Conference on 'Legacy of Slavery and Indentured Labour' organised by Ministry of Education of Suriname. The 140th Anniversary of arrival of Indian immigrants was celebrated on 5 June 2013. Under Ministry of

Overseas Indian Affairs' Know India Programme (KIP), one Surinamese national attended the 24th KIP in April-May 2013 and two Surinamese nationals attended the 25th KIP in August-September 2013.

Trinidad & Tobago

The year witnessed intensive engagement between India and Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) at all levels leading to further diversification and consolidation of relations. Dr. Roodal Moonilal, Minister of Housing, Land and Marine Affairs, T & T led a high level delegation to India from 2 to 6 April 2013. Shri Ajay Maken, Minister of Housing and Poverty Alleviation held delegation level talks with the visiting dignitary and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Smt. Krishna Tirath, Minister of State for Women and Child Development (IC) paid an official visit to T&T from 29 May to 31 May 2013. On 30 May 2013, she attended the Indian Arrival Day Event which is celebrated every year in T&T.

A 4-member delegation led by Mr. Simon Yearwood, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of People and Social Development of T&T visited India from 24-30 June 2013. During the visit, they met with Dr. Syeda Hameed, Member Planning Commission and officials of Tihar Jail and National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).

A 2-member technical team from the Coconut Development

Board of India (CDB), Kochi visited T&T from 31 May to 9 June 2013 for making an on-the-spot assessment of the coconut sector of T&T and to guide the country to develop a road map.

To celebrate the Indian Arrival Day, the ICCR in association with The High Commission of the Republic of T&T in India organized 'Milap'- a five day exhibition of paintings, sculptures and music from 1 June, 2013 at ICCR. The event was inaugurated by Minister of Culture Ms. Chandresh Kumari Katoch on 31 May 2013.

A high level 3 member delegation led by Minister of Culture, Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch visited T&T from 30 October to 1 November 2013 on a bilateral visit. During the visit, Smt Katoch called on the President, Mr. Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona and met with Prime Minister Ms Kamla Persad Bissessar and Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Winston Dookeran and Arts & Multiculturalism, Dr. Lincoln Douglas.

Disaster Relief

Cash donation of US\$ 5,00,000 each to St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and US\$ 3,00,000 to Commonwealth of Dominica (CD) was given as humanitarian assistance in the wake of damage caused by flash floods.



United Nations and International Organisations

9

India in United Nations

68th Session of the UN General Assembly

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the official Indian delegation to the high level segment of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York from 27 September to 30 October 2013.

In his statement during the General Debate of the General Assembly on 28 September 2013, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh urged reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to reflect current political realities. Speaking on the theme of the 68th UNGA, namely 'Setting the stage for the Post 2015 Development Agenda', Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh emphasized the need for making eradication of poverty the anchor of the post-2015 Development Agenda, and stressed the danger of falling short of achieving this Agenda if the world focused on governance issues at the cost of robust economic growth. He said "a meaningful post-2015 agenda must place equally high priority on food and nutrition, health education, infrastructure, water, sanitation, energy and non-discrimination against women". He also urged concerted global action against terrorism. "We need to renew our commitment, especially here at the UN, for concerted, cohesive and continuing global action against terrorism. There can be no tolerance for states sheltering, arming, training or financing terrorists. Nor can they absolve themselves of the responsibility to prevent their territories from being used to launch acts of terrorism", he said.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited New York for the 68th UNGA session from 23-30 September 2013. During this period, in addition to bilateral meetings with his counterparts from China, Egypt, Libya, Palestine, UAE and US, he attended several plurilateral and multilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the UNGA including the G-4 Foreign Ministers meeting, the SAARC Foreign Ministers Meeting,

India-GCC Political Dialogue, the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting, IBSA Foreign Ministers Meeting, High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and a High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament. He also met with the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon.

Participating in the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament on 26 September 2013, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid firmly affirmed India's consistent support for nuclear disarmament based on the key principles of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time bound manner. He also stressed that as a responsible nuclear power, India has a credible minimum deterrence policy and a posture of no-first use and it refuses to participate in an arms race, including a nuclear arms race.

Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs visited New York from 9-14 October 2013 and participated in the General Debate of the Second Committee of the UNGA global development issues, and delivered India's statement on 10 October 2013. He also participated in the general debate of the Agenda "Advancement of Women" in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on 11 October 2013. He further addressed the UN General Assembly on 14 October 2013 during the joint debate on the 'International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda, the Former Yugoslavia and International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals'.

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs visited New York from 21-27 October 2013 and participated in the deliberations of the General Assembly as well as the Security Council. She attended the UNSC debate on the Situation in the Middle East and delivered India's statement on 22 October 2013. She addressed the UNGA on 25 October 2013 on "New Partnership for Africa's Development."

Reform of the United Nations Security Council

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in his address at the High Level Segment of the UNGA 68th Session on 28 September 2013 underscored the urgent need for reforms of institutions of global governance, and said "for multilateralism to remain relevant and effective in the future, multilateral institutions need to be reformed. The place to begin is right here."

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh further added that "the United Nations Security Council must be reformed and restructured to reflect current political realities. More developing countries should be included as both permanent and non-permanent members." He also emphasized the need for completing the reforms process by 2015. "Two years from now, the United Nations will be seventy years old. Every new state that was born during this period took its place in this Assembly not just with pride but also with hope. 2015 will be a moment to celebrate our successes and to ensure that the United Nations is ready for this century by completing the much needed reforms of the United Nations and its Security Council", he said.

On the sidelines of the opening of the 68th UNGA, G-4 Foreign Ministers met in New York on 26 September 2013 where substantive views were exchanged on the way forward on Security Council reforms. The Minister of External Relations of Brazil, the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid participated in the meeting. In the Joint Press Statement issued after the meeting, the Ministers underscored that almost 70 years after the creation of the United Nations, reform of the Security Council is long overdue. They agreed that difficulties of the Security Council in dealing with international challenges, including current ones, have further highlighted the need for UNSC reform in order to better reflect geopolitical realities of the 21st century. They recalled that almost 10 years ago, in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, international leaders committed themselves to an early reform of the Security Council, and therefore, stressed the need to intensify efforts to translate, at the latest by 2015, the existing agreement into concrete outcomes.

The Ministers also reiterated that given the overwhelming support by member states for an expansion of the Security Council in both categories of membership, permanent and non-permanent, this should be a key parameter in the

negotiation process among member states and called for the drafting of a concise working document as the basis for further negotiations, in line with the recommendations of the Chairman of the Inter Governmental Negotiations (IGN). They also reaffirmed their support for Africa to be represented in the permanent membership of an enlarged Council.

A meeting of the Directors General (DGs) of UN Affairs of the G-4 (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) was held in New Delhi on 11 February 2014 to exchange views on Security Council Reform. The G-4 DGs discussed the current state of play on UNSC reforms in New York as well as the way forward with a view to moving the process urgently to text-based intergovernmental negotiations. They underlined the broad support that exists among UN member states for expansion of the UNSC in both permanent and non-permanent categories in order to better reflect the geopolitical realities of the 21st century as well as the need to make the Council more representative, efficient and transparent.

A one day Outreach Seminar on "United Nations Security Council Reform: Perspectives and Prospects" was jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) on 12 February 2014 at which Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh delivered the key note address and underscored the need for the reform of the Security Council in order to make its archaic composition more reflective of the vastly expanded membership of the UN.

Peacekeeping

India continued its active engagement with peacekeeping policy debates at the UN including with plenary statements and debates within the Special Committee on Peacekeeping and the UNSC Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations. In keeping with its stated policy of encouraging greater involvement of troop-contributing countries in the decision-making process for peacekeeping mandates, India played a critical role in the UN addressing the long-pending review of troop reimbursement rates which accommodated concerns of countries contributing troops in UN peacekeeping.

India continues to be one of the largest and most consistent troop contributors to UN Peacekeeping Operations. In 2013, India was the third largest troop-contributor to UN peacekeeping with 7,923 of its military and police personnel deployed with nine UN peacekeeping missions and one supervision mission in Afghanistan. Democratic Republic of Congo (4,037), South Sudan (2,093) Lebanon (897), Haiti (429), and Golan Heights on Syria-Israel Border (194) are the

leading missions with substantial Indian presence. In addition, India has a Force Commander in UNDOF (Golan Heights). The high performance standards set by the Indian troops and police personnel under challenging circumstances have won them acclaim world-wide.

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 budget and the fifth largest contributor to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC).

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid led the official Indian delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), in Colombo from 15-17 November 2013. The theme of the 2013 CHOGM was "Growth with Equity: Inclusive Development". EAM Shri Salman Khurshid also participated in the Pre-CHOGM Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting on 13-14 November 2013. The meetings of the Committee of the Whole (CoW), at Senior Officials level, were held from 10-12 November 2013. During this period, meetings of the Commonwealth Business Forum (12-14 November 2013), Commonwealth Youth Forum (10-14 November 2013) and the Commonwealth People's Forum (10-14 November 2013) were also held in Colombo. At CHOGM, the Heads of Government reviewed developments within the Commonwealth and globally and discussed a wide range of international issues. The focus of the Summit was the post-2015 global development framework, ability of climate-vulnerable small states to access financing, solutions for debt challenges of small states, international trade and investment and measures to lower border constraints for Commonwealth citizens. At the end of CHOGM, the leaders adopted the CHOGM 2013 Communiqué covering a wide range of international issues. The Heads of Government also adopted the Magampura Commitment to Young People "Young People at the Centre of Sustainable and Inclusive Development"; the Colombo Declaration on Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Development (based on the theme of this CHOGM); and the Kotte Statement on International Trade and Investment.

India became a member of the reconfigured Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) at the 2013 CHOGM in Sri Lanka for the term 2013-15. The CMAG which was

established at the 1995 CHOGM in Auckland deals with serious or persistent violations of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values. The CMAG is made up of Foreign Ministers from nine Member States. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid attended the 43rd CMAG meeting held on 13-14 March in London. Fiji is the only item currently on the formal agenda of CMAG.

The Commonwealth Secretary General, Shri Kamalesh Sharma, visited New Delhi on 6-9 February, 2013 and again on 18-22 November, 2013 for discussions on Commonwealth related issues.

Piracy

The Second India-EU counter Piracy Dialogue was held in Brussels on 9 September 2013. Both sides apprised each other of the various activities being undertaken in the field of counter piracy and discussed issues of interest to the EU and India.

The 14th Plenary Meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) was held on 1 May 2013 in New York. The theme of the Plenary was "Progress Against Somali Piracy: Significant but Reversible-We must stay the Course!". At the Plenary and other related meetings, Indian delegation raised our concerns including High Risk Area and use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel on ships.

The 15th Plenary Meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) was held on 14 November, 2013 in Djibouti. Shri Sandeep Kumar, Joint Secretary (WANA), M.E.A. led the Indian delegation for the Plenary.

Democracy Initiatives

- (i) **Community of Democracies (CoD):** MEA in collaboration with Ministry of Human Resources Development organised an Asia Pacific Regional Conference of the Community of Democracies in New Delhi on 17-18 January, 2013. The Conference, for Senior Officials from Ministries of Education, was jointly inaugurated by Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of Human Resource Development and Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold, Foreign Minister of Mongolia, the present Chair of the Community of Democracies. Delegations from 17 member countries and 2 international organizations (UNDEF and UNESCO) participated in the Conference.

- (ii) **Bali Democracy Forum (BDF):** The 6th Bali Democracy Forum (BDF VI) was held on 7-8 November 2013 in Bali, Indonesia. Shri Brij Behari Tandon, former Chief Election Commissioner represented India at the BDF VI. The theme of the BDF VI was “Consolidating Democracy in a Pluralistic Society”.
- (iii) **UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF):** The United Nations Democracy Fund was initiated as a result of a partnership between India and the United States and was launched jointly by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, US President Mr. George Bush and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in New York on 14 September 2005. Having contributed US\$ 31.56 million, India is the second largest contributor to the UNDEF. India considers the Fund to be an effective instrument for the promotion of democratic values and processes and has played a prominent role in the UNDEF as a member of its apex governing body - the Advisory Board.

Terrorism

Mr. Alexander Evans, Coordinator of Al-Qaida Taliban Monitoring Team of UN accompanied by Mr. Hans Jakob Schindler, Member of the Team, visited India from 24-25 February 2014 and interacted with senior officials from Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and National Investigation Agency to discuss ways and means to enhance the efficacy of Al-Qaida and Taliban Committee sanctions regime.

Bilateral Consultations

India held bilateral consultations on various UN issues with Japan (17 May, 2013), Norway (16 January, 2014) and UK (12 March, 2014). The Indian delegation was led by Shri Navtej Singh Sarna, Additional Secretary (IO), M.E.A.

Group of 77 - Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid led the Indian delegation at the 37th Annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 in New York on 26 September 2013. India emphasized that the Group must lead in the processes of follow-up of Rio+20 decisions and the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that they have a strong imprint of the core priorities of developing countries.

Group of Fifteen (G-15)

India attended the Group of Fifteen (G-15) Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in September 2013 in New York, on the margins of the 68th UNGA. India expressed its commitment to implement the capacity-building, technical assistance projects and other activities under G-15, and endorsed the four new thematic areas under Information Communication Technology, Intellectual Property, Migration, and Renewable Energy. India also remained engaged in the revitalization process of the G-15 and contributed substantially to the discussions in the Working Groups on Institutional Mechanisms and Sectoral Cooperation.

Elections

India's presence in the UN system was further consolidated during the year. India, a member of the UNESCO Executive Board since its creation in 1950, was re-elected for a period of five years in elections during the 37th General Conference of UNESCO held in Paris on 13 November 2013. India was elected to the Council of International Civil Aviation Organisation for a three year term during its 38th Assembly meeting in Montreal from 24 September to 4 October, 2013; to the Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) for the term 2014-2017; to the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) for the term 2014-2017; the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for the term 2014-2016 in April 2013 and to the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for the term 2014-2016, in November, 2013. India was re-elected to the Executive Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for the term 2014-2015 in elections during the 28th Assembly of the IMO held in London from 25 November to 4 December 2013.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri Shashi Kant Sharma, was elected to the UN Board of Auditors for a six-year term starting July 2014 winning by 124-62 votes in elections held on 1 November 2013. India's candidate, Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, was nominated as Regional Director for the WHO South-East Asia Region, in elections held on 12 September 2013. Shri Devesh Uttam, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India, New York, was elected by acclamation to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), a key UN oversight body for the term 2014-2016.

Economic and Development Issues

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

India participated at the 2013 Substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held in Geneva from 1-26 July 2013. The Indian delegation addressed the Annual Ministerial Review on the theme "Science, technology and innovation (STI), and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs".

Special Event for the Follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Foreign Secretary, Smt. Sujatha Singh led the Indian delegation at the Special Event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) hosted by the President of the UNGA on 25 September, 2013. India stressed that eradication of poverty and the core human development objectives encapsulated in the MDGs must continue to receive the highest attention of the international community after 2015.

High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations led the Indian delegation at the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development on the theme "Making Migration Work" held in New York on 3-4 October 2013. The Dialogue concluded with the adoption of a Declaration which decided to work towards an effective and inclusive agenda on international migration that integrates development and respects human rights.

Sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development

The 6th High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development was held on 7-8 October 2013 in New York on the overall theme "The Monterrey Consensus, Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and related outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits: status of implementation and tasks ahead". Shri Arun Jaitley, MP and member of the Indian delegation made the statement on behalf of India.

High Level Meeting on the Realization of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals for Persons with Disabilities

Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Km. Selja led the Indian delegation at the high level meeting of the UNGA on the realization of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, in New York on 23 September 2013 with the overarching theme "The way forward: A Disability-inclusive Development Agenda towards 2015 and beyond". India reaffirmed its commitment to building an enabling and inclusive environment so that all persons with disabilities are able to enjoy their rights and realize their full potential in society.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Dr. D. Purandeswari, led the Indian delegation at the 69th annual commission session of UNESCAP in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013. The theme topic of the Session was "opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises". A Ministerial round table on the theme and a High Level consultation on G-20 Russia Summit–Perspectives from Asia-Pacific were among the events held. 17 Resolutions were adopted during the annual session. Election of the Governing Council of Statistical Institute of Asia-Pacific (SIAP) was held during the session. India was re-elected to the Governing Council with the maximum number of votes.

Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Shri Keshav Desiraju, led the Indian delegation at the 6th Asia-Pacific Population Conference organized by UNESCAP along with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangkok from 16-20 September 2013. India participated in the meeting organized by UNESCAP in collaboration with the Government of Thailand on "Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the MDGs to the UN Development Agenda Beyond 2015" in Bangkok from 26-28 August 2013. A 'Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration' was adopted at the 2nd Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport organized by UNESCAP in Bangkok from 4-8 November 2013, in which India participated.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Dr. E.M.S. Natchiappan, led the Indian delegation at the 1st Ministerial Conference on Economic cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific organized by UNESCAP in Bangkok from 17-20 December 2013.

UN-HABITAT

Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Shri Ajay Maken led the Indian delegation to the 24th Session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT which was held in Nairobi from 15-19 April 2013. He also attended the Bureau meeting of the Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) on 14 April 2013 in Nairobi.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

India continues to be the member of the UNIDO's Industrial Development Board (IDB) and the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC). Shri Saurabh Chandra, Secretary (DIPP) visited Vienna from 5-6 September 2013 for the signing of the Country Programme of cooperation between India and UNIDO for 2013-17 and the second phase on India-UNIDO projects on UNIDO Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation (UCSSIC). Director General of UNIDO, LI Yong visited India from 12-14 November 2013.

United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)

India participated in the International Expert Group Meeting of United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) held in Vienna from 10-12 April 2013. Indian delegations attended the 22nd session of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; the Implementation Review Group meeting (fourth Session of the UNCAC) from 27-31 May 2013 and; the 5th Session of the Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the UNCAC held in Panama City from 25-29 November 2013. India stressed the importance of the UNCAC as the global framework for action against corruption as was underscored by most other countries.

International Anti Corruption Academy (IACA)

India joined the International Anti-corruption Academy (IACA) based in Laxenburg, Austria. The 'Instrument of Accession' was deposited on 29 May 2013 and came into force

for India on July 2013.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar led the Indian delegation at the 129th Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Geneva in October 2013. The Indian delegation took active part in the IPU Assembly's four segments i.e. Panel discussions, Session of IPU Committee on various themes, Emergency Item and Post-Assembly sessions. Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha Prof. P.J. Kurien led a high level Parliamentary Delegation to the 130th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Geneva from 16-20 March 2014.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

India continued to remain engaged with the activities of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Ms. P. Gopinathan, Secretary (Posts), participated in the Global Forum on Financial Inclusion for Development organized by the UPU in October 2013 in Geneva.

International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

India participated in International Telecommunications Union (ITU) activities, apart from the meetings of the ITU Council, in Geneva. The fifth World Telecommunication / Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum (WTPF-13) held in Geneva in May 2013, in parallel with the WSIS Forum 2013, was attended by a high-level delegation from Department of Telecommunications (DoT). India actively engaged in the discussions that led to the adoption of six Opinions covering the broadband and internet governance. Ministry of Communications & Information Technology along with public sector telecom companies participated in the Connect Asia-Pacific Summit held on 18 November 2013 and the Telecom World 2013 from 19-22 November 2013 in Bangkok organized by the International Telecommunication Union in collaboration with the Government of Thailand.

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

Dr. L.S. Rathore, DG, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) was elected to the Executive Council of WMO. India, as a member of the Executive Committee of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), played an active role in the evolution of normative and institutional developments in

WMO during 2013. India was also elected as the Vice-Chair at the first meeting in July 2013 of Inter-Governmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS), which is a body established by the Extra-ordinary Session of WMO Congress (October 2012) for implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). India contributed US\$ 900,000 as its contribution to the IBCS given the importance that India attaches to the newly established body.

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

India continued its constructive engagement with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Standing Committees, the Inter-Governmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, as well as other meetings on organizational and budgetary matters. A significant development was India's accession to the Madrid Protocol on Trademarks. Minister of Commerce, Industry & Textiles Shri Anand Sharma handed over India's Instrument of Accession to the Protocol relating to Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks and also participated in the High-Level Policy Dialogue organized by WIPO on 8 April 2013. As a member of the Development Agenda Group, India actively worked towards promoting the incorporation of development agenda recommendations in the works of all the relevant committees of WIPO.

India also actively participated in the Marrakesh Diplomatic Conference in June 2013, which adopted the 'Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for blind, Visually Impaired and otherwise Print Disabilities'.

Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) participated in WIPO General Assembly Meeting held in Geneva in September 2013. India played an active role, together with other developing countries, in securing the renewal of the mandate of the WIPO Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Traditional Cultural Expressions for the biennium 2014-15, with a distinct possibility for finalizing the text, and even for convening a Diplomatic Conference during the next biennium for adoption of a legally-binding agreement.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

India continued its engagement in UNCTAD meetings of the

Trade and Development Board, Multi-year and Single-year expert meetings, and through this, in the revitalization of this important UN institution, which has been instrumental in providing a realistic policy analysis in the area of Trade and Development for the benefit of all the countries, particularly the Developing countries. India made a special contribution for organization of UNCTAD Public Symposium on 'New Economic Approaches for a Coherent Post-2015 Agenda' held in June 2013. India participated in the 60th session of the Trade and Development Board meeting held in September 2013. India also participated in the First Geneva Dialogue on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda held in November 2013.

United Nations Commission on Science, Technology and Development (UNCSTD)

As a member of the UN Commission on Science, Technology and Development (UN-CSTD), India participated in its 16th session held in Geneva in June 2013. India also actively participated in the two meetings of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC), which was established by the UN General Assembly with a mandate to make recommendations on implementation of enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005. India also coordinated its position with IBSA countries and other like-minded countries during the proceedings of the CSTD as well as the Working Group.

International Trade Centre (ITC)

India participated in inter-governmental meetings of the ITC, a subsidiary body of UNCTAD and World Trade Organisation (WTO). The 47th session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group (JAG) was held in May 2013, which examined the activities of ITC, including a Strategic Plan of ITC for 2013-2016.

World Health Organization (WHO)

India participated at the 66th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva from 20-28 May 2013. An MoU between India and UK for cooperation in health sector was signed in May 2013, on the margins of WHA. India's efforts in the eradication of polio were applauded by the WHO. India stressed that every citizen is entitled to essential health care services and that these should be guaranteed by the State. It also emphasized the

significance of health for the core values of well-being—quality of life, equity and social justice, which make health central to a new generation of global development goals.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

India participated in the 102nd Session of the International Labour Conference of ILO, which took place in Geneva from 5-20 June 2013. Minister of State for Labour & Employment and, Labour Ministers of Assam, Delhi and Tamil Nadu participated in the Conference. During the ILC, India's progressive schemes oriented towards the socio-economic uplift of the poor and the marginalized workers were acknowledged. In this regard, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Rashtriya Swashta Bima Yojana (RSBY), National Skills Development Policy (NSDP), New Pension Scheme (NPS) were recognized within the ILO constituents as important social protection measures for workers.

India participated in the 319th Session of the Governing Body (GB) of ILO, which took place in October 2013. The Indian delegation also participated in the discussions of the Working Party for Improvement of functioning of GB and International Labour Conference. India said that the global effort to reach the ultimate goal of inclusive globalization with social justice will be attained only when we promote decent work in our development agenda as per ILO Social Justice Declaration, 2008.

The Director-General of ILO attended the Indian Labour Conference in May 2013 and also called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and discussed the progress made by India in the labour matters.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

India served as the Chair of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) during 2013. India, as the Chair of PCB, facilitated the adoption of a resolution on UNAIDS during the ECOSOC meeting in Geneva in July 2013. The decisions on all the agenda items were adopted by consensus for the first time. India supported the inclusion of HIV targets under the overarching health goals as well as other goals of multi-sector response in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. During India's Chair, its contribution to the AIDS

response in national and international fora, including supply of generic anti-retroviral drugs, was widely acknowledged.

UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS)

A 3-member delegation from National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) participated at the 56th Session of UNCOPUOS held in Vienna from 12-21 June 2013.

Environmental Issues

Inaugural meeting of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid led the Indian delegation at the Inaugural meeting of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development on 24 September 2013 in New York. India reaffirmed strong political commitment to sustainable development and stressed that the HLPF must be a forum for action-oriented collaboration, emphasizing sharing of best practices and experiences, mobilization of international resources, transfer of technology and capacity building support in order to mainstream sustainable development at all levels.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Minister of State for Environment & Forests (I/C), Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan led the Indian delegation at the 19th Conference of Parties (COP-19) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Warsaw, Poland in November 2013. The Conference also included the 9th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP-9).

The close coordination between India, China, Brazil and South Africa as part of the BASIC Group also continued in the run-up to the Warsaw conference with meetings at Chennai, India (February 2013), Cape Town, South Africa (July 2013), Foz do Iguacu, Brazil (September 2013) and Hangzhou, China (October 2013). India also worked closely with a group of Like-Minded Developing Countries which played a significant role in the Warsaw conference.

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

A meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives of the UNEP was held from 24-28 March, 2014 in Nairobi which was attended by representative from Ministry of Environment & Forests. The meeting discussed the agenda for the inaugural United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) scheduled to be held from 23-27 June 2014 in Nairobi.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The eleventh session of the Conference of Parties (COP 11) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Windhoek, Namibia from 16-27 September 2013. The eleventh meeting of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 11) and the twelfth meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 12) convened in parallel to the COP. 41 decisions were adopted during COP 11. An inter-Ministerial delegation participated in the meeting. India was elected as the Chair of Asia-Pacific group and will hold the position till COP 12 in 2015.

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The meetings of the Conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions were held back-to-back in May 2013 in Geneva. India with the help of other developing countries, including Brazil, China, Egypt and Iran, was able to get a deferral on a decision on Compliance Procedures under Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions. India also strongly advocated the need for reiteration of Common-but-Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) in the outcomes of such COPs.

Arctic Council

India, along-with China, Japan, South-Korea, Singapore and Italy, was granted an 'Observer' status in the Arctic Council during the Kiruna Ministerial Meeting held in May 2013. The Arctic Council is a high level intergovernmental forum established in 1996 for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States on common Arctic issues, in particular issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. India attended the

meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials held in Whitehorse, Canada in October 2013 as well as meetings of some of the Working Groups and Task Forces of the Arctic Council.

Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) mandated the development of a set of 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' and for this purpose established a transparent and inclusive intergovernmental process consisting of a 30-member Open Working Group (OWG). The first phase of stock-taking and conceptual discussions in the OWG on a series of thematic areas lasted from March 2013 to February 2014. This included a total of eight meetings of the OWG. India participated in the meetings of the OWG as part of the troika of India-Pakistan-Sri Lanka and proactively contributed to the discussions for crafting a set of SDGs with poverty eradication as the central and overarching objective and the development priorities of the developing countries as priority.

First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

India participated at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the 3rd SIDS Conference held in New York from 24-26 February 2014. On the sidelines of the meeting of the Preparatory Committee, a special event was held on the forenoon on 24 February 2014 to launch the 'International Year of the SIDS-2014'. India has made a financial contribution of US\$ 250,000 for the organization of the 3rd International SIDS Conference.

Social and Human Rights Issues

Human Rights Council (HRC)

India, as a member of the Human Rights Council (HRC), took active part in the proceedings of the three regular sessions held in 2013, and played a constructive role in shaping some of the resolutions that were adopted by HRC during the year.

India was unanimously elected as the Vice President representing the Asia-Pacific Group in the Bureau of the HRC for 2014. The Human Rights Council, besides its attention to

various thematic issues, focused on country-specific situations by adopting country-specific resolutions against Syria, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK), Myanmar, Iran and Sri Lanka (for the third time), and a Presidential Statement on situation of human rights of Muslims in Myanmar.

India also participated in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the HRC by making statements on 17 national reports out of a total of 42 countries' reports that were considered during the year. India also served as a member of the Troika for the UPRs of Colombia and Burundi. India facilitated the visit of Ms. Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to India in April 2013.

Four eminent Indians continued to serve with distinction as members of important Treaty Bodies and human rights mechanisms, including Shri Dilip Lahiri (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination), Shri Chandrasekhar Dasgupta (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), Shri Anand Grover (Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health), and Shri Kishore Singh (Special Rapporteur on the right to education).

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid participated in the Ministerial segment of the International Conference on Syria held at Montreux (Switzerland) on 22 January 2014, aimed at finding a political solution to the civil war in Syria.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

India participated in the 64th Session of the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held in Geneva from 30 September to 4 October 2013. India engaged in the deliberations of the UNHCR during the year. India also contributed in discussions leading to the adoption of a Conclusion on Civil Registration for Refugees.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

India played a constructive role in the deliberations of the 103rd Session of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council held in Geneva in November 2013. The Session adopted resolutions on funding of the core structure

and IOM's role in the ongoing discussions on Post-2015 Development Agenda. India reiterated the need for IOM to adhere to its core mandate of humane and orderly manner management of migration.

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs participated in the first-ever Diaspora Ministerial Conference organized by the IOM in July 2013 which discussed ways to engage, enable and empower Diaspora communities, and promote them as development actors for their countries of origin.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

The fourth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP-DRR) was held in Geneva in May 2013. Secretary (Border Management), Ministry of Home Affairs along with senior officials from National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) participated at the Global Platform. This followed the successful launch of the National Platform by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh earlier that month in New Delhi.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms. Margereta Wahlstrom, visited India in December 2013. She met senior officials in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs and also visited the State of Odisha and described the handling of cyclone Phailin as a landmark success in disaster management.

Global Forum for Migration and Development

India, as a major Country of Origin and Destination for migration, participated in the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) deliberations, in particular in GFMD's Steering Group, Assessment Team on the Future of the Forum and Friends of the Forum. The GFMD established after the High level Meeting on International Migration and Development in 2007, is the most comprehensive global platform for enhancing dialogue among Countries of Origin, Transit and Destination on international migration and development. India's contribution of US\$ 50,000 to the GFMD Chair has been rolled over to fund GFMD's activities during 2013-14.

UNESCO

Minister of State for Human Resource Development Dr.

Shashi Tharoor, led the Indian delegation to the 37th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, held at Paris from 5-20 November 2013. The 37th Session adopted the Medium Term Strategy for UNESCO for 2014-2021 with a sharper focus on Education. The Session adopted a resolution paving the way for the establishment of a Category 2 Centre of UNESCO “Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Regions” at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Dr. Tharoor also attended the BRICS Education Ministers meeting and BRICS-UNESCO meeting organized by UNESCO in November 2013.

India was elected to the Executive Council of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) at the 27th Session of IOC Assembly at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 26 June to 5 July 2013. Government of India re-nominated Dr. Karan Singh as Representative to the Executive Boards of UNESCO for the term 2013-2017. India's National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) was awarded the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2013.

India as the Chair of E-9 group of countries led the policy dialogue at UNESCO emphasizing the importance of education in the emerging post-2015 development agenda. India along with UNESCO co-hosted a Technical Meeting on “Inclusive, Relevant Quality Education for All” in New Delhi on 27-28 June 2013.

The 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was commemorated by UNESCO in 2013. To mark this occasion, an event was organized by India on 7 October 2013. The year 2013 was observed as the birth centenary of Amrita Sher-Gil by UNESCO. To mark this occasion, an Exhibition “Remembering Amrita Sher-Gil” was organized at UNESCO from 24 September to 2 October 2013 jointly by India and Hungary.

International Law

India had submitted an Application for approval of a Plan of Work for exploration of polymetallic sulphides in the Indian Ocean to the International Seabed Authority. It has been examined / considered by the Legal and Technical Commission of the Authority in February 2014. It is notable that after India, Germany also submitted similar Application which overlaps with areas included in India's Application. India's Application will be taken up for final approval / decision by the Council of the Authority in July 2014.

In January 2014, the Government of India hosted in Chennai a Workshop under the auspices of the United Nations, in

support of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects. The report of the Workshop will be issued as an official document of the UNGA under the agenda item “Oceans and the Law of the Sea”.

Legal and Treaties Division

United Nations and International Law

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism:

As part of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, the UNGA urged the States to intensify, where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism in order to avoid dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information. The UNGA further urged the States to ensure prosecution of nationals or persons in their territories who funded or financially supported any and all terrorist acts. The Ad hoc Committee on Terrorism which met at New York from 8-12 April 2013 recommended that the Sixth Committee, at the 68th session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive Convention on international terrorism as well as discussions concerning the question of convening a high-level Conference under the auspices of the United Nations on the subject matter.

Oceans and the Law of the Sea

The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the “Informal Consultative Process”) held its fourteenth meeting from 17-20 June 2013 and, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/78, focused its discussions on the topic entitled “The impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment”. The meeting was attended by representatives of 76 States including India, 13 intergovernmental organizations and other bodies and entities and 8 non-governmental organizations. The Legal & Treaties (L&T) Division had actively advised on various legal issues which came up during the meeting.

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

The 52nd Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) was held in New Delhi

from 9-12 September 2013. Thirty six Member States, including India participated at the Session. The Session was inaugurated by Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs who delivered the inaugural address. In this Session, Dr. Neeru Chadha, Joint Secretary (L&T), M.E.A., was unanimously elected as the President of the Fifty-Second Annual Session of the AALCO. Delegation of India made statements on all the agenda items. Indian Delegation also made a General Statement at the First General Meeting of the Session.

Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)

India continued to participate in the Working Group II on legal issues of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. The Working Group continued its efforts to provide legal guidance to States and organizations on all legal issues related to the fight against piracy, including the prosecution of individuals suspected of acts of piracy and the imprisonment of those convicted in accordance with international standards. The Working Group held detailed discussions of human rights issues and plans to share best practices in this field, including on how to handle juveniles suspected of piracy. The Working Group retained its focus on implementation of the post-trial transfer system, prosecution, including the international legal framework for prosecuting piracy-organizers, and the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships and vessel protection detachments.

The Legal and Treaties (L&T) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs was involved in formulating comprehensive Anti-Piracy draft bill, which is pending before the Parliament.

Special Committee on the UN Charter

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization is considering several proposals relating to: the maintenance of international peace and security; coordination with other committees/bodies that are also involved in the work related to the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular with regard to assistance to third States adversely affected by sanctions. The L&T Division prepared briefs on issues before the Special Committee for use of the Indian delegation to the 68th session of the UN General Assembly. The Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to consider the subject as a priority, in regard to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under the UN Charter, as well as improving its working methods towards

identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation. India's stand over the years has been that the Security Council is primarily responsible towards the affected third States, as a part of the decisions imposing sanctions.

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 Repertoire of Practice of United Nations organs. India has supported these efforts concerning the updating/publication of the Repertoire and Repertory.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

India participated in the meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and its Working Groups dealing with Arbitration and Conciliation, Security Interests and Online Dispute Resolution respectively. The 46th Annual Session was held in Vienna International Center (Austria) from 8-26 July 2013 for finalization and adoption of a revised version of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration. The 28th Session of the Working Group on Online Dispute Resolution was held in Vienna from 18-22 November 2013. This Working Group is mandated to prepare legal rules for online dispute resolution mechanisms for the e-commerce disputes, as the traditional means of dispute settlement are time consuming and expensive; e-commerce cross-border disputes require tailor-made, early and cost effective settlement that would avoid costs, delays and burdens that were disproportionate to the economic value at stake. The Working Group on Security Interests was seeking to finalize principles/rules for guidance to the States to establish a Registry for registration of security interests (encumbrances) on movable property. This is to enable the owner of the property to raise/avail maximum possible credit on his property and providing security and priority to the creditor.

International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)

The L&T Division participated in the Third Meeting of the Committee of Emerging Markets, Issues, Follow-Up and Implementation established by the UNIDROIT Diplomatic Conference to Adopt a Convention on Substantive Rules regarding Intermediated Securities held at Istanbul in Turkey from 11-13 November 2013. This Meeting aims to examine the reception given to the Geneva Securities Convention in the

Member States, consider concrete proposals for its promotion and future work by UNIDROIT in the area of financial markets law and also consider the draft Accession Kit which is intended to provide guidance to countries that want to ratify the Convention on how to incorporate the provisions of the Convention and integrate it into their domestic legal system.

Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH)

The Hague Conference on Private International Law is an inter-governmental organization having 74 members and India is a Member State since March 2008. It works for the “progressive unification” of private international law-rules. The L&T Division participated in the Conference on International Litigation in the Asia Pacific Region in Wuhan, China which was organized to exchange views on the harmonisation of rules on recognition and enforcement of judgments in the broader civil and commercial context; and gather regional perspectives on the ongoing work of the Hague Conference in the area of recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments and international jurisdiction in civil and commercial matters. The L&T Division gave India’s legal position as regards the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments under one domestic law.

Antarctica

The L&T Division participated in the XXXVI Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Committee (ATCM) held at Brussels, Belgium from 20-29 May 2013 which was taken up under different Working Groups: a) CEP (Committee on Environmental Protection) of Antarctica, b) Working Group on Tourism, c) Working Group on Legal and Institutional matters, d) Working Group on Operational Matters.

The outcome of the deliberations of different Groups was adoption of several Resolutions, the Legal and Institutional Group was adopted in the Plenary Meeting of ATCM after discussions. Though all the draft Resolutions and Measures adopted by the Working Groups are sent to Legal and Institutional Working Group the three main issues that were discussed at great length were: a) Jurisdiction issue; b) Liability Annex; and c) Strengthening the support for Madrid Protocol.

Water Resources

The L&T Division India participated in the Meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission established under the Indus Waters Treaty. The L&T Division was also actively engaged in

coordinating and presenting India’s position before the Court of Arbitration set up under the Indus Water Treaty. India participated in 108th and 109th meetings of Indus Water Commission held on 24-26 March, 2013 at Lahore, Pakistan and on 22-24 September, 2013 in Delhi, respectively. At these meetings HEPs (Hydro Electric Projects) like Pakal Dul, Ratle, Lower Kalnai and Miyar, etc., were discussed. India also participated in the site visit for inspection of the work of Wullar Lake Conservation project in Jammu and Kashmir held on 11-12 April, 2013 along with officers of the Ministry of Water Resources as well as the experts from CWC participated.

Dispute with Bangladesh on Maritime Delimitation

Bangladesh has initiated arbitration on delimitation of maritime boundary with India in the Bay of Bengal under Article 287 and Article 1 of Annex VII of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In February 2010, an arbitration panel comprising 5 Members was constituted in accordance with Article 3 of Annex VII of UNCLOS. L&T Division was actively involved in meetings with the legal counsels and other experts towards preparation of India’s response to Bangladesh’s memorial. It may be recalled that Bangladesh submitted a reply to India’s Counter Memorial on 31 January 2013. India submitted its rejoinder on 31 July 2013.

The Tribunal, at the request of Bangladesh, sought to conduct a site visit to relevant coasts of the Parties and to the estuary area for viewing the base points proposed by India and Bangladesh. The site visit for the Tribunal was organised from 23-25 October 2013. Thereafter, the oral pleading of the case was held at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague from 9-18 December 2013. The Indian delegation was led by Shri. G.E. Vahanvati, Attorney General of India and the Oral Pleadings were steered by Dr. Neeru Chadha, Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser, M.E.A., who is also the Agent of India. From the Bangladesh side, Mr. A.H. Mahmood Ali, MP Foreign Minister of Bangladesh led the Delegation and Dr. Dipu Moni, former Foreign Minister and Agent of Bangladesh initiated the Oral Pleadings. Parties have taken a maximalist approach during the submission of written pleadings, which was reiterated in the oral hearings. Parties are conscious of the fact that the Tribunal award could be different from their claims. Under UNCLOS, the decision of the Arbitral Tribunal is final and binding on the parties. The decision of the Tribunal is expected by mid 2014.

Extradition and other International Judicial Assistance

L&T Division participated in various bilateral negotiations for concluding Extradition Treaties, Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters, Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial matters and Transfer of Sentenced Persons with foreign countries. As a result of successful negotiations, the text of Extradition Treaty with Bangladesh and Thailand were finalized. The Extradition Treaty with Bangladesh has come into force on 23 October 2013. Text of Treaty of Transfer of Sentenced persons with Kuwait and Vietnam were signed and with Spain was initialled; the proposal to accede to Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad has been examined by this Division and is under consideration. This Division examined counter drafts of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal matters with Cuba, Ethiopia and the Philippines for concluding full fledged treaties with these countries. L&T Division also examined extradition requests and other requests for international cooperation received from the domestic as well as foreign jurisdictions and rendered legal advice thereon.

Vetting

L&T Division has examined a number of defence co-operation agreements and also agreements on international co-operation on outer space issues, science and technology, international terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking/narcotics; also agreements on confidentiality; sharing of hydrological data; gas and energy; bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation, audio visual, road transport, railways, trade, projects, DTAA, education, tourism, climate change, protection of natural resources; gainful employment; hydrography and customs cooperation, etc.

India has signed/ratified many multilateral/bilateral treaties/agreements with foreign countries during the year. A comprehensive list is placed at **Appendix-I**. The list of Instruments of Full Powers issued during the year 2013 is at **Appendix-II** and the list of Instruments of Ratification processed during the year 2013 is at **Appendix-III**.



Disarmament and International Security Affairs

10

India continued to pursue its policies on disarmament and non-proliferation, especially the priority issue of nuclear disarmament, in various multilateral forums on disarmament and international security affairs in pursuance of its commitment to the goal of universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament as well as general and complete disarmament. India participated actively in the meetings of the UN First Committee, UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC), Conference on Disarmament (CD), Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPOA on SALW). India held the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament as one of the six Presidents in the 2013 Session. As a President of the Conference on Disarmament, India exerted all efforts to start substantive work in the Conference and held wide consultations with all Member States of the Conference. India also participated in the Diplomatic Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the meetings of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). India held bilateral consultations with various countries on disarmament and non-proliferation issues and took forward its dialogue with the multilateral export control regimes. The Ministry of External Affairs executed its responsibilities in the implementation of India's export control laws and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Act of 2005. Regular contacts were maintained with Indian and international civil society organisations in the field of disarmament and international security affairs.

United Nations General Assembly

India highlighted its commitment to the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament at the 2013 UNGA. External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid participated in the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament held in New York on 26

September 2013. He reaffirmed India's consistent support to global elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and recalled the Action Plan presented by Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for a Nuclear Weapons Free and Non-Violent World Order to the General Assembly in 1988 and, expressed India's belief that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory.

As a Member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), India supported the Group's resolution "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament" at the 2013 First Committee. The resolution inter alia called for urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a Nuclear Weapons Convention, declared September 26 as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and, decided to convene a high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament by the UN no later than 2018.

During the general debate and thematic debate on nuclear weapons at the 2013 First Committee, India's Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament also underlined India's commitment to nuclear disarmament and reiterated a number of measures proposed by India to this end. Notwithstanding the priority attached to nuclear disarmament, India also reaffirmed its support for the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that meets India's national security interests.

India's resolution entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction", which was first introduced in 2002, was again adopted by consensus. The resolution was co-sponsored in 2013 by 77 countries, which was ten more than 2012.

India's resolution on "Convention on the prohibition of use of

nuclear weapons” reiterated the call to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on an international Convention for prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. The resolution was adopted by a majority vote by the First Committee. India’s third resolution “Reducing nuclear danger” highlighted the need for a review of nuclear doctrines and immediate steps to reduce the risk of intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through their de-alerting and de-targeting. This resolution was also adopted by a majority vote. The First Committee also adopted a draft decision proposed by India on “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament”.

India participated in the meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament which was convened in Geneva in 2013 pursuant to the relevant resolution of the 2012 General Assembly. India’s views on nuclear disarmament including the need for an agreed multilateral framework to take forward nuclear disarmament as well as a reference to the Action Plan of 1988 were reflected in the report of the Open-Ended Working Group.

UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC)

The UN Disarmament Commission held its substantive session for 2013 from 1-19 April 2013. In accordance with the agenda adopted by the Commission for its 2012-14 cycle, the Commission deliberated on its two agenda items related to nuclear disarmament and CBMs in the field of conventional weapons. India took an active part in the deliberations of the Commission with a view to achieving consensus on recommendations in 2014.

Conference on Disarmament(CD)

India as one of the six Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament during the 2013 session of the Conference, held its Presidency from 18 February to 15 March 2013. India scheduled ad-hoc plenary meetings on two of the core issues of the Conference, namely, nuclear disarmament and Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT). During the entire 2013 session of the Conference, India also participated in the meetings of the informal mechanism of consultations between the six Presidents of the Conference for the year. In the various discussions held in the Conference during the year, India continued to stress the need for commencement of substantive work in the CD by the adoption of a Programme of Work. India also shared its perspective on all issues on the CD’s agenda including the four core issues of Nuclear

Disarmament, Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT), Prevention of Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) and Negative Security Assurances (NSAs). Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai addressed the Conference on 18 June 2013 and reaffirmed the value attached by India to the Conference as the world community’s single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. India also conveyed its support for negotiations in the Conference of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) which meets India’s national security interests. India underlined that there is an agreed mandate for FMCT negotiations and that it does not favour reopening that mandate. India also expressed its conviction that the Conference has the membership, the credibility and the Rules of Procedure to discharge its mandate. During the 2014 Session, India supported the decision by the Conference on Disarmament to establish an Informal Working Group to produce a programme of work, robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation.

Second International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (13-14 February 2014)

India’s Mission in Mexico attended the Second International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held at Nayarit on 13-14 February 2014. As in the last Conference in Oslo (March 2013), the P-5 countries, Israel and DPRK did not participate. The Conference sought to build up the discussions held in Oslo, on the fundamental and global concern over humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons detonations. Austria plans to host the next Conference in November/December 2014.

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCCW)

India continued to attach importance to the CCCW which aims to strike a balance between addressing humanitarian concerns arising from the use of certain conventional weapons and the military necessity of such weapons. India continued to believe in the salience of CCCW in progressively strengthening the rules and principles of international humanitarian law. India participated actively and constructively in the annual meetings of the CCCW and its Amended Protocol II (AP-II) and Protocol V as well as the Meetings of Experts.

At the annual Meeting of States Parties of CCCW held on 14-

15 November 2013 in Geneva, India outlined its support to the CCCW as an important instrument of international humanitarian law within the UN framework that brings together all the main users and producers of certain conventional weapons. India supported the exploration of various aspects related to lethal autonomous weapons systems in the CCCW and a discussion mandate for an informal meeting of experts on the issue in 2014. At the 15th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol-II held on 13 November 2013, India expressed its support for the approach enshrined in AP-II and its commitment for the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. India also supported continuing work on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) under AP-II. At the 7th Annual Conference of Protocol V held on 11-12 November 2013, India contributed to discussion on all issues including generic preventive measures, recording and transmission of information on explosive remnants of war, cooperation and assistance and victim assistance. India also participated actively in the Meetings of Experts of both Protocol V and AP-II held in April 2013. A presentation on "India's contribution to international cooperation on IEDs" was made at the AP-II Meeting of Experts. India attended the 13th Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention (Ottawa Convention) held in Geneva from 2-6 December 2013 as an Observer.

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

The Arms Trade Treaty was adopted by vote on a UNGA resolution on 2 April 2013 following the failure of the Diplomatic Conference in March 2013 to achieve consensus. India abstained on the ATT resolution even though it had participated actively in the diplomatic conferences to negotiate the Treaty as the ATT resolution as the Treaty text was weak on terrorism and non-state actors which found no mention in the specific prohibitions of the Treaty. India also pointed out that the Treaty cannot be an instrument in the hands of exporting states to take unilateral force majeure measures against importing states parties without consequences. India is currently undertaking a full and thorough assessment of the ATT from the perspective of our defence, security and foreign policy interests.

Biological Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)

India made substantial contributions to BTWC's annual Meeting of Experts held from 12-16 August 2013 and Meeting of States Parties held from 9-13 December 2013. At

the 2013 Meetings of Experts India reiterated the high importance attached by it to the BTWC as the first multilateral, non-discriminatory treaty banning an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. India expressed support for improving the effectiveness of the Convention, strengthening its implementation, and efforts for its universalization. The BTWC meetings held extensive discussions on the three agenda items (cooperation and assistance, review of S&T developments and national implementation) and the biennial agenda item (fuller participation in CBMs) as decided by the 7th Review Conference.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

India, as in previous years, continued to play an active role in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at The Hague by engaging with States Parties during the Meetings of the Third Review Conference of OPCW [Special Session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP)] in April 2013, in General Committee meetings and in crucial negotiations in the Committee of the Whole, the Executive Council sessions (16-19 July 2013, 8-11 October 2013 and 4-7 March 2014), and the Conference of States Parties (2-5 December 2013), on issues of chemical weapons destruction, Industry Inspection, national implementation, international cooperation and assistance. India was actively involved in the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Review Conference, while playing a key role in groupings like the Asian Group and the NAM Group in the context of CWC, besides various subsidiary bodies of the Organization, including the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF). At the 18th Session of Conference of States Parties of OPCW, India in its national statement made the announcement of offering a financial contribution of US\$ one million to the Trust Fund set up by OPCW. Further, there was an offer to provide services of Indian experts to OPCW for the destruction verification activity as well as training slots for the personnel participating in the UN-OPCW Joint Mission for the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Chairman Atomic Energy Commission Dr. R. K. Sinha led the Indian delegation to the International Ministerial Conference titled "Nuclear Power in the 21st Century" organized by IAEA and hosted by the Government of the Russian Federation in St. Petersburg on 27 to 29 June 2013 and, to the 57th Session of

the IAEA General Conference held in Vienna from 16-20 September, 2013. The Delegation had meetings with Director General (DG), IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano and Director General, OECD, Nuclear Energy Agency and had bilateral meetings with a number of countries. Chairman, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), Shri S.S. Bajaj held separate meetings with UK regulator and US NSRC and also attended Conference of Senior Nuclear Regulators.

Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office Shri V. Narayansamy led the Indian delegation to the first IAEA Ministerial International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts held in Vienna from 1-5 July 2013. The Minister briefed the gathering on various actions and activities undertaken by India to contribute in this regard including ratification /adherence to various international instruments, financial contribution of US\$ 1 million to IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund and provision of training opportunities through a School of Nuclear Security under the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership being established by India.

A delegation led by Shri S.S. Bajaj, Chairman, AERB visited Vienna from 24 March to 5 April 2014 to attend the IAEA Convention on Nuclear Safety meeting.

Nuclear Security Summit

Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh participated in the NSS Sherpa meetings in Vienna from 26-28 June 2013, in Ottawa from 2-4 October 2013, and in Pattaya from 13-15 January 2014.

The Third Nuclear Security Summit took place on 24-25 March 2014 in the World Forum in The Hague. India was represented by a 7-member delegation (including Foreign Secretary) led by External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid. The objective of the Summit was to prevent nuclear terrorism worldwide. 53 countries and four international organizations participated at the Summit. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid made a plenary statement at the Summit and on the margins of the Summit, called on Queen Maxima and met with Dutch Foreign Minister Timmermans on 25 March 2014.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid led the Indian delegation at the 20th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Brunei on 2 July, 2013 which was held back-to-back with the EAS Foreign Ministerial Meeting on 1 July 2013.

India participated in ARF's Senior Officials Meeting, three Inter-Sessional Group meetings, five Inter-Sessional Meetings on disaster relief, maritime security, counter-terrorism & transnational crimes, non-proliferation & disarmament, CBMs and Preventive Diplomacy and various cooperation activities and seminars. Minister of State (Defence) participated in the 2nd ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting plus (ADMM Plus) convened in Brunei Darussalam from 28-30 August, 2013. India participated in Senior Official Meetings and Expert Working Groups as well as meetings of the ADSOM Plus and the Expert Working Groups on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Maritime Security, Military Medicine, Counter terrorism and Peacekeeping Operation of the ADMM Plus 8 process, ARF Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting and ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD).

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

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 Special Working Group (SWG) and Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meetings and cooperation activities under the CICA framework. 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.

Export Control

In 2013, India continued its dialogue with all four multilateral export control regimes, namely Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Australia Group (AG) and Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) with a view to progressing in tandem in achieving the objective of full membership of these regimes.

An outreach meeting between India and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) Troika was held in Vienna on 28 June 2013. The Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai met the NSG delegation led by its current Chair Ambassador Veronika Smigolova of the Czech Republic. The meeting was in continuation of the regular outreach meetings between

India and the NSG. The NSG provided an update on its activities following the Prague Plenary. India expressed continued interest in enhanced engagement with the NSG with a view to securing full membership. Outreach meetings were held with AG, MTCR, WA as well as with Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC) in Delhi at the level of Joint Secretary (D&ISA), M.E.A.

Other Issues

Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh and State Secretary in German Foreign Office Mr. Harald Braun on 9 September 2013 chaired the first India-Germany High Technology Partnership Group in Berlin to further deepen the bilateral relationship in high technology cooperation in pursuance of the decision made by Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel during

the Second Indo-German governmental consultations in April 2013 in Berlin, where both Governments agreed to expand trade and cooperation in high technology.

India-US Strategic Security Dialogue led by Foreign Secretary, Smt. Sujatha Singh and Acting U.S. Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Ms. Rose Gottemoeller was held in Washington D.C. on 11 December 2013. 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, non-proliferation and export control issues with various countries, including France, Germany, Japan, Russia and the US.



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

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the 5th BRICS Summit held in Durban, South Africa on 27 March 2013. The overarching theme of Durban Summit was - "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation". The Summit agenda included changing Global Economy; Towards Inclusive Growth and Development; Reform of Institutions of Global Governance; Global Peace, Security and Stability; financing for Infrastructure and Sustainable Development; BRICS-led new Development Bank, Partnerships for Development and Sustainable Growth; enhancing and Diversifying Industrial Capacity; and Infrastructure for Inclusive and Accelerated Growth. After the Summit, Prime Minister attended the 'BRICS Leaders - Africa Dialogue Forum' held under the theme 'Unlocking Africa's potential: BRICS and Africa Cooperation on Infrastructure'.

The eThekweni Declaration was issued at the conclusion of the Summit. The major outcome of the Durban Summit was the proclamation that the BRICS countries agreed to establish the BRICS-led New Development Bank. Other outcomes included a financial safety net through the creation of a Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) amongst BRICS countries with an initial size of US\$ 100 billion, setting up of the BRICS Business Council, and establishment of a BRICS Think Tanks Council. Two agreements under Inter-Bank Cooperation mechanism viz BRICS Multilateral Infrastructure Co-financing Agreement for Africa and, BRICS Multilateral Cooperation and Co-financing Agreement for Sustainable Development, were signed; EXIM Bank from India signed these Agreements.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh also attended the BRICS Leaders' meeting on the sidelines of the 8th G-20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, in September 2013. The Leaders exchanged views on the developments in the world

economy, reform of International Financial Institutions, the Doha Development Round, BRICS-led New Development Bank and Contingent Reserve Arrangement in the BRICS countries. A Media Note was issued following the meeting.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid attended the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting hosted by Brazil on 26 September 2013 on the sidelines of 68th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The Ministers reviewed the progress in the implementation of the BRICS Annual Action Plan (eThekweni Action Plan) endorsed by the Leaders at the 5th BRICS Summit, took stock of the preparations for the Sixth Summit to be held in Brazil in 2014 and discussed a range of international issues, in particular the situation in Syria and the Middle East as well as Cyber Security. A Media Note was issued after the meeting.

BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting was preceded by a meeting of BRICS Sherpas on 25 September 2013. The Sherpas inter-alia discussed BRICS Outreach with UNESCO and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Terms of Reference for BRICS Chairmanship, etc. Joint Secretary (MER), M.E.A. attended the meeting. BRICS Sherpas also met in Pretoria, South Africa in July 2013. BRICS Sherpa, Shri Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA and Shri Dinesh Bhatia, Joint Secretary (MER) represented India at the meeting.

EAM Shri Salman Khurshid attended the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting in The Hague on 24 March 2014 on the margins of Nuclear Security Summit. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss developments in the respective regions of BRICS member states. Following the meeting, South Africa, in its capacity as the current Chair of BRICS, issued Chairpersons' Statement.

The other high-level BRICS meetings held during this period include those of Agriculture Ministers (29 October 2013; Pretoria, South Africa), Finance Ministers (10 October 2013; Washington D.C.), Health Ministers (7 November, 2013;

Sommerset West, South Africa), National Security Advisors (6 December 2013; Cape Town, South Africa) and Science & Technology Ministers (9-12 February, 2014; Pretoria).

Competition Commission of India hosted the 3rd BRICS International Competition Conference in New Delhi on 20-22 November 2013. The Conference brought together about hundred participants from 37 countries including BRICS.

As mandated by the Delhi Action Plan, announced in the BRICS Delhi Declaration of March 2012, Ministry of Urban Development hosted the first BRICS Urban Infrastructure Forum in New Delhi on 1 February 2013.

The other BRICS meetings during this period include Drug Control Agencies of BRICS countries (30 June 2013; Moscow, Russia), Contact Group on Economic, Trade and Investment Issues (22 November 2013; Pretoria, South Africa), BRICS Cooperative Societies (26-28 October 2013; Cape Town, South Africa), 2nd BRICS Urbanization Forum (26-29 November 2013; Durban, South Africa) and 3rd BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Government Cooperation Forum (26-29 November 2013; Durban, South Africa); the first meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Cyber Security (19-21 February 2014; Durban); and meeting of BRICS Statistical Authorities (10-12 February 2014; Rio de Janeiro).

Group of Fifteen (G-15)

On the sidelines of 68th Session of UNGA, the 36th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of G-15 was hosted by Sri Lanka in New York on 27 September 2013. The meeting was chaired by the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka. The major outcome of the meeting was the confirmation of Kenya to take over the Chair of G-15 from Sri Lanka after the 15th Summit of G-15; Shri Dinesh Bhatia, Joint Secretary (MER), M.E.A. represented External Affairs Minister in this meeting. Sri Lanka has proposed to host the 15th Summit during 9-15 November 2014 in Colombo.

The Group of 20 (G20)

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the 8th G-20 Summit held in St. Petersburg, Russia on 5-6 September 2013. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh emphasised on three major priority issues for India during the Summit: (i) An orderly exit from the unconventional monetary policies being pursued by the developed countries which has been damaging the growth prospects of the developing world; (ii) Ensuring primacy of the development dimension in G20 deliberations particularly on issues like job creation, promotion of

investment in infrastructure and creation of potential in developing countries to sustain higher growth in medium terms; and (iii) Governance reforms in global political and economic institutions. He urged that the Summit must send a clear signal of collective commitment to work together for the revival of growth, which is the only way of ensuring a sustainable growth in quality jobs. He called for active involvement of international financial institutions in infrastructure financing in the emerging markets.

India's participation in the G-20 process stems from the realization that as a major developing economy India has vital stakes in the stability of the international economic and financial system. India has been actively involved in the G-20 preparatory process both at the Sherpas Track and the Financial Track since its inception. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has participated in all eight G-20 summits. India's agenda at the G-20 Summits is driven by the need to bring in greater inclusivity in the international financial system and ensuring its reform, avoiding protectionist tendencies and, above all, ensuring that growth prospects of developing countries do not suffer.

IBSA [India, Brazil and South Africa] Dialogue Forum

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid Chaired a meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers in New York on 25 September 2013. The meeting assumed special importance as it took place during the year marking 10th anniversary of IBSA. Agenda of the meeting included contemporary global issues including developments in the Middle East, Syria, Afghanistan, Egypt, etc., reform of global political and economic governance and other global issues including climate change, sustainable development, WTO, Doha Round etc as well as discussion on ways and means to streamline and consolidate IBSA cooperation. A Joint Communiqué was issued after the meeting.

The Ministerial meeting was preceded by a meeting of IBSA Focal Points (Senior Officials) on 24 September 2013. Shri Dinesh Bhatia, Joint Secretary (MER), M.E.A. represented India at the Meeting. IBSA Focal Points also met in Pretoria, South Africa in July 2013. Joint Secretary (MER) visited Brazil and South Africa to hold discussions on IBSA Agenda in July 2013.

IBSA Joint Working Groups on Agriculture, Culture, Defence, Energy, Health, Human Settlement, Science & Technology, Trade & Investment and Transport met in New

Delhi during the period January-May 2013. The 5th meeting of IBSA Women's Forum was hosted by Smt. Krishna Tirath, Minister for Women and Child Development, in New Delhi on 16 May 2013. IBSA Local Governance Forum met in New Delhi on 8-9 April 2013.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid led the Indian delegation to the 13th meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation held in Perth, Australia on 1 November 2013. India handed over the Chair of the Association to Australia at the Meeting. The Meeting accepted Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) as its new name. The 13th COM adopted the 'Perth Declaration of the Indian Ocean Rim Association on the Principles for Peaceful, Productive and Sustainable use of the Indian Ocean and its Resources'. At the end of the meeting, Perth Communiqué was issued.

The Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah participated in the first IORA Ministerial Forum on Renewable Energy that was held in Abu Dhabi on 21 January 2014. The meeting was organised by IORA Secretariat in association with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), as a part of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. The Abu Dhabi Declaration was issued after the meeting.

During this period, the Ministry sponsored several events under IORA. These include: 3rd Special Courses for Diplomats of IORA Member-States (September 2013; New Delhi) 2nd Workshops on Multi-disciplinary Oceanographic Observations for Coastal Zone Management (September 2013; Goa), Workshop on Fisheries Management for IORA Member-States (December 2013; Kochi) and the IORA Poetry Festival March 2014; New Delhi). India also joined Australia and South Africa in helping IORA Secretariat, Indian Ocean Research Group (IORG) and Kenya in organising the 'IORA Conference on Political Economy of Maritime Africa' in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2014.

Russia, India and China (RIC)

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid hosted the 12th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China (RIC) in New Delhi on 10 November 2013. The Agenda included Global/Regional Political and Security Outlook [Situation in Afghanistan, Middle East, Syria, Iranian Nuclear Issue, etc. and issues regarding Non-Proliferation,

Disarmament, etc.], combating terrorism, drug trafficking and other challenges, RIC cooperation in the UN and other multilateral Forums, RIC approach to reform of United Nations and global governance and streamlining of RIC Trilateral cooperation. A Joint Communiqué was issued at the conclusion of the Ministerial meeting.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

India continued to engage with OECD under its stated policy of "Limited Sectoral Engagement". This policy was discussed and reviewed with all stake holders in Government of India having substantial interaction with OECD, leading to re-statement of the existing policy.

India received visits of senior functionaries of OECD including its Deputy Secretary General thrice during the year. India participated in the annual meeting of the Ministerial Council of OECD in May 2013 where Ambassador of India in Paris and Shri Dinesh Bhatia, Joint Secretary (MER) participated in the plenary sessions, putting forward India's views on her engagement with OECD.

ASEAN-India

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation at the 11th ASEAN-India Summit, held on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. This was the first ASEAN-India Summit after the elevation of the partnership to a 'Strategic Partnership' in December 2012. The Leaders also welcomed the good progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015). India's continued support to ASEAN Community building process was welcomed by the ASEAN Leaders.

In view of the overall intensification of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership, establishment of a separate Indian Mission to ASEAN with Resident Ambassador in Jakarta, Indonesia was announced at the 11th ASEAN-India Summit.

In the run up to the 11th ASEAN India Summit, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid participated in the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on 1 July 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma led the Indian delegation at ASEAN Economy Ministers Plus India Consultations on 21 August 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. The 3rd ASEAN-India Ministerial

Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry was held in Kuala Lumpur on 28 September, 2013 with the Indian delegation being led by Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries. An ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) was inaugurated by EAM Shri Salman Khurshid on 21 June 2013 in New Delhi to assist governmental efforts to further strengthen the ASEAN-India strategic partnership. Trade between ASEAN and India continued to grow. It stood at US\$ 76.4 billion in 2012-13 and US\$ 45 billion in 2013-14 (upto October 2013). ASEAN and India have a trade target of US\$ 100 billion by 2015.

Connectivity between India and ASEAN continues to be a strategic priority, reiterated by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in the 11th ASEAN-India Summit on 10 October 2013. India initiated an annual meeting with the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) on 10 June 2013 in Balikpapan, Indonesia, becoming the third Dialogue Partner of ASEAN to do so, after China and Japan.

An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Shri Viswanathan Perumal, MP participated as 'Observer' in the 34th General Assembly of ASEAN-Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held in Brunei Darussalam from 17-23 September 2013.

ASEAN and India continued to strengthen people-to-people linkages in 2013, including through the Media Exchange Programme for 20 ASEAN journalists and eight Indian journalists, Students Exchange Programme for 250 ASEAN university students, participation of 40 ASEAN school students in the National Children Science Congress, Farmers Exchange Programme for 20 farmers each from ASEAN countries and India besides the month-long annual ASEAN Diplomats Training Course at FSI.

Track one and a half interaction continued through Delhi Dialogue process. Delhi Dialogue V, titled 'India-ASEAN: Vision for Partnership and Prosperity' was held on 19-20 February 2013 in New Delhi. Delhi Dialogue VI titled 'Realizing the ASEAN-India Vision for Partnership and Prosperity' was held on 6-7 March 2014 in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid. Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Ministers of ten ASEAN countries, the ASEAN Secretary General, Commerce and Industry Minister of India Shri Anand Sharma and the Chief Minister of Manipur addressed the participants. The 2nd Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks was inaugurated by EAM Shri Salman Khurshid in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 10 September 2013.

ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership comprises 26

inter-governmental mechanisms across a wide range of sectors including Agriculture, Environment & Forestry, Science & Technology, Trade & Commerce, Tourism, New and Renewable Energy, Information Technology, Space, Small & Medium Enterprises. Various capacity building and human resource development programmes continued to be implemented with funding from ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund; ASEAN-India Science & Technology Development Fund; and ASEAN-India Green Fund.

East Asia Summit (EAS)

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation for the 8th East Asia Summit held in Brunei Darussalam on 10 October 2013. East Asia Summit (EAS) is a unique Leaders-led forum of 18 countries of the Asia-Pacific region. External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid headed the India delegation for the 3rd EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Brunei Darussalam on 2 July 2013. A delegation led by Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma took part in the first RCEP Ministerial Meeting and the 2nd EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting was held in August 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. Minister of State, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas participated in the Seventh EAS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 26 September 2013. Secretary (Economic Affairs), led the delegation for the 3rd Informal Meeting of the EAS Finance Ministers held in Washington D.C. on 12 October 2013. India participated at the Informal Consultation of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee and the East Asia Summit on 13 November 2013.

Food security was mooted as a priority area for the 8th EAS and the Declaration of the 8th East Asia Summit on Food Security was adopted. The EAS Track II Study Group on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environmental Conservation has been established as the first initiative to implement the Declaration. The first meeting of the Study Group was held on 3-5 December 2013 in Brunei.

As a follow-up to the 'EAS-India Workshop 2012: Building Regional Framework for Earthquake Risk Management' hosted by India in New Delhi on 8-9 November 2012, India initiated the process of setting up a network of 24x7 Points of Contacts among the National Disaster Response Agencies of the EAS countries and a Virtual Knowledge Centre (VKC) at the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) to facilitate sharing of information, knowledge and best practices.

Health Secretaries from India and Australia agreed to co-chair a Task Force on Access to Quality Medicines under the Asia Pacific Leaders' Malaria Alliance, as follow up of the 7th EAS Declaration on Regional Responses to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance to Antimalarial Medicines. The first meeting of the Task Force was held on 12 March 2014 in Sydney, Australia. At the 8th EAS, India also proposed a "Round Table on Tertiary Healthcare with Focus on Trauma Care and Nursing" to explore future prospects of collaboration with EAS participating countries.

At the 8th EAS, the Leaders welcomed the progress made in establishment of Nalanda University. Eight countries—Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore and India signed the MoU on the Establishment of Nalanda University. China signed the MoU in Beijing during Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit on 23 October 2013.

India is participating in the ongoing negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which were launched at the 7th East Asia Summit. Ministry of Commerce and Industry is leading the negotiations.

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

India hosted the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM11) on 11-12 November 2013 in Gurgaon, Delhi NCR, for the first time since joining ASEM in 2007. All 51 ASEM members were represented including 34 Foreign Ministers and 11 Deputy Foreign Ministers. Two preparatory ASEM Senior Officials' Meetings (SOMs) were held on 4-5 September 2013 and 9-10 November 2013 in Gurgaon, respectively.

Under the theme "ASEM: Bridge to Partnership for Growth and Development", ASEM FMM11 discussions covered issues of common interest, including economic and financial matters, sustainable development, non-traditional security challenges as well as regional and global issues.

Breaking away from the declaratory nature of previous ASEM meetings, ASEM FMM11 was successful in steering the focus from 'dialogue' to 'deliverables'. It marked the beginning of a new orientation in ASEM to seize opportunities for tangible collaboration between Asia and Europe, in twelve areas including disaster management, water management, renewable energy, SME cooperation, energy efficiency technologies and higher education.

On the sidelines of ASEM FMM11, the Asia-Europe

Foundation (ASEF) and India hosted the 9th ASEF Journalists' Colloquium in Delhi-NCR on 10-12 November 2013 on the theme "Media and the Green Growth: Reporting on Sustainable Development in Asia and Europe". The event was attended by 30 journalists and nine environmental experts from ASEM countries.

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

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh attended the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit on 3-4 March 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Summit was preceded by the 14th Ministerial Meeting (led by EAM) and the 16th SOM (led by FS). The leaders issued the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit Declaration, which added momentum to the programme of regional cooperation and connectivity. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh also had bilateral meetings with leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Significant outcomes of the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit were signing of the Memorandum of Association (MoA) for the Establishment of BIMSTEC Secretariat at Dhaka, appointment of its first Secretary General, signing of MoA on Establishment of BIMSTEC Centre on Weather & Climate in India and MoU on BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission and Observatory in Bhutan. India's leadership and commitment to BIMSTEC was appreciated by other Members. India has committed contribution of 32% of the annual budget of the Secretariat.

India led the connectivity initiative and facilitated the BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS) to identify priority transport projects in the region. India also took the lead in counter-terrorism and negotiated an architecture of agreements and promoted cooperation between agencies. In tourism, a BIMSTEC Information Centre was established and 2015 was declared as BIMSTEC Tourism Year. In environment and disaster management, India is setting up the BIMSTEC Centre on Weather and Climate.

Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs attended the 12th Ministerial Meeting in Bahrain on 25 November 2013, which adopted the Manama Declaration and commenced the process of institutionalization by establishing a Provisional Secretariat in Kuwait with Mr.

Bundit Limschoon of Thailand as its Secretary General. He had earlier attended the 11th Ministerial Meeting in Dushanbe on 29 March 2013. Iran hosted the first Culture Ministers' Meeting from 7-8 May 2013. Thailand organized a working group meeting on ACD Regional Connectivity in Bangkok on 17 July 2013.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

On the multilateral side, India has been proactively participating since 2005, in various SCO fora open to the observer countries. India has been sharing its experiences in development and security while closely following the evolution of the SCO. India participated in the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum in Bishkek in October 2013 as

part of its engagement with the SCO in its various conservation initiatives. External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid participated in the SCO Heads of State Summit held in Bishkek in September 2013. Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujata Singh participated in the SCO-Council of Heads of Government Meeting at Tashkent on 28-29 November 2013. Secretary (ER/AD), M.E.A. Shri P.S. Raghavan led the Indian delegation at the next round of the SCO Energy Club in December 2013 in Moscow.

The Secretary-General of the SCO, Mr. Dmitry Fedorovich Mezenstev, visited New Delhi on 23-24 February 2014 at the invitation of Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujata Singh. Mr. Mezenstev also called on External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and interacted with scholars at Institute of Defence Studies Analyses (IDSA).



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation(SAARC)

India remained committed to stimulate and sustain cooperative projects of SAARC that are instrumental in helping the people of South Asia to realize their shared aims and aspirations.

India participated in the various SAARC Meetings such as the 7th meeting of Technical Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development held in Dhaka from 11-12 February 2013; Special Session of Expert Group Meeting to Finalize the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2012-2016) held at Thimpu from 5-6 March 2013; 'Third Training Workshop and Final Review Meeting of SAARC-Australia Project from 10-14 March 2013 held at Dhaka; Seventh Meeting of SAARC Working Group on Energy held in Sri Lanka from 15-16 March 2013; a training course on Gender Equality and Way Forward for the SAARC Region held from 18-23 March 2013 at Islamabad; a SAARC Artist Camp and Exhibition of Paintings in Maldives from 25-28 March 2013 organized by SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo; the 3rd Meeting of SAARC Ministers on Poverty Alleviation preceded by the 5th Meeting of SAARC Secretariat on Poverty Alleviation held at Kathmandu from 4-5 April 2013; the 5th Meeting of the Regional Task Force to Implement the SAARC Conventions Relating to Trafficking in Women and Children and Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia held at Paro, Bhutan from 11-12 April 2013; the Eighth Meeting of the Committee of Heads of University Grants Commissions/equivalent bodies held at Kathmandu from 17-18 April 2013; the Sixth Meeting of SAARC Inter-Governmental Expert Group on Financial Issues held at Kathmandu from 23-24 April 2013; the Second Meeting of SAARC Competent Authorities on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters held at Kathmandu, Nepal from 22-23 May 2013; the Third Meeting of Sectoral Technical Committee on Building Materials held at Kathmandu from 4-5 June 2013; the Ninth Meeting of the SAARC Sub-Group on Customs Cooperation held in Sri Lanka from 20-21 June 2013; the Third Meeting of

the Expert Group for Finalisation of Railway Agreement was held at Dhaka from 19-20 June 2013; the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction in the Sensitive Lists under South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) (Phase-III) and Special Meeting of the SAFTA Committee of Experts on Non-Tariff Measures and Para-Tariff Measures organised by SAARC Secretariat at Kathmandu from 30 July to 1 August 2013; meeting of Core Group of Immigration and Visa Experts held at SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu from 13-15 August 2013 which reviewed the existing SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES); the Expert Group Meeting to Discuss the Modalities of the Implementation of the Proposal to Establish a "SAARC Immigration Liaison Network (SILN)" held at SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu on 15 August 2013; the seventh Meeting of SAFTA Ministerial Council preceded by Eighth Meeting of the SAFTA Committee of Experts held at Colombo, Sri Lanka from 21-23 August 2013 which underlined the importance of enhancing intra-SAARC trade flows under SAFTA by making its terms and conditions more attractive than those prevailing in the bilateral trade regimes entered into by some of the Member States; the Sixth Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers preceded by the Sixth Meeting of SAARC Finance Secretaries held at Colombo from 29-30 August 2013, which appreciated the SWAP arrangement for currency put in place by India and noted that Bhutan has already signed an MoU with Reserve Bank of India for US\$ 100 million under the arrangement; the Regional Consultative Meeting to Review Achievements and Progress on SAARC Regional Strategic Framework for Protection, Care and Support for Children affected by HIV and AIDS in Kathmandu from 9-10 September 2013 jointly organized by SAARC Secretariat and UNICEF; Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers held in New York on 25 September, 2013 on the sidelines of the Sixty-Eighth Session of the UNGA which was attended by External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh.

The following SAARC related activities were carried out in India:

- The 4th SAARC Youth Camp was jointly organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) from 11-15 February 2013, at RGNIYD Campus, Sriperumbudur.
- Union Public Service Commission, India organised a Workshop on ICT from 22-23 March 2013 at New Delhi.
- India hosted the Second Meeting of the Expert Group to Negotiate Draft Regional Agreement on SAARC Motor Vehicles at Udaipur, Rajasthan from 20-21 May 2013. Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Dr. C.P. Joshi, inaugurated the Meeting. The Expert Group had detailed deliberations on the text of the draft Agreement.
- Ministry of Labour, Government of India and V.V Giri National Labour Institute in collaboration with ILO, organized the Second Regional Workshop on Child Labour from 29-31 May 2013 at New Delhi.
- India organized the Workshop on Application of Science & Technology in Earthquake Risk Mitigation for Urban Agglomerate in South Asia in New Delhi on 24-25 May 2013.
- India hosted the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Committee on Health and Population Activities in New Delhi from 9-10 October 2013 which reviewed the implementation of the initiatives taken by SAARC in the field of health.
- A three-day Band Festival was organized in New Delhi from 28 November to 1 December 2013 in which 14 Music Bands from eight SAARC countries performed. The festival was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid.
- Commemorating the SAARC Charter Day, which is observed on 8 December the SAARC Regional Centres and Apex Bodies in India organised events to spread the message of SAARC among the younger generation.
- The Third Expert Group Meeting on Electricity was held in

New Delhi on 19 December 2013 which considered the matters relating to the finalisation of “SAARC Inter-governmental Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity)”.

- The Second Meeting of SAARC Public Debt Managers’ Forum was organized in India, on 6-7 December 2013.
- A Regional Conference on the Status of Higher Education in South Asia was held New Delhi from 13-14 January 2014.
- The SAARC Seminar on International Taxation and Transfer Pricing was held during 4-7 March 2014 in NADT, Nagpur at which various matter on International Taxation, double taxation and related items, were broadly discussed.

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Ministers (Inter-Summit) took place from 17-20 February 2014 at the Maldives. Prior to the Inter-Summit, preparatory meeting were held at the level of SAARC Heads of Divisions (Programming Committee Meeting, 17 February), Foreign Secretary (18-19 February, Special Session and Standing Committee). The Meetings considered the Study conducted by the SAARC Secretariat to strengthen SAARC mechanisms, including the SAARC Secretariat, Regional Centres and the SAARC Specialised Bodies. The Committee recommended that SAARC summit be held once every two years instead of the current practice of holding it annually. A pre-determined time-frame may be set for holding the Meeting. A number of recommendations to improve the functioning of the SAARC Secretariat were approved. The Meeting agreed on selective closure and merger of Regional Centres. The Meetings considered matters relating to SAARC Agreement on Free Trade Area (SAFTA), SAARC Agreement on Trade In Service (SATIS), South Asian University (SAU), SAARC Development Fund (SDF), issues relating to economic and financial cooperation, transport, environment, health, security and cooperation with Observers. India offered to host the Third Meeting of Expert Group to Negotiate the Draft Regional Agreement on Motor Vehicles and the Meeting of Inter-governmental Group of Transport.



Development Cooperation

In January 2012, the Ministry of External Affairs took the important initiative to set up the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) for ensuring speedy and efficient implementation of Government of India's external economic assistance programmes. In recent years, these programmes have expanded considerably, both in geographical spread and sectoral coverage. Development partnership occupies an important place in India's foreign policy. DPA has been mandated to establish procedures for the efficient handling of Indian development projects through the stages of concept, launch, execution and completion. It aims to streamline and upgrade capacity building programmes under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and other schemes. The DPA functions in close coordination with the concerned Territorial Divisions of the Ministry, which continue to be the principal interlocutors and interface with partner countries on the selection of projects to be undertaken. The responsibility for implementation and execution of the projects rests with DPA.

The transfer of projects to DPA from the various Territorial Divisions in the Ministry progressed in tandem with DPA developing the technical expertise required to handle multiple projects in diverse sectors and regions through various stages of project appraisal, implementation monitoring and evaluation. Projects under the Lines of Credit (LoCs) to various developing countries and developmental projects in Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and African countries were the main areas of DPA's focus in its formative stages. The technical assistance programmes, involving civilian and military capacity-building, continued to expand.

Lines of Credit (LoCs)

One of the key channels for India's development assistance in recent years has been the extension of Lines of Credit (LoC) on concessional terms to least developed and developing countries. LoCs continue to be an important component of India's development cooperation strategy in Africa, Asia and

Latin America. Aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation, LoCs enable borrowing countries to import goods and services from India and undertake projects for infrastructure development and capacity building, in accordance with their developmental priorities.

Over the last decade, 195 LoCs for an amount of US\$ 11 billion have been allocated, of which US\$ 6.659 billion were allocated for African countries and US\$ 4.349 billion for non-African countries. During the period 1 January 2013 to 31 March, 2014, LoCs amounting to US\$ 1497.47 million have been allocated to Africa; including US\$ 125 million for Mashkour Sugar project in Sudan, US\$ 300 million to Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for a Railway Line project between Ethiopia and Djibouti, US\$ 144 million to Republic of Liberia for Power transmission and distribution projects, US\$ 120 million to Republic of Rwanda for Export targeted modern irrigated agriculture projects, US\$ 47 million to Republic of Mozambique for construction of 1200 low cost houses, US\$ 42.61 million to Republic of Benin for upgradation of water supply systems, US\$ 30 million to Republic of Sierra Leone for irrigation development projects, US\$ 82 million to Republic of Togo for power transmission and rural electrification projects etc. The LoCs sanctioned to other countries amount to US\$ 479.79 million, which include US\$ 155 million to Myanmar for Railway projects, US\$ 200 million for the Sampur Thermal power project in Sri Lanka, US\$ 36.92 million to Cambodia for development of Water resources and Irrigation systems, US\$ 30.94 to Laos for development of Irrigation systems, US\$ 26.5 million to Honduras for development of irrigation systems and US\$ 5.0492 million to Cuba for modernisation of an injectable products plant.

The on-going projects under LoCs extended to Sri Lanka in the previous years have progressed well. The track works under the LoC of US\$ 416.39 million has recorded steady progress. The Medawachchiya-Madhu sectors was completed and opened to traffic in May 2013. The Omanthai-Pallai Sector has been completed in March 2014; the work on the

Madhu Church-Tallaimannar sectors is also expected to be over in the next few months. The track-laying work on the Pallai-Kankesanthurai railway line (US\$ 146.34 million) and installation of signal and telecommunication equipment on the Northern Railway line (US \$ 86.52 million) begun last year has made satisfactory progress. The agreements on Power purchase, Coal supply, land lease etc. of the Sampur power project, a Joint Venture (JV) between National Thermal Power Corporation and Ceylon Electricity Board, in Trincomalee have been signed. The work on the construction of the jetty and transmission lines covered under the LoC of US\$ 200 million is expected to begin in the next financial year.

In 2010, the Government of India had announced an LoC of US\$ 1 billion to Bangladesh. Of this, US\$ 200 million was converted into a grant in 2012 for utilisation on projects prioritised by Govt. of Bangladesh. The balance US\$ 800 million available under the LoC, has been utilised for 16 projects aggregating US\$ 794.15 million. These include supplies as well as infrastructural projects. Procurement of supplies like buses, freight wagons, Brake vans and locomotives has been completed. The projects covering construction of Rail bridges, rail lines etc. are in different stages of implementation. A monitoring mechanism of Quarterly Review meetings with the Government of Bangladesh and other stakeholders has been instituted to streamline procedures for speedy implementation of the LoC projects.

LoCs have been extended to other countries of South East Asia in various sectors such as power generation and transmission, rural electrification, water resources development and irrigation. The 200 MW Nam Chien hydropower project in Vietnam under the US\$ 45 million LoC was commissioned successfully in July 2013. The work on the Irrigations system and Transmission lines/substation projects in Lao PDR, covered under two LoCs totalling US\$ 89 million, is progressing satisfactorily.

Two LoCs were extended to the Government of Nepal, the first one for US\$ 100 million in 2007 and another for US\$ 250 million in 2010. Under the LoC of US\$ 100 million, 15 contracts aggregating US\$ 97.18 million have been approved for road projects, rural electrification projects, power transmission and hydro power projects. The US\$ 250 million LoC has been approved for financing infrastructure projects including power transmission, highways, bridges and irrigation projects. Four projects in the power sector totalling US\$ 175.39 million have been approved in June 2013 for coverage under this LoC.

As part of the monitoring of on-going projects, Review Missions visited Nepal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji and Bangladesh. Performance Reports were also received from Indian Missions and from Exim Bank, the Lender's agent for Government of India LoCs.

Development Projects with grant assistance in neighbouring countries

Development cooperation is an important component of furthering India's policy of sharing its developmental experiences with other countries traversing a similar path to growth and economic upliftment. In pursuance of this objective, major projects are under implementation in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka—in infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health and other sectors identified by the host government as priority areas for their development. Initiatives to strengthen cross-border connectivity with India's neighbours are making satisfactory progress. India's commitment towards reconstruction and economic development of Afghanistan is being undertaken through projects in the infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education and health sectors, which have been identified by the Government of Afghanistan as their priority areas for development. On-going projects being implemented in Afghanistan include the reconstruction of Salma Dam (42 MW) in Herat province; two substations at Doshi and Charikar; construction of the Afghan Parliament; restoration of Stor Palace; provision of medical services and medicines through Indian Medical Missions; donation of 1.1 million tonnes of wheat, both as grain and in the form of high protein biscuits; supply of medical equipment to the Indira Gandhi International Children's Hospital in Kabul; upgrading an Agricultural University; establishing an Institute of Mining; supply of buses and development of associated depot infrastructure; supply of computers; and other requirements.

Education and capacity building are important areas of India's development cooperation with Afghanistan, which includes 1000 university scholarships annually for Afghan nationals (organized by the ICCR); 674 Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) scholarships; and deputation of 30 Indian civil servants under Capacity for Afghan Public Administration (CAP) programme. The first two phases of a Small Development Project scheme over the past seven years funded community-based projects, with focus on local ownership and management, in vulnerable border areas in

agriculture, rural development, education, health and vocational training having direct and visible impact on community life. The third phase of Small Development Projects (launched in November 2012) will cover additional projects of US\$ 100 million including all the provinces of the country. Sixty projects have been approved under the scheme.

A diverse range of development cooperation projects, including several cross-border projects, are under implementation in Myanmar. Ongoing cross border projects include the Kaladan Multi Modal Transport Project (which will provide connectivity between ports on India's eastern sea board with Sittwe Port in Myanmar, and then by road up to the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram); the Trilateral Highway will connect India with Thailand via Myanmar and consists of construction of 71 bridges in the Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo section and construction of 120 km road in Kalewa-Yagyi section; other road projects like Rih (India-Myanmar border) – Tiddim (Myanmar). An important aspect of our development cooperation with Myanmar comprises establishment of capacity building institutions in various fields including agriculture for enhancing agricultural yield and quality (Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education and a Rice Bio-Park); IT (Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) in Mandalay); health (upgradation of Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital with supply of state of the art medical equipment and training); and Language and an e-resource centre in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

A significant number of economic cooperation projects are being undertaken under Government of India (GoI) assistance to supplement the national development efforts of the Government of Nepal. The range and nature of projects have diversified to include various sectors including cross border projects; health sector (construction of a 200-bed Emergency and Trauma Centre in Kathmandu); infrastructure; capacity building (establishment of a Polytechnic at Hetauda); supply of Fire Engines to municipalities of Nepal; etc.

Based on the priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka, projects for establishment of a 150-bed Hospital at Dickoya, development of the Kankesanthurai Harbour, building of Jaffna Cultural Centre and restoration of Thirukatheswaram temple are being undertaken. The Indian gallery at the International Buddhist Museum in Kandy was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka on 8 December 2013.

India is contributing to the resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka through a major

housing construction initiative. An MoU was signed between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka on 17 January 2012, under which India committed to the construction and repair of 43,000 houses in an owner-driven process in the Northern and Eastern provinces and for construction of 6000 housing units on an agency driven model in the Central and Uva provinces, over a period of three years. The Pilot project of construction of 1000 houses was completed in 2012. Currently, the second phase of the Housing Project involving construction of 43,000 houses (38,000 new constructions and 5,000 repairs) for IDPs in Northern and Eastern Provinces under owner-driven model is in progress. The owner driven model involves the beneficiaries directly in the construction of their houses; the funds are released into their bank accounts in four instalments linked to the stages of construction. 10,250 houses were completed by end 2013, the remaining are expected to be completed in the next two years.

The process for the third phase of the project viz. Construction of 4,000 houses under the agency-driven model in the Central/Uva provinces has begun and the process of identification of land by the Sri Lankan Government is in progress. The preliminary design and development work of this part of the project is expected to begin thereafter.

Development Projects in Africa and other regions

India's partnership with Africa is based on a consultative model of cooperation, responsive to the needs of the African countries and sharing development experiences. Over the last ten years in particular, there has been a significant intensification of our engagement in economic development and capacity building through development partnerships with various African countries. The two India-Africa Forum summits [IAFS I & II] in 2008 and 2011 imparted further vigour to our partnership with the continent.

Under grant assistance, support was extended to the Agriculture, Science & Technology, Education and Health sectors of Malawi, Namibia and Rwanda during the current year. In Rwanda, India has undertaken to supply Solar photo voltaic equipment valued at US\$ 1 million for 35 educational institutions.

Important IAFS projects under implementation are the Rural Technology Parks (RTPs) in South Sudan for which an amount of Rs. 425 million has been earmarked. These RTPs will be implemented by National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad. Under the commitments

for capacity building, training programmes for African personnel are scheduled to be conducted by NIRD in the current year in areas like decentralization and local governance, watershed management, promotion of rural micro enterprises, management of drinking water and participatory poverty reduction measures.

A number of bilateral projects were undertaken during the period in Hospitality & Tourism, Archaeological Conservation, IT and Arts and Production Technology. The construction work for the India-Maldives Friendship Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism Studies at Male is nearing completion. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) continued conservation and restoration work at Ta Prohm Temple in Cambodia, Wat Phou Temple in Lao PDR and Ananda Temple in Myanmar. At the 3rd intergovernmental conference on Angkor held in Siem Reap on 5 December, 2013, the ASI presented a report on its work at Ta Prohm temple which was much appreciated by the Conference. The Vocational Training Centre in the Construction Sector work in Aceh, Indonesia was handed over to the Indonesian authorities. During the year, work began on upgradation and modernisation of Rajiv Gandhi Polytechnic College for Arts and Production in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; on setting up a telemedicine project in Armenia; and on construction of a school in Palestine. An ICT centre was completed in the Dominican Republic; several others are in the pipeline.

Aid for Disaster Relief

India rendered relief assistance to countries affected by natural calamities. In the wake of extensive damage caused by Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines, India sent relief material including tents, blankets and tarpaulin to provide shelter, medicines, ready to eat food, water purification chemicals, biscuits, etc. Relief assistance in cash or kind was rendered to Yemen, Marshal Islands, Madagascar and Namibia.

Capacity Building through Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC, SCAAP and Technical Cooperation Scheme under Colombo Plan)

Capacity building through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) and the Technical Cooperation Scheme of Colombo Plan continued to be an important component of India's assistance to the developing world in 2013-14, as in previous years. The

utility and relevance of these programmes was reflected in the increasing number of participants in them. During 2013-14, over 8000 civilian training slots were allotted to 161 developing countries (list at **Appendix IV**). The civilian training programme, fully sponsored by the Government of India, in 47 institutions, conducted around 280 courses, primarily short-term, for working professionals in a diverse range of skills and disciplines. Training was imparted to Government officials and others in areas such as finance and accounts, audit, banking, telecommunication, English language, management, planning and administration, parliamentary studies, crime records, mass communication, textiles, rural electrification, environment and renewable energy, 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 is at **Appendix-V**).

The Colombo Plan for Cooperative and Economic Social Development in Asia and the Pacific is a regional inter-government initiative established in 1951 to enhance economic and social development of the countries of the region. During 2013-14, 500 training slots were allocated for the 18 Colombo Plan member countries. This included 90 slots placed at the disposal of the Colombo Plan Secretariat. 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.

The ITEC Programme is essentially bilateral in nature. However, in recent years, ITEC resources have also been used for cooperation programmes conceived in regional and inter-regional contexts such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC), Economic Commission for Africa, African Union, Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), Pan African Parliament, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Commonwealth, World Trade Organisation (WTO), Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and the India-Africa Forum Summit. As in previous years, the ITEC Day was celebrated at Indian Missions abroad, strengthening our engagement with ITEC/SCAAP alumni.

Special Courses

Apart from regular courses under ITEC, special courses and training programmes were also conducted/scheduled at the

specific request of partner countries. In 2013-14, special courses expanded to new areas such as election management (at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM), New Delhi), government performance management, mid-career training of civil servants of friendly foreign countries, etc. Training on Indian parliamentary practices and procedures at Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training was conducted for Arabic and Spanish speaking countries. Special training courses were organized for officials from Mauritius, Myanmar, Mozambique, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The Centre for WTO Studies at Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), organized courses on WTO related topics.

Defence Training

Defence training under ITEC Programme in various Defence training institutions continued to be popular. During 2013-14, 1500 Defence training slots were allocated to partner countries. The courses were both of general and specialized 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. Courses in premier defence training institutions such as National Defence College (NDC) New Delhi and Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) Wellington were offered and these courses even attracted officers from developed countries on self-financing basis.

Deputation of Experts

At the request of Governments and international organizations, 34 experts in various civilian and defence fields were sent on deputation to share expertise in areas including information technology, auditing, legal affairs, agriculture, pharmacology, statistics, demography, public administration and textiles. The services of defence teams have been availed by Laos, Mauritius, Seychelles, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Namibia, Uganda and Vietnam in training and advisory capacities. Deputation of experts has helped contribute towards building of institutions of national importance in partner countries.



The Investment & Technology Promotion (ITP) Division gives a definite strategy and focus to the economic diplomacy of the Ministry. It encourages trade and foreign investment inflows including technology transfer by supporting programmes for investment and trade promotion activities in coordination with the territorial divisions, missions and posts, line ministries of the Government of India and apex industry associations. It provides inputs on policy issues to the ministries dealing with finance, commerce, industry, information technology, health, education among others and also represents MEA in the committees constituted by these ministries.

Under the Market Expansion Activities of the Ministry's budget head, the Division, during the year 2013-14, disbursed Rs. 5 crore to Indian Missions/Posts abroad to support their promotion efforts aimed at increasing exports and investment. As a member of the Empowered Committee on Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme of the Department of Commerce the Division provided inputs on export promotion activities and trade fairs which could be undertaken during the year.

The Division continued to represent the Ministry in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board of Department of Economic Affairs dealing with Foreign Direct Investments not covered by the automatic route and the Inter-Departmental Committee of Department of Financial Services on opening of branches of Foreign Banks in India and branches of Indian Banks abroad. ITP and Legal and Treaties Divisions represented MEA on the committee constituted for revision of the Model text of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPPA). The Division also represented the Ministry in the BIPPA negotiations with the UAE and the United States.

ITP is the nodal Division in the Ministry for all matters relating to Air Services agreements (ASA) with foreign countries/airlines and works closely with Ministry of Civil Aviation on these matters. ITP Division represented MEA in the bilateral Air Services talks held with Singapore, Sri Lanka,

U.A.E and Vietnam and at the International Civil Aviation Negotiation Conference held in Durban in December 2013.

ITP Division was part of the delegation led by the Commerce and Industries Minister at the second meeting of High Level Task Force (HLTF) on investments between India and UAE, held in Mumbai on 3 March 2014.

The Division represented MEA on the Project Monitoring Committee set up under the aegis of Cabinet Secretariat and on the Committee of Ministry of Shipping on Port Projects. In addition, the ITP Division also worked with the Working Committees of the Project Exports Promotion Council and the Engineering Export Promotion Council. Besides, Secretary (Economic Relations) continued to serve on the Board of EXIM Bank and Joint Secretary (ITP) on the Boards of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), Invest India and Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA) as Government nominees.

In May 2013, the ITP Division hosted a meeting with Export Promotion Councils and apex Chambers of Commerce which was attended by 26 Export Promotion Councils and 4 Apex business chambers. In June 2013, the Division hosted a meeting on the telecom sector in collaboration with the Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) that was attended by resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners. PHD chamber of Commerce in collaboration with ITP division hosted '*Conference on Africa – A Land of Opportunities*' on 19 November 2013. CII in collaboration with MEA and Ministry Commerce hosted a two day '*CII India-Latin America and Caribbean Conclave*' on 9-10 December 2013. The Division also assisted FICCI in holding the Central Europe Business Summit scheduled which took place in March 2014.

ITP Division's website *India in Business* (www.indiainbusiness.nic.in) continued to provide information on the current status of the Indian economy, new policy initiatives, India's bilateral and multilateral relations,

etc. Weekly and monthly newsletters were sent to all the Missions/posts which provided them timely updates on economic and commercial issues.

The latest edition of ITP Division's annual publication "India in Business" was released by Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh on 10 January 2014. This year's edition gives an

overview of the Indian economy as well as information on tax and regulatory aspects and also covers the legal, administrative and compliance aspects of Foreign Direct Investment. The publication is being translated in 10 foreign languages and is being sent to various Indian Missions abroad.



Energy Security Division serves as the nodal point and the coordinating division for energy related matters in the Ministry of External Affairs. Besides energy security, issues relating to country's food security, fertilizer and mineral resources are included in the charter of responsibilities of this Division. It also maintains close coordination with the line ministries and departments including Petroleum & Natural Gas, Coal, Power, New & Renewable Energy, Mines, Steel, Agriculture, Food and Fertilizers and assists their efforts to further diversify the overseas supply base for energy/fertilizer/mineral resources.

India attended the 3rd General Assembly meeting of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) held on 13-14 January 2013 at Abu Dhabi. India hosted the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) in New Delhi in April 2013. India had participated in the 7th Policy Committee meeting of IPEEC held in Seoul on 6-7 May 2013. India participated in the first meeting of the Asia-Pacific Energy Forum in Vladivostok on 27-29 May 2013. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dr. Veerappa Moily led a delegation to the 2nd LNG Producer-Consumer Conference held in Tokyo, Japan on 10 September 2013 and the 5th Asian Ministerial Energy Round Table meeting held in Seoul, South Korea on 11-12 September 2013. Minister of State of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi led the Indian delegation to the 7th East Asia Summit Energy Minister's Meeting (EMM) held at Bali, Indonesia on 25-27 September 2013, while MEA led the delegation to the Senior Officials Meeting. Secretary (Power), Shri P.K. Sinha attended the biennial International Energy Agency (IEA) Ministerial Meeting held at Paris on 19-20 November 2013. During the meeting IEA and Ministry of Power agreed on a Joint Statement. IEA and Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation and South Africa agreed on a Joint Declaration expressing mutual interest in pursuing an association.

India signed the memorandum on the formation of a Ministerial level 'Energy Club' of the SCO members, observers and dialogue partners on 6 December 2013. India

also attended the First Policy Dialogue on Energy for Sustainable Development organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held at Bangkok, Thailand from 17-19 December 2013. An Indian delegation led by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister, New and Renewable Energy visited Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 18-23 January 2014 to attend the Fourth Session of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) General Assembly during 18-19 January 2014 and the First Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum on 21 January 2014.

The 8th International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) Policy Committee (PoCo) Meeting was held in Paris on 23-24 January 2014. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). The Division participated in the G-20 Energy Sustainability Working Group Meeting held on 10-13 February 2014 at Melbourne under the Australian Presidency.

Bilateral Energy Meetings

The India Germany Energy Forum held its meeting in Berlin on 11-14 February 2013. Under the India-EU Energy Panel, a workshop on Transmission & Distribution was held in New Delhi on 21-22 May 2013. Another workshop on "Indian Energy Security Through Strategic Relations with Foreign Countries for Enhancing Oil & Gas Supplies" was held on 23-24 October 2013 New Delhi. During the Workshop, EU's experiences on Energy Security & cooperation with energy rich countries were shared. The 8th Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals with Australia was held in New Delhi on 11-13 June 2013. The 17th India-Iraq Joint Commission Meeting was held in Baghdad on 7-8 July 2013. The Inaugural Sherpa-level meeting of the India-Canada Energy Dialogue was held in Ottawa Canada from 7-10 August 2013. This was followed by the 1st Round of the India-Canada Energy Dialogue led by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission that was held on 28 October 2013 in Ottawa. The 18th session

of Russia-India Working Group on Energy and Energy Efficiency under the Russia-India Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological and Cultural Cooperation was held in Moscow on 3 October 2013 during which an MoU on Cooperation in the field of energy efficiency between the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Russian Energy Agency was initialled. The MoU was signed during the 14th India-Russia Annual Summit held on 21 October 2013. On the sidelines of PETROTECH – 2014, a biennial meeting held in January 2014, bilateral meetings were held between Dr. M. Veerappa Moily, Minister Petroleum and Natural Gas and Energy Ministers of Libya, UAE, Bahrain, Canada, Ecuador, Uganda, Sudan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Mozambique and Premier of Alberta. During the meetings, discussions were held on further enhancing the cooperation in the field of hydrocarbon sector. The India- USA Energy Dialogue was held on 11 March, 2014 at New Delhi. The 7th India-EU Energy Panel Meeting was held on 27 March, 2014 at Brussels. The 2nd India Australia Energy Dialogue was held on 31 March 2014 at Brisbane (Australia).

TAPI Pipeline Project

The Division coordinated closely with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and GAIL on TAPI pipeline project. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas participated in the 17th Steering Committee Meeting for TAPI project held on 9 July 2013 in Asghabat. The 25th meeting of the Technical Working Group for the TAPI Project was held on 27th February 2014 at Dubai. TAPI Ltd. a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been formed by all the four countries and GAIL (India) Ltd has joined this SPV from the Indian side. The project is awaiting the selection of consortium leader who will build and operate the pipeline.

Interaction with Energy Sector

The Division organized regular meetings with public and private sector companies operating in India. The meetings were outreach efforts on the part of the Ministry and help the Division to obtain views, feedbacks, and to express support of

this ministry and its Missions/Posts on their international endeavours in the fields of energy/fertilizers/minerals etc. Information on oil and gas opportunities received from Missions/Posts abroad was shared with the members of this Group.

The 3rd National Conference on Energy Security was jointly organised by FICCI and the Division on 3 September 2013. The External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid delivered the inaugural address. The 2nd Energy Security Conference in collaboration with Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Ministry of Power & CII was held on 27 November 2013 at New Delhi. The Division had participated in the Global Gas Scenario round table organized by TERI.

The Division also supported the line ministries in organising international conferences in India and coordinated efforts with missions/posts to ensure high level participation in these conferences. International Conferences organized in 2013 included 8th Asia Gas Partnership Summit in December 2013 and the biennial, International Oil & Gas Conference and Exhibition, PETROTECH – 2014 organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, held during 12-15, January 2014 at India Expo Centre and Mart at Greater Noida and New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by the PM Dr. Manmohan Singh on 12 January 2014.

In an effort to equip Missions and Posts and to sensitize various stakeholders, the Division also brought out relevant research papers and materials. The Division commissioned four research reports on energy security in 2013 which included research papers on: (a) ways and means for changing risk averse attitude prevalent in public sector; (b) logistic constraints in resource rich countries; (c) identification of and access to specialized technologies; and (d) cooperation with neighbouring countries in the field of energy security. The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has prepared a report on preparing a matrix on what India could export to countries from which it imports hydrocarbons and fertilizer. The Division also participated in the Regional Heads of Missions Conference (for East Africa, South Africa and West Africa regions) held at Kampala, Uganda on 18-19 April 2013 and at Bahrain (for West Asia, North Africa and Gulf Regions) on 7-8 November 2013.



Counter Terrorism (CT)

India continued its structured dialogue through Joint Working Group (JWGs) with partner countries on Counter Terrorism(CT) during the year. India held JWG-CT with the following countries/organizations:

Sl.	Name of the Country/ Organization	Date	Venue
1.	Israel	20 February 2013	New Delhi
2.	China	10-12 April 2013	Beijing
3.	BIMSTEC	8-9 May 2013	Colombo
4.	Indonesia	6 June 2013	New Delhi
5.	Canada	10-11 December 2013	Ottawa
6.	Uzbekistan	27-28 February 2014	Tashkent

India is one of the 30 founding members of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) which was established in 2011. The GCTF seeks to mobilize expertise and resources for civilian capacity building and to evolve norms in areas such as the criminal justice system and countering violent extremism. At present GCTF has five working groups dealing with: (i)Criminal Justice/Rule of Law; (ii)Countering violent extremism; (iii)Capacity Building in Sahel; (iv) Capacity Building in Horn of Africa region; and (v) Capacity Building in South East Asia. India participated in the meetings of the GCTF including its Working Groups during the year.

Policy Planning and Research

In the domain of policy planning and research, the Division continued its support to the academia, think-tanks, research organisations, and foreign policy institutes of India engaged in research and discourses on foreign policy, and assisted them financially to organise seminars, conferences and studies to deliberate on 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. A list of Seminars, Conferences, Meetings and Studies partly/fully funded by the Division, carried out at various institutes in the country is given at **Appendix VI**.

The Division prepared draft speeches for the External Affairs Minister and Foreign Secretary. It continued to prepare a Monthly Summary of important developments / events pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs for the Cabinet and, compilation, printing and distribution of the Ministry's Annual Report in a time-bound manner. The Division collated and compiled material for 'India and Abroad' chapter of the 2014 edition of the annual publication of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It organized a meeting of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories with the Foreign Secretary on 13 March 2014 on issues on which the States and UTs need to interact with the Ministry. The Division brought out a booklet on the 'Brief Statement on the Activities of the Ministry of External Affairs' for circulation among the members of Parliament at the time of presentation of the interim Budget in February 2014.

Situation Room

Situation Room is a multifaceted, multi facility state of the art complex of the Ministry. Besides its primary role as a Crisis Management Cell of the Ministry, the complex has been effectively utilized by all Divisions for various purposes such as presentations & conferences including telephone /video conferences etc. Video conferencing facility has now been installed in 17 Missions.

Boundary Cell

The Boundary Cell examines all aspects of India's external boundaries and map sheets involving international boundaries of India in coordination with the Survey of India, for publication. It provides cartographic advice and technical support on border related matters to other Divisions in the

Ministry of External Affairs. It assists in the collection and digitization of the available cartographic strip/Basis maps. The Cell also liaisons with Survey of India / State Governments on joint boundary survey work including maintenance / repairs of boundary pillars and on reports of any encroachment into Indian Territory (maintaining database etc.). It also gives assistance in the collection and digitization of information pertaining to the Maritime Boundary, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also the delineation of

the Continental Shelf. It scrutinizes restricted map sheets in coordination with the Ministry of the Defence and liaisons with the Naval Hydrographic Office and Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Boundary Cell is the repository of all maps/documents/information pertaining to India's international borders. Boundary Cell has participated in various Internal / Inter-Ministerial meetings on International Land and Maritime Boundary of India.



Protocol Division of MEA coordinated 106 incoming and 19 outgoing visits at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister during January 2013 to March 2014. A list of the Calendar of Visits in 2013 and in 2014 (upto March 2014) is given below.

The Protocol Division coordinated the organisation of multilateral Conferences/Meetings, viz., Asia Pacific Regional Conference of the Community of Democracies (17-18 January 2013); 15th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting (21 February 2013); ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting, Gurgaon (3-5 September 2013); ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting and ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Gurgaon

(11-12 November 2013); Delhi Dialogue-VI (6-7 March 2014).

During this period, Guatemala and Latvia opened their Embassies in New Delhi; Belgium opened its Consulate General in Chennai; and Hungary opened its Consulate General in Mumbai. 19 Honorary Consulates were opened in the cities of Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Panaji, Hyderabad, Kolkata, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram. 37 Heads of Mission presented their Credentials to Rashtrapati. 93 new posts were created in the Diplomatic Missions/International Organisations in New Delhi.

Calendar of Visits for 2013

State Visits by Head of State/Government/Vice President and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag, President of Mauritius	3-10 January
2.	Mr. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan and Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck	23-30 January
3.	Mr. Francois Hollande, President of France	14-15 February
4.	Dr. Mohamed Morsy, President of Egypt	18-20 March
5.	Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China	19-22 May
6.	Mr Nouri Kamil Al Maliki, PM of Iraq	22-25 August
7.	Ms. Ellen Johnson, President of Liberia	9-13 September
8.	Mr Viktor Orban, PM of Hungary	16-18 October
9.	Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, PM of Kuwait	7-10 November
10.	Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of Communist Party of Vietnam	19-22 November
11.	The Emperor & Empress of Japan	30 November to 5 December

Official/Working visits by Head of State/Government/Vice President and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Ms. Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck The Queen Mother of Bhutan	9-18 January

2.	Mr. Anote Tong, President of Kiribati (For DSDS)	29 January to 3 February
3.	Mr. Donald Ramotar, President of Guyana (For DSDS)	30 January to 4 February
4.	Mr. Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, PM of Bhutan	7-9 February
5.	Mr. David Cameron, PM of UK	18-20 February
6.	Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince of Bahrain	17-18 March
7.	Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland	31 March to 6 April
8.	Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Former Prime Minister of Nepal	27-30 April
9.	Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	20-22 May
10.	Mr. Joseph R. Biden Jr., Vice President of the United States of America	22-25 July
11.	Mr Mohammad Karim Khalili, Vice President of Afghanistan	20-23 August
12.	Mr. Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay, PM of Bhutan	30 August to 4 September
13.	The Aga Khan	17-28 September
14.	The Prince of Wales	6-14 November
15.	Mr. David Cameron, PM of UK	13-14 November
16.	Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan	12-15 December

Official visits by Foreign Minister and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Mr. Dai Bingguo, State Councillor, China	9-12 January
2.	Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold, FM of Mongolia	15-17 January
3.	Senator Bob Carr, FM of Australia	19-22 January
4.	Mr. Rashid Meredov, Dy. PM and FM of Turkmenistan	21-22 January
5.	Prof. G L Peiris, FM of Sri Lanka	21-23 January
6.	Mr. Jean Paul Adam, FM of Seychelles	30 January to 3 February
7.	Mr. Kamlesh Sharma, SG Commonwealth	6-10 February
8.	Mr. Urmas Paet, FM of Estonia	12-13 February
9.	Mr. Paulo Sacadura Cabral Portas, FM of Portugal	3-8 March
10.	Mr. Erlan Idrissov, FM of Kazakhstan	3-5 March
11.	Dr Bouthania Shabban, Special Envoy of Syrian President	5-9 March
12.	Mr. Titus Corlatean, FM of Romania	7-8 March
13.	Shaikh Nasser, Minister from Kuwait	10-14 March
14.	Dr Zlatko Lagumdžija, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina & Mrs Amina Lagumdžija	24-28 March
15.	Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Mrs. Kamilya Mammadyarova	2-5 May
16.	Mr. Erkki Tuomioja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland	6-8 May
17.	Mr. Bruno Eduardo Rodriguez Parilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba	25-28 May
18.	Mr. Murray McCully, Minister Of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand	4 June

19.	Mr. Hector Marcos Timerman, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic	15-18 June
20.	Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic	17-20 June
21.	Mr. John F. Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States of America	23-25 June
22.	Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	10-12 July
23.	Dr. Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister of People's Republic of Bangladesh	25-27 July
24.	Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of the Republic of Singapore and Dr. Subbiah seethalakshmi	28-30 July
25.	Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Foreign Minister of Chad	12-13 August
26.	Prof G L Peiris, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka	18-19 August
27.	Mr Samuel Santos Lopez, FM of Nicaragua	20-23 August
28.	Mr. Taukelina Finikaso, Foreign Minister of Tuvalu	21-25 August
29.	Mr. Edgars Rinkevics, Foreign Minister of Latvia	14-20 September
30.	Julie Bishop, Foreign Minister of Australia	15-18 November
31.	Mr Kamlesh Sharma, Secy Gen, Commonwealth	18-22 November
32.	Mr. Nabil Fahmy, Foreign Minister of Egypt	4-6 December
33.	Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of UAE	11-12 December
34.	Mr. Nikola Poposki, Foreign Minister of Macedonia	16-18 December
35.	Dr. Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General of The League of Arab States	16-18 December
36.	Mr. Elias Gaua Milano, Foreign Minister of Venezuela	19-21 December

Private/Transit visit of Heads of State/Government/Vice President and First Ladies and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Mr. Lyonchen Jigmi Y Thinley, PM of Bhutan	28 January
2.	Ms. Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan	6-21 February
3.	Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	8-9 February
4.	Mr. Raja Pervez Ashraf, PM of Pakistan	9 March (Jaipur/Ajmer)
5.	Mr. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekani, Vice President of Uganda (CII Exim Bank Conclave)	16-20 March
6.	Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, PM of Ivory Coast (CII Exim Bank Conclave)	16-19 March
7.	Dr Guy Scott, Vice President of Zambia (CII Exim Bank Conclave)	16-20 March
8.	Mr. Rui Duarte Barros, PM of Guinea Bissau (CII Exim Bank Conclave)	16-20 March
9.	Mr. Joseph N Boakai, Vice President of Liberia (CII Exim Bank Conclave)	16-24 March
10.	Mr. Philemon Yang, PM of Cameroon (CII Exim Bank Conclave)	16-19 March
11.	Mr. Gervais Rufyikiri, Vice President of Burundi (CII Exim Bank Conclave)	17-20 March
12.	Mr. Sprent Dabwido, President of Nauru	16-30 March
13.	Mr. Ollanta Humala Tasso, President of Peru (transits)	5 and 9 April
14.	Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Former Prime Minister of Nepal	27-30 April

15.	Ms. Bucumi Denise, First Lady of Republic of Burundi	13-16 May
16.	Mr. Sher Bahdur Deuba, Former Prime Minister of Nepal	9-14 June
17.	Ms. Sandra Roelofs, First Lady of Georgia	20-22 June
18.	Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Former Prime Minister of Nepal	24-28 July
19.	Princess Astrid of Belgium	23-30 November
20.	Grand Mother of Bhutan	6-26 December
21.	Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag, President of Mauritius	12-19 December

Visits abroad of President /Vice President /Prime Minister

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari's visit to Vietnam	14-17 January
2.	President Shri Pranab Mukherjee visit to Bangladesh	3-5 March
3.	President Shri Pranab Mukherjee visit to Mauritius	11-13 March
4.	Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh's visit to South Africa	25-28 March
5.	Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh's visit to Germany	10-12 April
6.	Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari's visit to Tajikistan	14-17 April
7.	Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari's visit to Uzbekistan	21-24 May
8.	Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari's visit to Ethiopia	25-26 May
9.	Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh's visit to Japan & Thailand	27-31 May
10.	Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari's visit to Iran	4-5 August
11.	Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh's visit to St. Petersburg	4-7 September
12.	Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh's visit to USA	24 September to 1 October
13.	President Shri Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Belgium and Turkey	2-8 October
14.	Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh's visit to Brunei and Jakarta	9-12 October
15.	Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh's visit to Russia and China	20-24 October
16.	Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari's visit to Peru, Cuba and UK	25 October-2 November
17.	President Shri Pranab Mukherjee's visit to South Africa	10-11 December

Outgoing Visits of External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid in 2013

Sl.	Country Visited	Dates
1.	Paris	9-11 January
2.	Thimpu	14-15 January
3.	Berlin (Germany) & Brussels	27-31 January
4.	Chile & Argentina	4-10 February
5.	Dhaka	16-17 February
6.	Abu Dhabi	12-13 March
7.	Tokyo (Japan)	26-27 March
8.	Berlin (Germany)	9-12 April
9.	Kampala (Uganda)	17-20 April

10.	Almaty (Kazakhstan) and Moscow (Russia)	25-30 April
11.	Tehran & Esfahan (Iran)	3-5 May
12.	Beijing (China)	9-10 May
13.	Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)	24-27 May
14.	Bangkok (Thailand)	29-31 May
15.	Oslo (Norway) & Oxford (UK)	11-14 June
16.	Baghdad (Iraq)	19-20 June
17.	Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei) & Singapore	29 June to 5 July
18.	Kathmandu (Nepal)	9 July
19.	Budapest (Hungary)	14-16 July
20.	Istanbul and Ankara (Turkey)	23-25 July
21.	LAO PDR	8-10 September
22.	Bishkek, Tashkent and Samarkand	12-15 September
23.	Canada, USA & Russia	21 September to 4 October
24.	Sri Lanka	7-8 October
25.	Indonesia	10-12 October
26.	Brasilia	14-17 October
27.	Manila and Singapore	20-24 October
28.	Perth, Australia	30 October to 2 November
29.	Sri Lanka	13-17 November
30.	Bahrain	7-9 December

Calendar of Visits for 2014

State Visits by Head of State/Government/Vice President and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, President of Maldives & Mrs. Fathimath Ibrahim	January 1-4
2.	Ms. Park Geun-Hye, President of ROK	January 15-18
3.	Mr. Joachim Gauck, President of Germany	February 4-9
4.	King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain	February 18-20
5.	David Johnston, Governor General of Canada	Feb 22-March 2

Official/Working visits by Head of State/Government/Vice President and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan and Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck	6-10 January
2.	Mr. Shinzo Abe, PM of Japan & Mrs. Akie Abe	25-27 January
3.	Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, President of Zanzibar	1-9 February
4.	Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand	23-28 February
5.	Crown Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy PM and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia	26-28 February

Official visits by Foreign Minister and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye, FM of Senegal	14-16 January
2.	Mr. Madhav Kumar Ghimire, FM of Nepal	14-16 January
3.	Prof. G L Peiris, FM of Sri Lanka	28-30 January
4.	Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, FM of Fiji	9-12 February
5.	Yang Jiechi, SR of China	10-12 February
6.	Mr. Dmitry Fedorovich Mezentsev, SG, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation	23-25 February
7.	Mr. Dmitry Rogozin, Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation	26 February
8.	Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran	27-28 February
9.	Mr. Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Oman	27 February to 1 March
10.	Mr. John W Ashe, President of UNGA	19-22 March

Private/Transit visit of Heads of State/Government/Vice President and First Ladies and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan	5 March
2.	PM Mr. Tom Thabane of Lesotho	7-10 March

Visits abroad of President/Vice President/Prime Minister of India

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Myanmar for BIMSTEC	3-4 March
2.	Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari's visit to Kabul	11 March

Outgoing Visits of External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid in 2014

Sl.	Country Visited	Dates
1.	Geneva	21-23 January
2.	Morocco, Tunis, Sudan	29 January to 5 February
3.	Kandahar	15 February
4.	Male	19-21 February
5.	Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar)	2-4 March
6.	London, UK	12-14 March
7.	Amsterdam, The Hague	23-26 March



The Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV) Division of the Ministry provides passport services through Central Passport Organization (CPO) and its network of Passport Offices and Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs); and consular, visa and passport services to overseas Indians/foreign nationals through the Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

Passport Services

In recent years, the issuance of passports has emerged as one of the major and visible statutory/public services rendered by the Government. Indian passports (together with other travel documents such as Identity Certificates for Tibetan refugees, Emergency Certificates for return to India, Police Clearance Certificates and Line of Control Travel Permits in Jammu and Kashmir) are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs through Central Passport Organization and its network of 37 Passport Offices, CPV Division (only Diplomatic and Official passports) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration. This network has been vastly expanded by adding 77 PSKs in Public Private Participation (PPP) mode and functional/upcoming 16 Passport Seva Laghu Kendras (PSLKs) as extended arms of Passport Offices. For Indians living abroad, passports, OCI cards, PIO cards, EC and other miscellaneous consular services, apart from attestation of consular documents, are rendered by 180 Indian Missions/Posts.

Growing Demand for Passports

Over the last six decades, there has been considerable expansion in both the scope and volume of passport related services. During January- December 2013, the Ministry processed approximately 97 lakh passport and related services applications. 37 Passport Offices, Headquarters and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands received 73 lakh passport service related applications

including Police Clearance Certificates (PCCs), against which 71.30 lakh passports and related documents were issued (inclusive of 2092 Diplomatic passports and 23038 Official passports), compared to 62.5 lakh in 2012, thereby registering an increase of approximately 15%. Moreover, 180 Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 13.83 lakh passports, EC and other passport related miscellaneous services. Thus, the Government of India, in total, rendered about 85.17 lakh passport services in a year amounting to over threefold increase since 2000.

The revenue of the Government on account of passport fees has registered a steady growth: 91% increase since 2010-11. The total revenue expected to be accrued from all passport services in 2013-14 is Rs. 1800 crore (exceeding BE figures of 1600 crore). An amount of Rs. 432.48 crore was allocated to Central Passport Organization (CPO) in the financial year 2013-14.

Central Passport Organization

The Central Passport Organization (CPO) was created in 1959 as a Subordinate Office of the Ministry and is headed by Joint Secretary and Chief Passport Officer, who also acts as Appellate Authority under the Passports Act 1967 and the Head of Department under the Delegation of Financial Powers Rules 1978. The total sanctioned strength of the Central Passport Organization Cadre was 2697 as on 31st December 2013. The Ministry has taken several steps to improve the service conditions of the CPO personnel by restructuring and expanding of the CPO cadre, to ensure that vacant posts available to them are filled by faster promotion with necessary amendments/downgrading of posts/relaxation in eligibility service in Recruitment Rules. The Ministry notified a modified Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme (PLIS) on 21st March, 2013, having retrospective effect, to financially incentivize individual performance measured

against pre-set and mutually agreed upon norms. With a view to recognizing meritorious services rendered by CPO employees and thus, contributing to improved governance in the country, Passport Seva Puraskars have been instituted, to be given away annually to the selected employees and Passport Offices on Passport Seva Divas (24th June).

Physical Infrastructure

The CPV Division functioned from Patiala House Annexe. Out of 37 Passport offices (POs), 18 are operating from own buildings, 4 are running from Government of India buildings and remaining 15 are operating from rented buildings. In line with the policy of the Ministry to shift all Passport Offices to own buildings, efforts are being made to acquire plot of land to construct state-of-art buildings. Ministry has so far acquired plots of land at 7 places viz. Srinagar, Amritsar, Dehradun, Mumbai, Pune, Bhopal and Jalandhar. The construction work is in progress at Jalandhar and recently started in Amritsar too. PO Surat has shifted to a newly constructed own building (the building was unveiled by EAM). PO, Bhopal which was functioning from a shabby building has been shifted to new well furnished space hired in State Government owned building. The construction of new PO building Mumbai is nearing completion.

Successful Implementation of Passport Seva Project

The Passport Seva Programme (PSP), an ambitious Mission Mode Project, is being successfully run in PPP mode and as part of the National e-Governance Plan with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as the Service Provider. After a successful nation-wide rollout during 2011-12, the scheme is currently in the Operations and Maintenance Phase since 14th June, 2012.

77 PSKs with best-in-class amenities have been set up across the country as extended arms of the 37 POs, thus providing extended reach to passport applicants. A 24 x 7 National Call Centre has been set up which provides real-time status and up-to-date information in 17 languages using a toll free number (1800-258-1800). The Call Centre receives over 20,000 calls per day. The portal <http://passportindia.gov.in> also provides up-to-date real time information. The Project is integrated with the States/Union Territories' Police system for verification of applicants' personal particulars, with India Post

for postal delivery and with India Security Press (ISP) Nashik for supply management of passport booklets. An SMS/email alert is sent to applicant as soon as passport is despatched. The Project also provides real time up-to-date information to 180 Missions and Posts abroad as well as the Immigration authorities.

As on 31.03.2014, 1.56 crore passport service related applications have been processed and over 1.41 crore services have been rendered through the new system. Daily footfall across 77 PSKs is nearly 35,000 citizens.

With a view to securing greater outreach and providing speedier passport services to applicants, in addition to the 77 PSKs in operation, the Ministry is committed to setting up 16 Passport Seva Laghu Kendras (PSLKs) across the country including the North Eastern States. A PSLK is already functional in Aizwal since July 2012.

The bilingual online portal passportindia.gov.in which had been created to offer passport services, giving comprehensive and latest information on passport services, appointment procedure, documentation, status enquiry and other related issues, thus enabling anytime-anywhere access, was upgraded in September 2013 to make it more user-friendly. It is kept updated with Advisories and Press Releases related to passport services developments from time to time.

Thanks to the implementation of the PSP, there has been noticeable improvement in passport service delivery in the country. Countrywide, 24% passports are issued within 3 days; 60% of normal passports are issued within 7 days and 82% are issued within 14 days (excluding the time taken for police verification). In the case of Tatkaal passports, 10% are issued on the same day and 64% are issued within three days. If we include police verification time in the end to end delivery process, 49% of the passports were issued within a month. Top five States in terms of number of passport applications issued were Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, accounting for more than 55% of total applications. The number of public dealing counters has been increased from the erstwhile 350 to 1610 in the new system and public dealing hours have gone up from 4 hours to 7 hours a day.

Police Verification

Police Verification (PV) plays an important role in the timely

dispatch of passports. The Ministry engaged closely with the Police Departments across States/UTs. The all-India average for the number of days taken to complete the police verification is 49 and about 37% of the PVs get completed within the desired time limit of 21 days. Some States/UTs have consistently maintained low PV processing times. For example, under the new system, Delhi completed police verification in 13 days on an average, followed by Andhra Pradesh (17 days), Haryana (19 days), Kerala (27 days) and Chandigarh (27 days). Constant efforts by the Ministry have resulted in more and more Districts switching over to the preferred District Police Headquarters Verification Model. As on 31st March, 2014, 449 of the 724 Police Districts had adopted the new system and were working on the District model.

Functional Enhancements

A more user-friendly portal <http://passportindia.gov.in> was released in September 2013. To address the concerns regarding difficulties in obtaining appointments, the Ministry introduced Online Payment System in July 2013. There has been a noticeable improvement in availability of appointments since then. There are certain categories of applicants and services for which 'walk-in' facility is available. However, to meet increased demand for passport services, 81 passport melas were organized from time to time in the weekends by 27 POs for the period 1.1.2013 to 31.12.2013. During these melas, 32,525 passport applications were processed.

mPassport Seva mobile app, which was launched on Android platform in March 2013, was made available on Windows and Apple iOS platforms. This app provides passport related information including PSK locator, applicable fees, mode of submission and tracking of passport application status on smart phones.

Premium optional SMS Service was introduced in November 2013 all over the country to enable citizens to receive alerts and updates regarding progress of their passport applications and pending actions. The service can be availed from any mobile phone. This is in addition to systemic free of cost SMS/ email intimation.

With an aim to reach out to people located far away from PSKs, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid launched first ever Passport Seva Camp on the 14th

December, 2013 at Fatehgarh for two days for the benefit of passport applicants residing in the districts of Farrukhabad, Auraiya, Etawah, Hardoi and Kannauj. It is yet another innovative citizen-centric measure in taking IT-driven public services closer home. During the period 1.1.2014 to 31.03.2014, eight passport seva camps were held, in which 1214 passport applications were processed.

The Ministry in association with M/s CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd., promoted by DeitY, launched on 19 March, 2014, online filing of passport related services applications in pilot mode at 15 select CSC locations in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand through the vast network of over one lakh Common Services Centers (CSCs) to take citizen-centric services closer home.

Passport Services Overseas

Indian Missions/Posts abroad rendered 13.83 lakh passport and related services. Two countries, namely Saudi Arabia and the UAE contributed to 43.4% of total services abroad (Location-wise, Dubai, Riyadh and Jeddah accounted for 39.4% services). Top twelve countries from the perspective of passport services were: Saudi Arabia, UAE, US, Kuwait, UK, Qatar, Oman, Singapore, Canada, Australia, Italy and Bahrain. They collectively contributed to 87% of total passport services abroad. The Project has received recognition at the highest level in the Government; has been the subject of case studies; and won several awards.

Passport Seva Divas and Passport Officers Conference

External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid inaugurated a two day Passport Officer's Conference (24-25 June, 2013) in New Delhi, and declared 24th June as 'Passport Seva Divas' to be observed every year. On the occasion, the Minister launched (i) Online Passport Fees Payment facility, (ii) a mobile-based mPassport Seva app to offer a wide variety of passport services and (iii) unveiled a plaque symbolizing inauguration of the new Passport Bhavan in Surat as another step forward in improving physical infrastructure of Central Passport Organisation (CPO). In recognition of the outstanding services rendered to citizens, the Minister gave away Passport Seva Puraskars to the selected employees and Passport Offices.

Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Under the PSP, the Ministry has put in place a strengthened Grievance Redressal system whereby a National Call Centre with a toll free number (1800-258-1800), operating in 17 languages and on 24X7 basis, has been set up to cater to dissemination of information about various services, handling of grievances and citizen feedback, which at present works on a central system platform. Also a helpdesk has been set up which can be accessed by citizens through the passportindia.gov.in portal and where suggestions and grievances can be sent and also monitor its status online. It presently handles approximately 20,000 calls per day (out of which 42% are in Hindi and 29% in English).

A Public Grievance Redressal Cell (PGRC) has been established in CPV Division under the supervision of the Joint Secretary (Passport Seva Project) and Chief Passport Officer. In addition, all POs handle public grievances through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAM) website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, in which 6026 grievances were received during the period 1.1.2013 to 31.12.2013, out of which 5013 cases have been disposed off. 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. During the period 1.1.2013 to 31.03.2013 (including CPGRAM) 38,489 public grievance petitions were received by the CPV Division, out of which 36,944 were disposed off. During the period 1.1.2014 to 31.03.2014, 10,144 public grievance petitions (inclusive of 1178 of 2013) were received, out of which 9938 have been disposed off. Information and Facilitation Counters, Public Grievance Cell and Help Desks have been set up in Passport Offices to assist applicants and to attend to grievances/complaints expeditiously. The complaint/suggestion boxes are also installed on strategic locations at Passport Offices and PSKs. There is a Public Grievance redressal mechanism in all POs to enquire into and redress any complaints from citizens in a timeframe.

A team from the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances made a visit to PSK, Herald House, Delhi on 2 August, 2013 to understand the new procedures for submission of passport applications, interacted with public,

followed by a visit to CPV Division and assessed the grievances mechanism of CPV Division. Ministry's efforts in improving redressal of public grievances have been appreciated by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.

Passport Adalats & Melas

POs held Passport Adalats regularly to redress the grievances of passport applicants. These Adalats have been very useful in disposing of some 7000 old and complex cases. With a view to addressing difficulties faced by citizens in obtaining appointments and to meet increased demand for passport services, passport melas were organized from time to time by POs. 81 Passport Melas were organised from time to time during the weekend/holidays by 27 Passport Offices. Till 31.12.2013, 32,525 passport applications were processed during Passport Melas. For the period, 1.1.2014 to 31.03.2014, 67 passport Melas were organized, during which 37,810 passport applications were processed.

Haj pilgrims: Special Drive

As decided by the Haj Committee of India (constituted under Act of Parliament No. 35 of 2002), only valid passport holders can apply for Haj. Therefore, all prospective Haj applicants were advised to get their passport issued before the Haj announcement 2013. Applications for Haj 2013 were received between 6 February 2013 and 30 March 2013 by the Haj Committee of India as per new norms. Against the allocated Haj quota of 1,25,000 applications, approximately 3 lakh application forms were received by the Haj Committee by the prescribed deadline. Instructions were issued to all the Passport offices to accord high priority to passport applications of prospective Haj applicants and extend requisite assistance for expeditious issuance of passports to them by means of nominating a nodal office; opening of facilitation counter, reserving appointment slots for such applicants and attending to requests/grievances petitions received from such citizens in a very prompt manner.

Right to Information Act (RTI)

From 1st July 2013, CPV Division has been operating a separate section in the Government of India RTI portal for receiving online RTI applications pertaining to Passport Offices and CPV Division. A total of 4598 online and postal

RTI applications were received and disposed off by the Division during the period 1st January to 31st December 2013(out of this 3298 applications transferred to RPOs for action at their end and 1300 replies sent from CPV Division). During the same period, 884 postal and online First Appeals were also received and disposed off. For the period, 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014, 1508 online and postal RTI applications were disposed off. During the same period, 294 postal and online First Appeals were received and disposed off.

Appeals (u/s 11 of the Passports Act)

The appeal against the decisions of PIAs is a statutory right conferred upon the affected persons u/s 11 of the Passports Act. During the period 1.1. 2013 to 31.03.2014, nine appeal sessions took place covering 322 appeal cases. In pursuance of decision taken during the hearing, 236 Speaking Orders were issued.

Manufacturing and Personalization of Travel Documents

All Indian travel documents are manufactured by ISP, Nashik. In order to obviate the problems of smudging of photographs and data and to improve the overall quality, functionality and security of Indian passports, various measures viz. shifting of data page in passport booklets to page no. 2 and observation page from last page to page no. 35, signature & seal of PIA at inner front cover page-facing page 1, inclusion of secondary "Ghost Image" (letter screen image) of passport holder drawn with his personal data at data page have been implemented with effect from 1st April 2013 ("2012 series booklets"). All Passport Offices, Headquarters and select Missions/Posts abroad have been provided with machine readable passport printers. For 150 Missions/Posts abroad and Office of Assistant Secretary (Passport), Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Port Blair, Machine Readable Passports (MRP) with ghost image security feature are printed at Central Indian Passport Printing System (CIPPS) of the CPV Division, New Delhi. CIPPS printed 1,13,469 passports during the period 1.1.2013 to 31.12.2013. During the period 1.1.2014 to 31.03.2014, CIPPS printed 41,604 passports.

E-Passports

In accordance with ICAO recommendations to incorporate

biometric data in the Machine Readable Travel Documents, India has also decided to upgrade its existing passports to electronic category of e-passports. Based on the experience gained through pilot phase of issuance of e-passports in the diplomatic and official categories, the Ministry decided to introduce e-passports for ordinary category as well. The e-passports provide greater protection against fraudulent practices and tampering and also prevent issue of multiple passports to a single person, thus, ensuring high level of security in passport issuance. A Task Force has been set up to expedite e-passport project.

Discontinuation of India-Bangladesh Passport (IBP)

Pursuant to the signing of the Revised Travel Arrangements between India and Bangladesh on 28 January 2013, it was decided by the Ministry to discontinue issuance of IBP with effect from 15 November 2013.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

During 2013, Shri A.R. Ghanashyam, Additional Secretary (CPV/Haji), M.E.A. led the Indian delegation at the IXth Symposium & Exhibition on Machine Readable Travel Documents, Biometrics & Security Standards organised at ICAO Headquarters, Montreal on 22 -24 October, 2013. Shri Muktesh K. Pardeshi, Joint Secretary (PSP) & CPO participated in the 18th and 19th PKD Board meetings at Abu Dhabi on 27 – 28 November, 2013 and at Paris on 31 March- 1 April 2014. A public awareness campaign was launched to inform the public that the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has set a deadline of the 24 November, 2015 for globally phasing out all non-Machine Readable Passports (MRPs). From 25 November, 2015 onwards, foreign Governments may deny visa or entry to any person travelling with a non-MRP passport. All handwritten passports with pasted photos earlier issued by Government of India are considered non-MRP passports. All 20-year validity passports will also fall in this category. Indian Government started issuing MRP passports since 2001. All new Indian passports are ICAO-compliant MRP passports. All Passport Offices issue machine-readable passports as per the guidelines laid down by ICAO.

Digitization Project

The project for “creation of image retrievable database” for the passport, visa, OCI and PIO applications in Indian Missions/Posts was awarded to a panel of 3 vendors in June 2012. In the first phase, the digitization of consular documents commenced in London, San Francisco, Riyadh, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, which is completed except in London. In the second phase, the project would cover another 34 Indian Missions/Posts, out of which work has already commenced in 9 Missions/Posts. As on 31 March 2014, nearly 7.28 crore pages have been digitized. Once implemented, this project would lead to central repository of data, easy retrievability of files and uniformity in all the Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

Parliamentary Committees’ visit to RPOs/PSKs

The close interest of the Parliament in Passport services was affirmed by a large number of Parliament Questions (PQs), examination and inspection/study visits by several Parliamentary Committees:

- (a) On 10 January, 2013, the Estimates Committee led by Shri Francisco Sardinha, MP and Chairman and other nine MPs made a visit to PO Goa with special reference to “Passport services in India”. On 1 June 2013, Estimates Committee of Lok Sabha led by Shri Francisco Sardinha, MP and Chairman visited RPO, Chandigarh.
- (b) On 16 January, 2013, Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs led by Shri Ananth Kumar, Chairman, held discussions with senior officials of the Ministry led by Shri Ranjan Mathai, the then Foreign Secretary, on the subject “Passport Seva Project - Targets and Achievements”. On 17 December 2013, Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs led by Shri Francisco Sardinha again held discussions with senior officials led by Smt. Sujatha Singh, Foreign Secretary on the subject “Passport Seva Project - Targets and Achievements.
- (c) The Standing Committee on External Affairs led by Shri Ananth Kumar made visits to PSKs located in Bangalore, Bhopal, Delhi (Herald House & Gurgaon) and Ghaziabad during the period 12-18 July 2013. The Committee studied the PSK operations in terms of

services to the citizens and expressed satisfaction at the progress made by PSP over the last one year.

- (d) The First Subcommittee of the Committee of Parliament on Official language made visits to RPO Chennai on 4 January 2013, RPO, Jaipur on 2 February 2013, PO Jammu on 18 May 2013, PO Ghaziabad on 16 July 2013, RPO Bangalore on 20 November 2013, and PO, Bhubaneswar on 16 January 2014, to review the implementation of Official language in the Ministry of External Affairs and its offices.

Public outreach

As part of expanding its outreach, the CPV Division is bringing out a half-yearly bulletin “Passport Patrika”, containing information on various passport related issues, in association with Service Provider. Media road shows were also organized in many POs, whereby media was briefed on improvements in delivery of passport services. The Department of Administrative Reforms and PG has included PSP as a case study in its Master Training Programme for JS/Dir/DS level officers of the Government of India.

Visas

Visa Issuance by Missions/Posts abroad

The procedure for grant of visas by Missions/Posts has been further simplified, which includes computerization of the issuance system and outsourcing of visa services, which commenced in 2006. In order to enhance the security environment of the visa issuance system, Government decided to introduce biometric enrolment procedure for foreigners seeking visa to visit India in 2012, which was part of the IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking) project. The implementation of this scheme in all the Indian Missions/Posts is expected to be completed by 2014. As on 31 March 2014, IVFRT scheme (without biometrics) has been introduced in 139 Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The implementation of IVFRT scheme along with enrolment of biometric procedures would enhance the environment of security aspects of visa issuing mechanism besides facilitating movement of genuine foreign visitors to India.

Visa Issuance by CPV Division

The CPV Division issued 7092 visas (as on 31 December 2013) and 1373 visas for the period 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014 to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders. The CPV Division also issued 8139 visa notes (as on 31 December 2013) and 1609 visa notes for the period 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014 to Indian Government officials going to join Indian Missions/Posts on transfer and official engagements.

Outsourcing of Visa/Consular/Passport Work by Indian Missions/Posts

MEA introduced outsourcing of visa services in Missions and Posts abroad during 2006-07. Subsequently, passport and consular services were also outsourced. As on 31 March 2014, 70 Indian Missions/Posts abroad have outsourced passport/visa/consular services and collection work. The matters regarding outsourcing of CPV services and introduction of biometrics procedures were discussed and reviewed during the HOMs Conference held on 5-7 November 2013 in New Delhi which was chaired by Foreign Secretary. An inter-ministerial delegation headed by Shri A.R. Ghanashyam, Additional Secretary (CPV/HAJ) visited Washington on 21 October 2013 for interaction with Ambassador of India and Heads of Posts in USA on visa outsourcing and consular issues.

Visa-Waiver Agreements

India has visa waiver agreements with 60 countries by which diplomatic/official passport holders are exempted from the requirements of visas. In the year 2013, visa exemption agreements were signed with France, Malta, Lithuania, Kyrgyzstan and Greece.

Consular Matters

Apostille Convention Project

The Attestation Cell in the CPV Division of the Ministry has been providing attestation services for authentication of educational, commercial and personal documents of individuals for personal and commercial use in countries abroad. Apart from this, Indian business establishments also

need commercial documents attested by MEA for export as well as for other business ventures abroad. Authentication is of two types: Normal Attestation and Apostille Certification. Apostille certification is done when documents are to be used in countries which are members to the Hague Apostille Convention. While Normal Attestation is free, a fee of Rs. 50/- per document/per page, as the case may be, is charged by way of Postal Order for affixing Apostille stickers. For the period from January to December 2013, Attestation Cell in the CPV Division attested 373358 personal and 1,77,509 commercial documents and apostilled 2,90,864 documents for use in the Apostille member countries. In addition, 44,490 documents were attested/ apostilled at four MEA Branch Secretariats at Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati during this period. The attestation of consular documents is also done by Indian Missions/Posts for Indian citizens living abroad. The work of collection/delivery of documents for attestation/apostille by the Ministry has been outsourced to five Companies since July 2012 for a period of 2 years. These companies charge a service fee of Rs. 22/- (Personal), Rs. 18/- (Educational) and Rs. 16/- (Commercial) per document.

Extradition cases and Legal Assistance

During the period from January and December 2013, India signed Extradition Treaty with Bangladesh (January 2013), Azerbaijan (April 2013) and Thailand (May 2013). The Instrument of Ratification of Extradition Treaty was exchanged with Vietnam (August 2013) and with Bangladesh (October 2013). During 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014, India received seven extradition requests— four from USA, two from UK and one from Iran- and sent seven extradition requests - two to USA, four to UAE and one to Saudi Arabia. In addition, India received 62 requests for local prosecution (56 from UAE, 5 from Saudi Arabia and 1 from Kuwait. Further, India extradited five persons to foreign countries (USA – 4 and UK - 1). Foreign countries extradited three persons (UAE – 3) to India. In addition, India received 7 requests for local prosecution (5 from UAE and 2 from Saudi Arabia). Further, one person was extradited to India from UAE.

Consular issues

In order to protect the interests and welfare of Indian nationals abroad, Government of India has set up various bilateral Joint

Working Groups on Consular Matters with a number of countries, including Australia, Iran, US, China, Russian Federation, UAE, etc. A 15-number high level delegation from the UAE, led by Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Butti Al Hamed, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited India to participate in the First Meeting of the Joint Committee on Consular Affairs on 17-18 June 2013. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Ashok K. Kantha, Secretary. A number of issues on consular, passport, visa and extradition were discussed during the talks.

Nitaquat (Amnesty) in Saudi Arabia

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) announced Nitaquat for the

regularization of stay of illegal expatriates in Saudi Arabia till 3 July, 2013. A number of measures were taken by Government of India to facilitate their stay there as well as repatriation to India, which included exemption of fee for Emergency Certificate (G.S.R.303 (E) dated 13 May 2013), deployment of additional manpower, extended working hours at our Missions in Riyadh and Jeddah. A team of officials from the Ministry was sent to Riyadh and Jeddah for the last month of Nitaquat. As per data available, the number of ECs issued from E/I Riyadh and CGI, Jeddah were 65,000 and 20,000 respectively. On request of various forums and keeping in view the welfare of the expatriates, the Government of Saudi Arabia extended the “Nitaquat” till 14 November 2013.



Administration

The Administration Division is responsible for efficient management of human resource requirement of Ministry and over 180 Missions/Posts abroad. The Cadre Management is one of the important functions of the Administration Division, which inter alia includes recruitment, training, postings/transfers, deputations, career progression, settlement of post retirement dues, amongst others. In addition, 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 Mission/Posts abroad.

India's global profile and engagement has undergone a significant change in recent years. To keep pace with the ever-increasing human resource demand, a comprehensive Indian Foreign Service Cadre expansion exercise has been underway since 2008. This exercise will be spread over a period of 10 years i.e till 2018. Under the Plan, every year around 50 posts are added at different levels and the Ministry has already gone through six tranches of this exercise. The Ministry had also undertaken the Indian Foreign Service 'B' Cadre Review Proposal in 2011-12, which has been implemented in an expeditious manner with regular meetings of the Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) to promote the officers in the zone of consideration and necessary indents have been placed with the concerned recruitment agencies for fresh recruitment. These measures have effectively addressed the career aspirations of the concerned officers, besides ensuring fast and efficient delivery of services.

In accordance with the National Training Policy 2012, the Ministry has prepared a revised Training Framework which covers the training requirements of all cadres in the Ministry of External Affairs at various stages of their career. Under the revised framework every officer/official is required to undergo compulsory training at least at three different stages of their career. The Ministry is in the process of preparing detailed

training modules based on the objectives enshrined in the revised training framework.

The current sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4086 (details in Appendix IX). Personnel posted against these posts are deployed in India and in over 180 Missions/Posts abroad. This includes officials from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Foreign Service, Branch 'B' (IFS'B'), Interpreters Cadre, Legal & treaties Cadre and the Library Cadre, but excludes Group 'D' and ex-cadre posts.

Recruitment made to the various groups in the Ministry from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 through Direct Recruitment (DR), Departmental Promotion (DP) and Limited Departmental Examinations (LDE), including against reserved vacancies, are given in the table at Appendix- X.

The Ministry of External Affairs has always placed high priority to 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 foreign language skills within the Service, so that these officers are able to discharge their diplomatic responsibilities more effectively. The table at Appendix XI gives details of the language proficiency of officers of the Ministry.

The Ministry is fully committed to providing adequate opportunities to persons with disabilities for ensuring their appropriate representation amongst its personnel. Towards achieving this goal, the Ministry has identified suitable positions for the various disabilities as prescribed under the relevant GoI Rules.

In the year 2013-14, Government of India decided to open a new Consulate General of India in Sittwe, Myanmar. The process is presently underway to operationalise the opening of this new post.

Vigilance Unit

Vigilance Awareness Week was observed from 28 October

2013 to 2 November 2013. All Indian Missions/Posts abroad and various departments in Ministry of External Affairs administered the pledge prescribed by the Central Vigilance Commission. The Ministry has decided to enter into Integrity Pacts with the prospective bidder / seller for all procurements / projects of the value of Rs 50 crore and above with effect from 1 January 2013. The details of cases handled by Vigilance Unit of CNV Division in the Ministry for the year 2013-14 are as under:

- No of cases pending as on 31 December 2012: 78
- No of cases received for examination during the period 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014: 40
- Total number of cases as on 31 March 2014: 118
- Number of cases closed with imposition of formal penalty during the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014: 13
- No of cases closed on without penalty, on account of death, VRS etc during the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014: 30
- Total of cases closed during the period 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014: 43
- No of cases pending as on 31 March 2014: 75

Welfare Division

Welfare Division looks after general welfare of the employees of the Ministry. This includes education of their children under the Ministry of External Affairs quota for MBBS/Engineering/Diploma courses and in Kendriya Vidyalayas, management of Canteen Services at South Block, Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhawan and Patiala House, management of trauma of the families of deceased Ministry employees including recommending cases of employment of their dependents on compassionate grounds, intervention with police and local authorities in cases of disputes and for general services, grant-in-aid for setting up recreational clubs in missions abroad and headquarters; and all arrangements for flag days such as Communal Harmony, Staff Benefit Fund, Red Cross and Armed Forces Flag Day.

Welfare Section facilitates admission of the children of the officials of the Ministry in Kendriya Vidyalayas against 60 seats allotted to this Ministry by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. These seats are for wards of officials posted abroad, who require admission after their return from postings. Welfare Division is also allocated engineering seats (Degree

and diploma) from Ministry of HRD and medical seats from Ministry of Health. These seats are given to the wards of officers who have passed their 12th from abroad and are distributed as per the merit. 74 Engineering seats, 3 medicals seats were allocated to the wards of the officials.

Welfare Division operates a Staff Benefit Fund formed over the years by contributions from officers and members of staff of the Ministry. This is mainly used to give financial assistance of Rs. 15,000/- per death case to meet the funeral expenses in the case of death of members of staff of the Ministry. A total of 12 dependents of the deceased were extended this relief. On the recommendation of Welfare Section, External Affairs Spouses Association (EASA) presented cheques amounting to Rs.35,000 respectively to eight dependents of deceased employees (Class IV) of the Ministry. Welfare Division also coordinates with EASA in case of scholarships offered by them for financially needy children of Ministry's deceased employees.

Whenever a member of the staff passes away, Welfare Division examines the financial status of the surviving family members and examines if spouse or any children of the deceased person is educationally qualified to be recruited for the posts of Lower Divisional Clerk and Multi Tasking Staff. A list of such persons is maintained in the Welfare Division on the basis of financial position of the family. Selection of the candidates for vacancies arising in these posts is done by a committee headed by Dir (ADP), M.E.A.

The Division provides Grant in-Aid to all Indian Missions abroad and to all Regional Passport Offices in India for recreation facilities and sports activities. The Division also arranges and financially supports inter-Ministry sports activities. It arranges for celebration of different Flag Days like Communal Harmony Day, Armed Forces Flag Day and collects funds for these organizations. Welfare Division administers MEA Departmental Canteens located in Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhavan, South Block and Patiala House. The Division also issues letters to Schools, MTNL, Ration card office etc. to help returning employees to get these domestic services faster.

Establishment

Establishment Division is entrusted with maintenance and upkeep of office and residential complexes of the Ministry in Delhi, allotment of office space and Ministry's residential housing, and purchase and supply of telecommunications, furniture and office equipment for Ministry's offices in Delhi.

It also processes matters related to allowances and special grants for officials posted in Missions and Posts abroad. The Division also handles matters relating to purchase and supply of special procurement items including representational crockery, cutlery and glassware, carpets, brass seals, national flags etc., as well as official vehicles, renting of Chancery and residential accommodation, empanelment of hotels, gardening, security and maintenance contracts for Missions and Posts abroad. The Division is also tasked with selection and purchase of Objets d'Art (ODA) for supply to Missions and Posts and in the Ministry's offices in Delhi as well as matters relating to the Toshakhana.

Measures were implemented to facilitate smooth functioning of the Ministry's offices in South Block, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan (JNB), Patiala House, Shastri Bhawan and ISIL Building. Several additional Divisions of the Ministry have shifted to JNB from South Block, thereby reducing congestion in that building and enabling steps to retain its heritage character. Housekeeping standards were monitored and improved in all office buildings with a view to providing a suitable work-environment to officials. JNB is now acknowledged as one of the best maintained official buildings in Delhi. Efforts are ongoing to further enhance the eco-friendly nature of the building. The Committee Rooms, multi-purpose hall and other meeting facilities of JNB were utilized regularly for Ministry's internal meetings, conferences organized by the Ministry as well as by other Ministries and Departments involving participation of foreign delegates.

Living conditions at Ministry housing complexes at Chanakayapuri, K.G. Marg, Gole Market and Dwarka were upgraded through provision of additional facilities and maintenance, landscaping and gardening. Civil works for improving the overall condition of the K.G. Marg and R.K.Ashram Marg residential complexes are at an advanced stage.

Proposals from Missions and Posts abroad for special procurement, requirements of official vehicles in view of ongoing austerity measures, rented Chancery premises and residential accommodation, empanelment of hotels, as well as gardening, security and maintenance contracts were processed expeditiously. Requests from Missions and Posts for special grants for various events were facilitated. With the delay in finalization of the review of Foreign Allowance, in order to protect the salary of India-based employees serving abroad from currency fluctuations, a proposal has been moved to the Ministry of Finance. Norms for payment of Hardship Allowance to the India-based officials posted in difficult

stations have been developed and are being finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Based on the recommendations of the Od'A Committee, several art works have been procured for use in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad. Gift items received in the Toshakhana were evaluated by the Ministry of Finance. In keeping with the spirit of the RTI, information about gifts received in the Toshakhana are now being published on Ministry's website on a quarterly basis.

Projects Division

With a view to reducing the rental liability, the Division continues to focus attention on acquiring built up properties and expedite pre construction/construction activities in stations where plots of land have been acquired. Efforts are continuously being made to locate suitable properties for acquisition with a view to seizing the opportunity of low real estate prices prevailing in various parts of the world. At present, Government of India owns 85 Chancery buildings, residences for Heads of Mission/Posts at 97 stations abroad and nearly 643 residences for officers and staff. In addition, properties for cultural centres at three stations abroad have been acquired.

The Division continued to closely monitor the progress of various constructions/renovation projects with the objective to ensure their timely commencement/completion. Construction and redevelopment work for the Chancery and /or residences at Abuja, Addis Ababa, Bahrain, Bangkok, Berlin, Brasilia, Brunei, Canberra, Dar-es-salaam, Dhaka, Doha, Islamabad, Gaborone, Kabul, Kathmandu, Khartoum, Nicosia, Oslo, Port Louis (Chancery and world Hindi Secretariat), Port of Spain, Santiago, Singapore, Tashkent, Warsaw, Wellington Sydney, Kuala Lumpur, Dublin and Colombo and Paris are in various stages of implementation ranging from appointment of consultant and preparation of architectural drawings to actual on going construction/renovation. Through concerted efforts, the Division has been able to complete the construction work of the Chancery-cum-Residential complex in Brasilia and award the contract for construction of Chancery cum residences project after successfully carrying out the tendering process in Bahrain. Construction projects in Abuja and Kabul are on the verge of completion. Many projects presently at the design and tendering stage are expected to move to the construction stage in the financial year 2014-15, including Dar-es-salaam, Khartoum, Nicosia, Port of Spain and Port Louis (Chancery and WHS), Tashkent and Wellington.

Renovation of Chancery building in Dubai is nearing completion. Action has been initiated for undertaking renovation of property at Paris and Washington for utilisation as Cultural Wing/Indian Cultural Centre.

Notable acquisition of built-up properties are Washington (Cultural Wing of the Mission), Port Moresby (Chancery & Residences). Proposal for purchase of property at Kabul, Helsinki and Zagreb are at advanced stages. Agreements were signed with local government for acquiring built up property on long lease at Hanoi (Chancery and Embassy Residence), Yangon (Chancery) and Belgrade (Embassy Residence). Apart

from this the acquisition of property is on the cards in Guangzhou (land for Chancery and Residences), Bangkok (Plot of land for ICC and Embassy Residence), Suva (Plot of land for Chancery and ICC).

An allocation of Rs. 270 crore was made under Capital Outlay Budget of the Ministry in Revised Estimates for the financial year 2013-14. A substantial enhancement in the budgetary allocation has been sought for the financial year 2014-15 to meet the projected expenditure on acquisition/construction projects in hand and for those likely to materialise in the financial year 2014-15.



Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office

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The Ministry continued to make efforts towards full implementation of the Right to Information Act 2005. The applications received in the Ministry were dealt with as per provisions of the Act. Interactive sessions were organized for the officers and the staff of the Ministry to promote a better understanding of the Act amongst them.

A total of 2094 applications seeking information under the RTI Act 2005 were received in the Ministry during the period 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014. Applications covered subjects such as foreign relations, administrative issues, Haj pilgrimage, bilateral visits and expenditure incurred on the same. CPV Division, Missions and Posts abroad, ICCR and ICWA maintain their own records as public authorities under the Act. The Ministry has implemented the recommendation of the Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) and set up an RTI Cell to streamline the receipt and disposal of RTI applications. The Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) in various Divisions of the

Ministry, along with the Cell, have been attending to these applications in a timely manner.

The officers concerned have been attending the hearings at the Central Information Commission (CIC), as and when notified, to respond to queries raised by the Commission. The RTI Cell has been filing the Quarterly Returns with the CIC as per schedule.

DOPT had launched online portal for accepting online RTI applications in April 2013. The Ministry has fully implemented the System and online applications are accessed regularly and forwarded to concerned CPIOs/Public Authorities. Through the efforts of this Ministry, the scheme of e-IPO (electronic Indian Postal order) introduced by DOPT for purchasing postal order electronically towards payment of RTI fees for obtaining information from Ministries/Departments of Govt of India has been extended to all our 176 Missions/Posts also.



e-Governance and Information Technology

The Ministry participated in Inter-Ministerial Consultations relating to Cyber Issues. Bilateral dialogues were held with Russia and France in February and March 2013 respectively. India participated in the multilateral discussions relating to global cyber issues including the UN Group of Governmental Experts in the field of Information and Communication Technology in the context of International Security, United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UN-CSTD) Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Open Ended Inter-Governmental Working Group on Cybercrime.

In view of the growing incidence of cybersecurity threats, the Ministry continued to provide special emphasis on cybersecurity training to its officers and staff at Headquarters and officers going on posting abroad.

The EG&IT Division continued to provide all encompassing IT support to the Ministry and support for various e-governance applications running in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad. The online visa component of the IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigner's Registration & Tracking), spear-headed by the Ministry of Home Affairs has been operationalised at 135 Indian Missions/Posts. The I-MAS (Integrated Mission Accounting Software) has been implemented in all Missions/Posts Abroad, streamlining the reporting of accounts by these Mission/Posts. The Ministry's e-services such as Passport and online Visa have been integrated with e-Taal (Electronic Transaction and Aggregation Layer), a Mission Mode Project under National e-Governance Plan. The Ministry has also implemented Comp DDO software and e-Procurement Mission Mode Project.



Parliament Section

Parliament Section is Ministry's interface with Parliament and nodal point for all Parliament-related work. The work includes liaison with all Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs with regard to replies for Parliament Questions, fulfilment of Parliamentary Assurances, Calling Attention Notices and Motions, Suo Motu statements, debates on foreign policy, legislative business, laying of reports and documents in the Parliament, etc. Prior to the commencement of Parliament Session, the Section also compiles briefs on important issues likely to be raised in Parliament during the forthcoming session for Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The Parliament Section interacts with Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha Secretariats for visits of Parliamentary delegations, activities of Parliamentary Friendship groups, etc. The Section also has the responsibility of organizing the meetings of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs and coordinates the work relating to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and other Parliamentary Committees.

Coordination Section

The Coordination Section processes all proposals for the grant of no objection from the political angle, for the foreign visits of Governors, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Union Ministers, Ministers in the State Governments, Members of Parliament, Members of the State Legislative Assemblies, Members of Judiciary, Government officials etc. Political clearance is accorded by the Ministry of External Affairs after taking into consideration the guidelines laid down by the government for the purpose from time to time, the political and functional justification for the visit, meetings arranged, and the recommendation of the Indian Missions / Posts concerned. During April 2013–March 2014, the Coordination Section issued 2268 political clearance for such visits.

The Section also handles work relating to the grant of

diplomatic clearances for foreign non-scheduled Military flights and visit by foreign naval ships. During the year 2013–14, the Section issued 490 clearances for foreign non-scheduled Military flights and 47 clearances for visits of foreign naval ships.

The Coordination Section processed approvals for the participation of Indian Sports teams and sportsmen in international events abroad, and visits of foreign sports persons/teams to India. 203 such cases were processed for clearance during the year 2013–2014.

The Section also examines requests for grant of no objection for holding international conferences, seminars, workshops etc, grant of Amateur W/T Licence under the Indian Telegraph Act (1885), clearances for Name/Emblem registration and grant in aid to Indo-foreign cultural friendship and cultural societies, located in foreign countries. During the year 2013–2014, the Division issued clearances for 1408 conferences/seminars etc in India. In addition, 143 requests for incoming visits of foreign scholars for training / research were processed.

The Coordination Section coordinates the work relating to the grant of Padma Awards to foreign nationals. The nominations are obtained by the Coordination Division from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and the recommendations of the Ministry are conveyed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The observance of Anti-Terrorism Day (21 May), Sadhbhavana Diwas (20 August) and Quami Ekta Week (19–25 November) in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad are also undertaken by the Coordination Section; the pledges were administered to the officers and staff, both at Headquarters and in Missions/Posts abroad.

Education Section

The Education Section deals with the selection, nomination, and admission of foreign students in respect of applications solicited from 65 friendly neighbouring and developing

countries, for MBBS, BDS, B.Engineering, B.Pharmacy courses, in various Central Institutions/colleges in India, under the Self Financing Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Cases of Political Clearances in respect of foreign students already studying in India in Govt. institutions for Engineering, Medicine, Nursing and other technical and professional courses, including elective training/observership/research are also processed when approached by the nodal Ministries of the Government of India.

Details of applications in respect of foreign nationals received/processed in Education Section for selection for nominated seats during the academic year 2013-14 are given below:

49 applications were received from Missions/posts for

nomination/selection in respect of 23 MBBS seats and 2 applications were received for nomination/selection for 2 BDS seats.

83 applications were received for nomination/ selection in respect of 60 B.E seats and five applications for two B.Pharmacyseats.

17 applications were received for nomination/ selection in respect of 5 seats for PG medical courses at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

During the period 2013-2014, 1686 cases of political clearances for foreign students/nationals were handled by the Section for their elective training/observership/research/ appearing in examinations etc.



External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division

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External Publicity

The External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division (XPD) of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), designated to engage with the media, continued to articulate the views/positions of the Government of India on various national and international issues, disseminate information on India's relations with its immediate and extended neighbours and publicize the achievements and successes in meeting our foreign policy objectives, to both Indian and international media. The mandate was met through facilitation of press coverage of VVIP visits, organizing regular and special briefings and background interactions for the media, timely issue of press releases and statements and through conducting familiarization visits of foreign journalists. This year, the Ministry went mobile with the launch of an integrated Smartphone app, 'MEA India', for mobile and other handheld devices on 29 July 2013. The application provides a single digital platform for citizens to access information on-the-go and other facilities such as information about passports, visa and consular services. In March 2014, the MEA India Mobile App was updated to include "Push Notification" to enhance the user experience, by providing regular alert notifications, when new information is uploaded at the MEA's website.

Press Coverage of VVIP Visits Abroad

All logistical arrangements—including setting up and operating fully-equipped Media Centres; organizing media briefings and other facilitation for media accompanying the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister on their visits abroad; ensuring suitable media coverage of the visit—are all made by the Division. During the year, the Division continued to facilitate media delegations that accompanied President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on his visit to Belgium and Turkey; Vice President Shri M.Hamid Ansari's visit to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, Iran, Peru, Cuba, Oxford University (United Kingdom) & Afghanistan and Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh on his visit to

Germany, Japan, Thailand, Russia, USA, Brunei, Indonesia, Moscow, China and Myanmar. Important areas of endeavour in the foreign policy arena were also highlighted through publicizing the speeches and statements delivered by the External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid on various occasions during the year, notably during visits to Brunei, Canada, China, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Nepal, Norway, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Turkey, USA, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Switzerland, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Maldives, UK and the Netherlands.

Press Coverage of incoming VVIP Visits

India's robust engagement with the international community witnessed a marked upswing with a series of high-level incoming visits which took place during the course of the year. Notable among them were the visit to India of Emperor and Empress of Japan, King of Bhutan, Princess of Thailand, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and King of Bahrain; President of Afghanistan, USA, Nepal, Liberia, Germany, Zanzibar, Maldives and South Korea; Prime Minister/Deputy Prime Minister of China, Slovakia, Iraq, Bhutan, Kuwait, Hungary and Japan; General Secretary of Vietnam, Governor General of Canada, Foreign Ministers of Cuba, Finland, Azerbaijan, USA, Argentina, New Zealand, Vietnam, Tuvalu, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Chad, Latvia, Venezuela, Macedonia, UAE, Iran, Oman, Kyrgyz Republic and Fiji, Minister of Finance of Sudan, His Highness Aga Khan, Secretary General of the Arab League, Deputy Chairman of Russia and President of the UN General Assembly. Joint press conferences with the visiting dignitaries were arranged and visiting and foreign media based in India were given assistance for providing suitable coverage of these visits. The Division was instrumental in conducting the first India-China Media Forum and successfully covered the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in November 2013.

The Official Spokesperson's Office

The Official Spokesperson's Office functioned as the interface between the Ministry of External Affairs and Media by 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 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 other important developments. During the year 2013-14, 255 press releases, 87 press briefings, 26 joint press statements and 62 media advisories (as on 31 March 2014) were issued by the Division. Constant efforts were made to communicate the position and perspective of the Indian Government on various significant issues by providing background briefings to media persons. Interviews with the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister and other dignitaries were arranged with Indian and international newspapers and TV channels. The transcripts of these interviews are available on the Ministry's website. The Ministry also live streamed media interactions on its YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/user/MeaIndia. Videos of all media events such as joint press conferences and agreement signing ceremonies organized at Hyderabad House during State visits were also uploaded on the YouTube channel. With the launch of the MEA India mobile app, a new tool has been added to the Ministry's information dissemination efforts.

Ministry of External Affairs' Website

The MEA website <http://mea.gov.in/> is one of the most widely accessed Government of India websites and plays a very crucial role in the dissemination efforts of the Division. On 25 September 2012, the Ministry's new revamped web portal, which incorporates latest technological and architectural features aimed at enhancing user experience in multiple ways, was launched. And within one year of its formal launch the web portal registered more than one million hits. The press section of the website is updated on a real-time basis with speeches/interviews/statements on foreign policy by the Prime Minister, Minister(s), press releases and briefings by the Official Spokesperson and other senior officials. The video briefings are also being uploaded on the web portal. The Ministry's website is one of the two government websites which are fully compliant with the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW). Websites of most of our Missions have been redesigned and revamped as per the standard template of the Ministry's web portal; these websites have also been integrated with the Ministry's web portal.

Social Media Platforms

To keep pace with technological developments and to reach out to a wider audience both at home and abroad, the Ministry is successfully using various social media platforms such as:

- YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/MEAIndia>;
- YouTube Public Diplomacy: <https://www.youtube.com/user/Indiandiplomacy>;
- Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/MEAIndia>;
- Facebook Public Diplomacy: <https://www.facebook.com/IndianDiplomacy>;
- Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/meaindia>;
- Google+ <https://plus.google.com/u/0/103329416703761384109/posts>;
- Twitter @IndianDiplomacy, @MEAIndia Posts.

Videos, photographs and other related documents pertaining to outgoing and incoming VVIP visits and other events of the Ministry are disseminated through these platforms almost on a real-time basis. These efforts have already gained a wide viewership.

Hindi, Urdu and Arabic Website

The Hindi section of the website is being continuously updated and has been appreciated by the general public, including representatives of Indian media. The Ministry has also arranged for Urdu and Arabic translations of the website with ANI. The sites are widely accessed by Urdu media in India and the neighbourhood, as well as in Arabic-speaking countries. The Ministry is in the process of developing dedicated websites for Spanish, Arabic and Urdu, which will be integrated with MEA web portal.

MEA Mobile Application

MEA is one of the first Ministries to have launched its own mobile application. The 'MEAIndia' mobile application, which successfully integrates the entire digital presence of the Ministry on a mobile platform, was launched by the then Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai on 29 July 2013. More than 100,000 downloads the mobile app has already registered stands testimony to its popularity in India and abroad. The app is currently available on Android and iOS platforms and provides information related to citizen-centric services of the Ministry as well as its outreach activities, including passport,

visa and consular services on a single digital mobile platform. MEA India Mobile App now has a new feature “Push Notification” to enhance the user experience, by providing regular alerts on mobiles, when new information is uploaded at the MEA’s website.

India-Africa Connect Website

The India-Africa Connect website, jointly developed by the Ministry 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 updated on a daily basis.

Familiarization Visits by Foreign Journalists

Familiarization visits to India by foreign journalists are a key element of the Ministry’s efforts to provide accurate and contemporary depiction of India in foreign media. These visits help journalists obtain a unique, first-hand impression of developments in India’s politics, economy, culture and science and technology.

Meetings for visiting journalists were organized with ministers, senior officials, Intellectuals, academicians and business representatives. During 2012-13, nearly 180 foreign editors/senior journalists from 12 countries were invited to India from different parts of the world, including from India’s neighbours. These included delegations from Nepal, the Maldives, Bangladesh, China, Bhutan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Belarus, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Serbia. Familiarization visits also included a group of 22 editors and senior journalists from Pakistan to the Integrated Check Post, Attari and Amritsar. In addition, familiarization visits for 22 editors/senior journalists from West Asian countries such as Algeria, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Tunisia and Syria; 20 senior editors/journalists from Sri Lanka and 21 senior editors/journalists from ASEAN countries, viz Cambodia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Lao PDR, were organized.

Training, Workshops and Conferences

The Division undertakes activities aimed at capacity building

among media organizations in neighbouring and developing countries and has organized training for 30 young journalists from Afghanistan in March 2013. Thirty young journalists from Nepal and Bhutan attended training programmes in print and audio-visual (AV) media in December 2013 and 28 young AV and print media journalists from Africa came to India in March 2014 for similar training. The Ministry has also been extending assistance to PTI and IANS for placement of stringers in select African countries to enhance mutual understanding and bridge the information gap.

The Ministry also organized the first India-China Media Forum on 16 September 2013 which was inaugurated by the EAM Shri Salman Khurshid and the Minister of the State Council Information Office of the People’s Republic of China, Mr. Cai Ming Zhao. Eminent media persons from both countries participated in the forum.

Facilitation for foreign media delegations accompanying Foreign Ministers from ASEM countries attending the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting held on 11-12 November 2013, was also done.

Documentaries by Foreign Audio-visual Agencies

An important area of work of the Division is the processing of documentaries by foreign audio-visual agencies. During this period, 60 proposals from foreign production agencies for shooting documentaries in India were received from Missions/Posts.

The Division also processed request from Mission/Posts for issue of Customs facilitation letters to documentary filmmakers from abroad whose proposals for shooting have been accepted. The requests are carefully scrutinized before such letters are issued. During this period 80 Customs facilitation letters were issued.

Logistical Support to Foreign Media Based in India

The Division provided necessary facilitation to 200 foreign media representatives based in India 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 intense engagements of India with the rest of the world, there has been considerable interest on the part of foreign media/agencies to post journalists in India.

Public Diplomacy

The XPD Division is also entrusted with the responsibility to generate interest and appreciation of India in general and different aspects of India's foreign policy in particular. To fulfil this mandate, the Division reached out to various stakeholders ranging from decision-makers, media, academics, experts, students and people at large. Popular social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter as also the Division's website was interactively used to project the Ministry's policies and activities. Commissioning of documentary films, books, and publication of a bi-monthly magazine India Perspectives in print and digital formats were undertaken to project a positive image of India abroad.

Outreach Activities

Various outreach activities were taken up by the XPD Division which included: supporting seminars and conferences on foreign policy issues in India and overseas, conducting dialogue with prominent think-tanks in India and abroad in Track 1.5 format, conducting the Distinguished Lecture Series in various institutions across India and hosting delegations of prominent persons and experts from abroad.

Distinguished Lectures Series

As a Public Diplomacy initiative of the outreach activity which aims to explain the contours of Indian Foreign Policy and its issues to the public in general and youth in particular, the Division engages former ambassadors and senior Ministry officials to deliver lectures at various premier institutions across the country. While the year 2013-14 saw 12 lectures being conducted, for the year 2014-15, which has already covered 5 lectures as on 31 March 2014, the plan also includes Central Universities located in different parts of India besides IITs and IIMs. Details on the Lecture Series are available on: www.mea.gov.in.

Public Policy Addresses

The Division organized the first Public Policy Address by EAM Shri Salman Khurshid in Bengaluru on 29 July 2013 in partnership with the Government of Karnataka. In his address, the EAM Shri Salman Khurshid underlined that engagement and participation of people in India's foreign policy was crucial as this made voice of India stronger globally. He also interacted with around 60 CEOs of corporate houses based in Karnataka and briefed them on the role MEA plays in economic engagement with countries and international organizations.

The Second Public Policy Address by the EAM Shri Salman Khurshid was held in Dehradun on 17 August 2013. The audience which included prominent members of the civil society and senior defence personnel and students, actively participated in the question and answer session which followed the Address.

Special Screening of Documentary Film

A special screening of the documentary film The Frontier Gandhi, Badshah Khan: A Torch for Peace by award-winning filmmaker Teri McLuhan, was organized by the Division on 20 January 2014 on the 26th death anniversary of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan.

Diplomatic Corps Briefing

A monthly feature, the briefing of Diplomatic Corps based in New Delhi, started from January 2014 to brief the Diplomatic Corps about the important events of the previous month. The response from the diplomatic community has been overwhelming.

India Global

India Global, a joint initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs and All India Radio (AIR FM Gold), is a unique programme that aims to highlight India's bilateral relations and bring radio listeners closer to the world of international affairs. In this country-specific programme, each week one of our Ambassadors speaks about important aspects of our relations with his respective country, presenting interesting anecdotes, facts, country profile, bilateral relations with India, achievements of people of Indian origin, Indian investments, bilateral trade ties, people-to-people contacts and the Indian diaspora connections. Each episode is of 8-10 minutes duration and is broadcast in English every Friday at 4:30 PM on AIR FM Gold Channel (106.4 hertz).

Meeting with Chief Secretaries

A meeting of Chief Secretaries of State Governments and Union Territories with Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh was organized on 13 March 2014, to discuss foreign policy matters relating to the States and Union Territories, such as passport, visa and consular issues; police verification; protocol-related matters and issues related to economic diplomacy.

Track 1.5 Dialogue

A 4-member delegation from the Institute of Diplomatic Studies (IDS), Riyadh, visited New Delhi for Track 1.5 Dialogue with the Observer Research Foundation, which was held on 26 April 2013.

The first Track 1.5 initiative with France was held on 23-24 May 2013 in Paris. The Observer Research Foundation and Centre for International Studies and Research participated in the Dialogue along with representatives of the two governments.

The fourth Australia-India Roundtable Dialogue at Lowy Institute for International Policy, Sydney, was held from 3-7 February 2014 with Observer Research Foundation.

Track II Dialogue

The 35th round of the Track II initiative with Pakistan: The India-Pakistan Neemrana Initiative was organized in Delhi from 17-21 August 2013.

Dialogue with International Think-Tanks

The 6th MEA-IISS Foreign Policy Dialogue was conducted in collaboration with International Institute of Strategic Studies, London, in New Delhi on 3-4 March 2014. The MEA-IISS Foreign Policy Dialogue takes place alternatively in London and New Delhi.

An Indian delegation participated in a workshop, "The Gulf and Asia Political Relations and Strategic Options in a Developing Scenario", organized by Gulf Research Centre in Cambridge, UK, from 1-7 July 2013.

Delegations Hosted

An interaction with a delegation led by the Chinese spokesperson was organized in New Delhi on 14 May 2013 to share their respective perspectives and experiences in the area of public diplomacy, outreach and strategic communications.

Mrs. Bernadette Marianne Gierlinger, Vice Minister for Economic Policy and European Integration, Austrian Ministry of Economic, Family and Youth, led a five-member delegation for an interactive session with the Division.

A 14-member delegation from the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPPS) in Kuru, Nigeria, interacted with the Division.

Seminars and Conferences

The XPD Division assisted in holding the following: International Conference on the theme 'Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in South Asia: Trends, Challenges and Prospects' held at New Delhi on 2-3 May 2013 jointly organised by Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and the Commonwealth Secretariat in association with SAARC Chambers of Commerce and Industry; A seminar on Tagore was organized at Shanghai on 1-2 June 2013; Financial assistance was provided for an International Conference, 'Negotiating Ethnicity: Politics and Display of Cultural Identities in North East India' in Vienna in July 2013; A seminar on 'Power Matrix in the Context of India's Foreign Policy' on 24 August, 2013 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Academy of International Studies, Kolkata; An International Conference in Aizwal, Mizoram, on 18-19 August 2013 on the theme, 'Regionalism, Sub-regionalism and Connectivity', jointly organized by Jadavpur Association of International Relations and University of Mizoram; Presentation on India's Public Diplomacy Initiatives and Soft Power on 19 September 2013 at the Jaipur Chapter of Young Indians, comprising of young entrepreneurs and students; A Foreign Policy Conclave and Inter-College Quiz Competition on 11-12 October 2013 in Mumbai by Youth Forum on Foreign Policy and Government Law College; A seminar on Indian Ocean and Central Asian Land Locked States on 26-27 October 2013 by Society for Indian Ocean Studies; An International Conference on 'Tagore's Legacy of Inter-cultural Interaction: India, China and Civilization States' in New Delhi on 8-9 November 2013; Third Asian Forum on Global Governance on 10-19 November 2013 by Youth Forum for Foreign Affairs, Mumbai, and coordinated by Observer Research Foundation; The 9th Kunming to Kolkata Forum 'Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation and Promoting Cultural Ties' was held in Kolkata on 21-22 November 2013; The Third International Relations Conference on the theme, 'Reimagining Global Orders: Perspectives from South' was organized at Jawaharlal Nehru University on 10-12 December 2013; A one-day National Conference on 'India and Africa: Onwards the Pathway of a Revitalized 'Smart Relationship'' was held on 17 January 2014 at Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA); International Seminar on Indo-Myanmar Relations was held on 8-9 February 2014 at Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), Kolkata; A National Seminar on 'Federal Imperatives in India's Foreign Policy' was held on 11-12 March 2014 at Pondicherry University; A visit of a

9-member delegation of Vice Chancellors from Bangladesh to India was held from 14–19 December 2013; Visit of nine young parliamentarians from African countries was organized from 8-15 March 2014. 28 young journalists from African countries visited for a training programme at Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication Research Center (AJKMCRC), Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, from 8-23 March 2014.

India Perspectives

This bi-monthly flagship publication is now printed in 14 languages and is also available on website <http://www.indiaperspectives.in>. India Perspective in 14 languages is also now available on all mobile platforms and App Stores such as Apple, Google Play, Windows, Android etc. The reach of the magazine is likely to expand many times, especially among the youth, who are increasingly using mobile devices to access digital content.

India File

India File is an innovative programme initiated by the External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division. It allows TV channels anywhere in the world to download, edit and use videos related to some of the topmost news stories from India. The service is provided free of charge.

Encyclopaedia on India-China Cultural Contacts

The first meeting of the Joint Compilation Committee (JCC) of the Encyclopaedia on India-China Cultural Contacts was held in Beijing on 1-2 April 2013. The meeting discussed future steps of the Encyclopaedia Project and decided on critical timelines. The second meeting of the JCC was held in New Delhi on 30-31 October 2013. The two sides were able to agree on streamlining guidelines for entries for the encyclopaedia. The third meeting of the JCC was held in Beijing, China, on 21-22 January 2014 and the fourth round was held in New Delhi on 24-26 March 2014.

Publications

During the year high quality publications, including coffee table books, were commissioned in English and other foreign languages for presentation to dignitaries by Indian Ambassadors and senior interlocutors. The Division also continued to supply Indian Missions abroad with such books and publications. The 29th, 30th and 31st Book Committee meetings were held in which procurement of books for

distribution for projecting a positive image of Indian women, non-violence, general coffee table and children-oriented books was considered and recommended. In addition, audio music of patriotic, classical, popular Bollywood and instrumental music was also recommended for purchase and dissemination. On the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March 2014, a coffee table book, *The Indian Women*, was launched.

India Africa: A Shared Future Initiative

A valedictory function to mark the conclusion of Young Visionaries 2012, a contest held under the India-Africa: A Shared Future Initiative was organized on 6-7 April 2013 in New Delhi. Presentations by selected Young Visionaries were made on new collaborative business ideas developed during boot camp in Hyderabad and certificates presented.

Film and Music

Doordarshan has already started telecasting XPD documentary films on its national channel twice a week on the prime time slot of 8.00 to 8.30 PM with effect from March 2014. The following films have been completed: *Indian Diaspora in Guyana, Suriname and Jamaica; Bridging Worlds Routes To Roots: The Story of Indians Across the Seven Seas Bridging Worlds; One Thousand and One Nights: Indian Dreams Under Arabian Skies; The Perfect Match; A Land Strangely Familiar; Grassroots to Global; The Quantum Indians; Jagriti Express; Yoga: Aligning to the Source; India's Development Assistance Projects in Sri Lanka.*

Final cuts of documentary films *Hindu Nectar Wanderings in Sacred India, Handmade in India, Bambai Nu Bawa* and *Shyam Benegal* were previewed by the Documentary Films Screening Committee.

A set of four CDs 'The Maestros' containing classical instrumental music by Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Vilayat Khan and others was brought out and distributed to Missions abroad.

XPD documentary film 'No Problem' made by filmmaker Yasmin Kidwai on the Barefoot College in Tilonia, Rajasthan, won the Best Documentary award at the Zanzibar International Film Festival and was officially selected in seven International film festivals. At the Al Jazeera film festival in Doha, it received the Golden Award for Best Film. The film also won the Best Film Award at the Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival in New Delhi on 30 April 2013.

The XPD documentary film *Indian Roots of Tibetan Buddhism*, made by filmmaker Benoy Kumar Behl was premiered on 16 February 2014 at the India Habitat Centre. The film was appreciated by a large section of the audience and is being dubbed in German and Spanish languages. Arrangements have been made to telecast it on a Slovenian TV channel.

To mark the successful completion of 'India Is...', Global Photography and Video Challenge 2012 and to announce the 2013 edition, an award ceremony was organized on 3 June 2013. External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid gave away prizes to the winners. Award-winning videos from the contest and *Hidden Cricket*, a short film made by Shri Anurag Kashyap (the brand Ambassador of 'India Is... 2012') were screened at the ceremony.

The Third Mountain Echoes Festival was held on 9-11 August 2013 at Thimphu, Bhutan. The festival was organized by Siyahi in collaboration with India-Bhutan Foundation. XPD documentaries *A La Carte*, *Six Yards of Grace* and *Mrinalini Sarabhai*, were screened at the Festival. Her Royal Highness, the Queen of Bhutan, inaugurated the festival.

A Buddhist Film Festival called 'The Inner Path' was inaugurated on 6 September 2013 by EAM. The festival was organized by Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC). As part of this festival, various films on Buddhism, including those made by the XPD Division, were screened.

The annual Open Frame Festival of the Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT) was held on 11-21 September 2013. Two films of the XPD Division made by PSBT were screened to critical acclaim. These were *The Quantum Indians* and *Sama-Muslim Mystic Music of India*.

Awards

The XPD Division received the NTA ICT World Communication Award for Excellence in Content for Public Diplomacy in India from Secretary, Ministry of Communications and IT. The Award is officially supported by the Departments of Telecommunications and Department of Electronics & IT, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, All India Council of Technical Education and several other international and domestic industry associations.



Training of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officers/Staff

A significant development for the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) during the year was the adoption of a new Training Framework for the Ministry, in line with the National Training Policy, 2012. The new Training framework was approved by the External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and communicated to the Department of Personnel and Training by the Foreign Secretary in July 2013.

An MEA Executive Workshop was held on 14-15 March 2014 for senior officers of the Ministry. Foreign Secretary, Smt. Sujata Singh joined by all the senior officers of the Ministry, attended the Workshop. The aim was to enhance skill sets, reinforce common values and review the requirements of the service. The workshop was the first collective foray of MEA's senior officials of its type.

After the completion of training of the 2011 batch, a valedictory function took place at FSI on 7 June 2013 with the EAM Shri Salman Khurshid as Chief Guest. The External Affairs Minister's Gold Medal for the Best Probationer of the 2011 Batch went to Ms Manusmriti. The Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Dissertation was given to Shri Karthik G.Iyer. The Dean's Commendation Certificates were awarded to Shri. Rajiv Kumar Mishra and Ms. C. Sushma. The Best Sportsman Trophy went to Shri Gince K Mattam.

The IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2012 batch had joined FSI in December 2012. Their 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. The programme also included modules on administration, establishment, accounts, protocol, consular matters, reporting skills, official

language policy, external publicity, public diplomacy, representational skills and India's cultural heritage.

The OTs were also imparted training in contemporary social development issues, minority rights and problems, right to information and human rights issues. Group discussions, case studies and presentation on topical issues were also included to develop creative thinking among the Officer Trainees. A special module on public speaking to develop effective communication skills of the OTs was also part of their training. A five week course was organized in collaboration with Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi to develop their skills in management and economic issues. In order to familiarize the OTs with the work of Indian Missions abroad, the Officer Trainees visited the Indian Missions in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur in two groups.

The OTs were also sent on attachments with the Indian Army, the Navy and the Air Force. In addition, they visited Mazagon Dockyard Ltd., BARC in Mumbai, and had interactive sessions with leading financial institutions and industrial establishments. A 'Bharat Darshan' tour was organized for the OTs with a view to acquainting them with the rich cultural diversity, heritage, and economic and tourism potentials of the country.

The training programme includes a month-long District Attachment in various States across the country where the OTs get an opportunity to learn about administration at the grass roots level and functioning of State and district administration. The OTs also undergo a period of Desk Attachment in the Ministry where they acquire actual work experience before being posted abroad for language training.

The 2013 batch of IFS Officer Trainees joined the FSI in December 2013.

The email-based Mid-Career Training Programme for Director level officers of 1996 batch was carried out in 2013.

The FSI organized a 5-day workshop for spouses of IFS

Officers from 24-28 February 2014. The lectures were on India's foreign policy, life of an Indian diplomat abroad, hospitality and representational skills. The programme was organized jointly by the FSI and External Affairs Spouses Association.

A Refresher Course for Section Officers (SOs) of the Ministry was conducted from 20 May to 3 June 2013. Another Refresher Course for SOs, including courses in Consular and Commercial matters was conducted from 3-14 March 2014. Three Basic Professional Courses (BPCs) for Assistants and Clerks of the Ministry were organized from 12 -26 July 2013, from 17-26 September 2013 and from 2-16 January 2014. Seven IMAS courses for Assistants and Clerks were held from 2-11 April 2013, 5-14 June 2013, 17-26 June 2013, 27 June – 8 July 2013, 19-29 August 2013, 18-30 December 2013 and 19-28 February, 2014.

Inter Service Training

An orientation capsule was conducted for Defence Attaches on 27 June 2013.

Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

The FSI continues to conduct various training programmes for Foreign Diplomats in an effort to build bridges of friendship with countries around the world. Two Professional Courses for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) were successfully organized by FSI from 17 April to 17 May 2013 and from 3 October to 1 November 2013 respectively. 52 participants from almost as many countries participated in these programmes. A Special Course for diplomats from Bangladesh

and IOR-ARC with 29 participants was conducted from 4-13 September 2013.

A month-long Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats held in November-December 2013 was attended by thirty diplomats from eight ASEAN countries and ASEAN Secretariat. During these courses, in addition to class room training, the foreign diplomats were taken to various places and institutions of historical, political, cultural and economic importance in and outside Delhi.

FSI also organised lectures on India's Foreign Policy for 250 ASEAN students visiting India on Exchange Programme in September and November, 2013.

Linkages with counterpart Institutes Abroad

The FSI entered into an MoU with Iraq, Iran, Liberia and Kuwait in the last year.

A 7-member delegation from Vietnam visited the FSI on 8 April 2013 and called on the Dean, FSI. A four member Chinese delegation led by Mr. Qui Xiaoqi visited on 16 April 2013 to discuss issues related to training. A 5-member delegation from Germany, led by Mr. Patrick Heinz, Head of Training for International diplomats visited FSI on 29 May 2013. A delegation of Malaysian Junior diplomats led by Ms. Rahimah Yeop, Director, IDFR, visited on 27 August 2013 to discuss issues related to training. A 6-member composite delegation from Mozambique visited FSI on 27 November 2013.



Implementation of Official Language Policy & Propagation of Hindi Abroad

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has a well-organized programme for propagation and promotion of Hindi abroad with the involvement of our Missions/Posts. Under this scheme, Hindi teaching material including Hindi textbooks, literary and children's books, Hindi magazines, Hindi learning CD's, software to work in Hindi on computers, dictionaries etc are supplied to educational institutions and other NGO's. Through the Missions/Posts the Ministry also extends support to various Foreign Universities and other Educational Institutions through Indian Missions abroad for Hindi related activities.

Organizing International Regional Hindi Conferences in different countries by the Ministry is one of the initiatives to promote and propagate Hindi abroad. These International Regional Hindi Conferences are organized through our Missions abroad with the association of local organizers involved in the propagation of Hindi and Indian Culture abroad. During this financial year, International Regional Hindi Conferences were organized at Seoul and Bangkok.

To promote Hindi as an international language, a World Hindi Secretariat has been set up in Mauritius under a bilateral agreement between India and Mauritius. Functioning of the Secretariat is coordinated by the MEA and its Mauritian counterpart in the Government of Mauritius.

The Ministry coordinates work relating to grant of scholarships to foreign students to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. There is a provision of awarding 100 scholarships every year. This year 71 scholarships were offered.

Implementation of Official Language Policy of the Government of India continued to be accorded a very high priority by the MEA. Ministry had organized Hindi Pakhwara

on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. Prizes were given away to the winners of Hindi Competitions by Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, during the prize distribution function. Two famous Hindi poets were also invited on this occasion.

Regional Passport Offices as well as our Missions abroad organized various Hindi competitions on the occasion of Hindi Diwas, 2013. Special grants were sanctioned to Missions/Posts abroad for organizing these activities.

Hindi Advisory Committee works under the Chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister. The second meeting of the Hindi Advisory Committee of the MEA was held on 26 June 2013 under the Chairmanship of EAM Sh. Shalman Khurshid.

World Hindi Day is celebrated every year in all our Missions/Posts abroad on 10 January as well as at the Headquarters. This year also 'World Hindi Day' was organized by the Ministry on 10 January 2014, at the premises of Foreign Service Institute. Foreign students from countries such as China, Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Kazakhstan etc., studying Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra and Delhi Kendras, presented variety of cultural programmes.

An 'Essay Competition' was organized by the Hindi learning foreign students. Prizes were given to 20 successful participants. A small 'Kavya Path' was also organized on this occasion.

The Parliamentary Committee on Official Language visited the Regional Passport Offices in Jammu, Jaipur, Ghaziabad and Bangalore during 2013-2014 to take stock of the progressive use of the Official Language.



The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was founded on 9 April 1950 with the objectives of formulating and implementing policies and programmes relating to India's external cultural relations; fostering and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries; promotion of cultural exchanges with other countries and people; establishing and developing relations with national and international organizations in the field of culture; and taking such measures as may be required to further these objectives.

The Council administered scholarships under various schemes for foreign students to pursue under-graduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes as well as professional courses such as Engineering, Pharmacy, Accountancy, Business Administration and Management, etc. In the academic year 2013-14, the Council offered 3465 scholarships covering 120 countries raising the scholarship holders to around 5200 on its roll.

As part of its welfare activities for foreign students, the Council organized the "21st International Students Festival" called "Friendship Through Culture" on 11 November 2013 in New Delhi. International Students from 19 countries participated in this event and presented glimpses of their traditional and varied cultures.

The Council implements various welfare measures for its scholarship holders as well as self-financing students, including camps to give students a greater knowledge of and familiarity with India (15 winter camps were organized in January 2013 and 7 summer camps were organized in May-June 2013). An Orientation Programme on Indian Culture was also held in May 2013 for IFS Probationers.

The Council provided sponsorship to 35 artists/exhibitions abroad, covering various subjects such as calligraphy art, Indian architecture, contemporary Indian art and miniature paintings. The Council hosted 2 exhibitions from Peru and Trinidad & Tobago and organized 22 exhibitions in India

under its Horizon series. The Council also provided financial grant to 5 artists/exhibitions for visiting abroad.

The ICCR sponsored 85 cultural groups to various countries. It also sponsored 5 cultural groups for participating in Days of India Festival in Germany including organizing a performance of "Ritu Samhara" by Pt Birju Maharaj's group to mark the closing of "Connecting Cultures: Days of India" Festival in Germany as well as the inauguration of the "Europalia.India" Festival in Belgium, in the presence of President of India and the King of the Belgians.

The Council handles foreign cultural groups visiting India in and outside the Cultural Exchange Programmes. The Council organized a Sufi festival in different parts of India in which performances by groups from Spain, Azerbaijan, Russia, Iran, Tunisia, Gujarat and

Mumbai were arranged from 4-16 February 2013 and; the 4th International Sufi Festival in which apart from India groups from Iran, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden and Egypt performed in different parts of India from 9 to 15 February 2014.

The Council arranged performances by groups from Congo, Guinea, Namibia and South Africa in February 2013 in the International Surajkund Crafts Mela organized by Government of Haryana. It organized World Percussion Festival from 15-27 February 2013 with performances given by groups from Brazil, South Africa and Sri Lanka; the 3rd International Jazz Festival from 14-27 March 2013 in New Delhi and other places in India; the 4th International Jazz Festival 2014 from 28-30 March 2014; the contemporary and folk dance performances from groups from Kazakhstan, France, Malaysia, Russia, Mexico and China in different parts of India from 12 to 19 October 2013; the 7th South Asian Bands Festival 2013 as agency work on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs from 29 November to 1 December 2013. Besides, the Council hosted visits of 15 foreign cultural groups from Vietnam, Bhutan, Czech Republic, Canada, South Africa, Mauritius, Colombia, Mexico, Bangladesh, Venezuela,

Malaysia, Lithuania, Italy and Egypt. The Council organized Indian cultural programmes by 95 groups in India and provided financial support to 67 NGOs/cultural institutions.

The Council has established Chairs of Indian Studies in various foreign universities. During 1 January 2013 to March 2014, 10 new Chairs were established which are located in Australia (3 Chairs), Belgium, Canada, Jamaica, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine and USA ICCR has approved negotiating 11 MoUs for setting up of new Chairs.

The Council organized four International Conferences namely, (i) Interfaith Conference on “On World Religions: Diversity, Not Dissension” in New Delhi from 7-9 March 2013 which was inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhawan; (ii) “Philosophy and Science: Indo-German Dialogues and Dimensions” from 11-13 July 2013; (iii) “Vivekananda: His Vision and Legacy for a New World” in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 9-10 October 2013; and (iv) “Vivekananda – Re-assessing the Man and his contributions” in Melbourne, Australia during 20-23 February, 2014 in association with South Asian Studies Association of Australia (SASA), Monash University.

A book based on the proceedings of the Interfaith Conference organized by the Council during 7-9 March 2013 was published by SAGE Publications and was released by Vice-President Shri M. Hamid Ansari on 4 March 2014 at India International Centre.

The Council and IIC jointly organized an international conference on “The Relevance of Traditional Cultures for the Present and the Future” during 24-26 March 2014 at India International Centre, New Delhi.

ICCR awards Junior and Senior Research Fellowships to international scholars specializing in Indian studies in the fields of culture and social sciences. Under this programme, the Council received two Senior Fellow from Indonesia and Spain and three junior fellows from Iran, Serbia and Slovenia respectively.

Under its Outgoing Visitors Programme (OVP), the Council sponsored the visit of 16 eminent scholars to various parts of the world, and another 13 writers/academics were sponsored to Belgium to participate in the “Europalia-India” Festival. Under the “Distinguished Visitors Programme” the Council hosted visit of 14 eminent personalities from abroad.

Presently ICCR is maintaining 36 full-fledged Centres and 2 Sub-Centres. Through regular interaction and guidance for the Indian Cultural Centres, the Council has been able to

increase both the number of programmes being organised, as well as the diversity of events. The objective has been to make the Cultural Centres hubs for promoting Indian Culture through not only classes in dance and music, but also by organizing Exhibition of art & sculpture, literary events on philosophy, history, sociology, economic trends, cinema in India etc. by both local experts and visitors from India.

The Council brings out five journals in five different languages, namely “Indian Horizons” (English quarterly), “Gagananchal” (Hindi bi-monthly), “Papeles de la India” (Spanish, bi-annual), Rencontre Avec L’ Inde (French bi-annually) and “Thaqafat-ul-Hind” (Arabic Quarterly)- for distribution in India and abroad.

To promote and propagate Hindi, the Council organizes various activities in India and abroad such as Hindi Seminars, symposium and release of books in India and abroad. The Council appoints Hindi teachers in its Cultural Centres abroad to propagate Hindi language. The Council also organizes also sends Hindi books, dictionaries, magazines and its Hindi publication “Gagananchal” to the Indian Missions and Indian Cultural Centers abroad. With the objective to teach Hindi language to the natives of foreign countries, ICCR has established Chairs of Hindi language in various prominent universities in the world. The Council in collaboration with “Aksharam” organized a 2-day International Hindi Festival in February 2013 and Poetry Conference on 21 April 2013 in its Auditorium and also organized India tour programme for the students who were selected in Hindi Competition organized by Hindi Samiti and High Commission of India in UK. During the period from January 2013 to March 2014, the Council published “Gagananchal” Volume 36 Nos.1,2,3 & 4-5 (combined issue) and organized one book launch function.

The personal collection of books and manuscripts bequeathed by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Founder President of the Council, forms the core of the ICCR Library. A catalogue of the manuscripts and personal books of Maulana Azad has been printed in book form in three languages – Arabic, Urdu and Persian. Over the decades, the library has grown manifold and presently has more than 50,000 volumes. The Council continued to administer the British Council Libraries and coordinate the activities of the Foreign Cultural Centres in India.

During this period, the Council sent 6 busts/statues, including those of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru to Iran, Spain, Philippines, Slovenia, Mexico and Palestine.



The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) continued to accord high priority to research and study of political, security, and economic developments in Africa, Asia, United States, Latin America, EU and wider global geo-strategic and geo-political environments were analysed. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs and Viewpoints, which were placed on the ICWA website.

ICWA also conducted a large number of events, lectures, conferences and outreach activities. The Library was improved and new books were acquired. The renovation of the ICWA Auditorium was completed. The Service Regulations for the operation of ICWA were drafted on the basis of Rules governing ICWA notified by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The Research Faculty comprising of a Director (Research), 15 Research Fellows and two Research Interns recruited for short duration, and scholars engaged in the study and research on the political, security, and economic trends and developments in priority areas all over the world and analyzed wider global geostrategic and economic environment. They disseminated the outcome by publishing articles in media and other academic journals in addition to the ICWA publications of 3 Sapru House Papers, 16 books and 14 Issue Briefs and 46 Viewpoints during the period.

As part of its outreach initiative, ICWA revamped its website to make it more reader friendly and rich in content. It also instituted Book Research Grants, Sapru House Paper Grants and Conference Grants to facilitate and promote research on foreign policy issues. While ICWA's in-house research capacity is being steadily built, eminent scholars and former practitioners of foreign policy are being commissioned to conduct research on specific areas or projects on India's relations with key regions or countries or major international economic issues. ICWA also hosted a number of international conferences, seminars and workshops as per details given above.

The Core Group (CG) on China established on 2 February 2012, completed the task of producing the manuscript which

has now been published. The Core Group on Pakistan has held seven meetings and is now preparing a compendium of papers by scholars and experts. Similarly, CG on Afghanistan has also held two meetings and is compiling the papers authored by eminent experts and scholars. CG on Myanmar has also been proposed.

ICWA Core Groups on Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka and Maldives monitored and analysed contemporary developments in the respective countries. Studies and policy recommendations, where appropriate, were forwarded to the MEA.

Publications

ICWA's Journal 'India Quarterly' was brought out regularly during the period. In addition, the ICWA has brought out the following publications titled –

The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China: A Major Turning Point for China, 2013, ICWA; Geopolitical Dynamism of India-Tajikistan Relations by Jyotsna Bakshi; *First ICWA Africa-India, Academic Conference- Africa and India: A partnership for Development and Growth* by Nivedita Ray; *India as an Emerging Major Power: Foreign Policy Thrust Areas*, (ed) P M Kamath; *Decolonisation, Development and Diaspora: The Afro-Indian Experience* (ed) Sandipani Dash; *India- Vietnam: Agenda for Strengthening Partnership*, (ed) Rajiv Bhatia, Vijay Sakhuja, Vikas Ranjan; *India and GCC Countries, Iran and Iraq: Emerging Security Perspectives* (ed) Sudhir Devare, Swaran Singh, Reena Marwah; *Transforming South Asia-Imperatives for Action*, (ed) Rajiv Bhatia, Swaran Singh, Reena Marwah; *India and Russia –Expanding the Partnership*, (ed) Rajiv Bhatia & Vijay Sakhuja; *India-Azerbaijan: The Silk Route Connection* by Nivedita Ray; *Best of India Quarterly: A Journal of International Affairs* by Amitava Tripathi (Ed.); *ICWA Research Articles 2012* by Rajiv K. Bhatia and Vijay Sakhuja (Ed.); *First India-Central Asia Dialogue*, Bishkek by ICWA and Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek; *India and Republic of Korea – Engaged Democracies* by Skand Tayal;

Geopolitical Dynamism of India Tajikistan Relations Ed. by Jyotsna Bakshi; *What's New at ICWA* (June 2012-April 2013); *Evolving Politico-Strategic Dynamics in the Gulf* (SHP) Zakir Hussain; *New Frontiers in South-South Engagement Relationship Between India and Latin America and Caribbean* (SHP) April 2013 by Sarang Sidore; *A Bridge over Troubled Waters: Legal Principles of River Sharing and Framework for Management of Transboundary Rivers* (SHP), May 2013 by Gangesh Sreekumar Varma; *Vietnam-India Relations in the Light of India's Look East Policy* SHP, Feb. 2012 by Vo Xuan Vinh; *Regional Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean Trends and Challenges* SHP March 2013 by Sameera Yarlagadda; *MERCOSUR: Mercado: A Study on the Origins, Organizational Structure, Latest Developments and the Contemporary Trade Patterns of Mercosur* (SHP), Feb. 2013 by Nitin Arya; *China's Changing Approach to Strategy and Negotiations* SHP Jan. 2013 by Ashok Kapur; *Political and Economic Profile of Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region* (SHP) June 2013 by Dattesh D. Parulekar; *Third ICWA India and Africa: Decolonisation Development and Diaspora the Afro-Indian Experience*. Ed. by Sandipani Dash; *ICWA Hand Book; India Vietnam Agenda for Strengthening Partnership* Ed by Rajiv K. Bhatia, Vijay Sakhuja and Vikash Ranjan; *India as Emerging Major Power: Foreign Policy Thrust Areas*. Ed. by P.M. Kamath; *India and Russia: Deepening the Strategic Partnership*. Ed. by Rajiv K. Bhatia, Vijay Sakhuja and Indarani Talukar; *Rabindranath Tagore-Envoy of India: His vision of India and the World* International Conference 9-10 May 2013 (Booklet); *First India-Central Asia Dialogue, Bishkek* (June 12-13, 2012); *India-Central Asia Dialogue II Almaty, Kazakhstan* 17-18 June 2013 (Booklet); *Trilateral Dialogue on Indian Ocean (TDIO)* 19-20 Sept., 2013 (Booklet); *India's Foreign Policy Diplomatic Breakthroughs and Critical Gaps* 7-9 October 2013 (Booklet); *India-West Africa: a dynamic relationship and emerging trends*. Accra, Ghana 14-15 Oct., 2013 (Booklet) Fourth ICWA Africa-India Academic Conference; *India-Francophone Africa: Issues and challenges*. Dakar, Senegal 17-18 October, 2013 (Booklet) Fifth ICWA Africa-India Academic Conference; *Transforming South Asia: Imperatives for Action* by Rajiv Bhatia Swaran Singh & Reena Marwah; *Indo-Pacific Region: Political and Strategic Prospects*. Ed. by Rajiv K. Bhatia and Vijay Sakhuja; *Delhi Dialogue V: India ASEAN: Vision for Partnership and Prosperity*; *India-Poland Relations in 21st Century: Vistas for Future Cooperation*.

Outreach

ICWA's outreach programmes included joint conferences and seminars with several Indian universities and think tanks across the country. Likewise, international engagements

included conferences, seminars and lectures in several countries.

During this period, ICWA conducted a total of 92 events including 12 lectures, 27 conferences/ seminars, 16 bilateral strategic dialogues, 35 panel discussions/background briefings and 2 book launch/ release/discussions functions.

The Outreach programmes conducted in India included International Conference, titled "India in World Affairs: The Next Decade", 22-24 January 2013; International Conference on 'The Arab World: March Towards Democracy and its Implications', 4-5 February 2013; Seminar on "South China Sea: A Flashpoint of Global Conflict", 1-2 March 2013; ICWA-P.K. Roy Memorial College joint Seminar, 4-5 March 2013; 3-Day International Conference on 'Indo-Hispanic Dialogue: Bridging the Cultural gap', 6-8 March 2013; Seminar on "India's South Asian Foreign Policy: With Special Reference to India-Sri Lanka Relations", 25-26 March 2013; ICWA-Asia Centre, Bangalore Joint Seminar on "Developments in Sri Lanka – India's Interests and Concerns" at Asia Centre, Bangalore on 6 April 2013; ICWA-Asia Centre, Bangalore Joint Seminar on "US Pull-Out from Afghanistan-Implications for India" at Asia Centre, Bangalore on 24 August 2013; ICWA-SIS, JNU Dialogue 2013 on "India's Foreign Policy: Diplomatic Breakthroughs and Critical Gaps" on 7-9 October 2013; IAFS-II: Second Domestic ICWA-Africa Academic Conference at Manipal on "India-East Africa Dialogue: Exploring the Opportunities for Cooperation" [in collaboration with the Manipal University] on 25-26 October 2013; First Meeting of the ICWA's Re-constituted Advisory Group on Africa and De-briefing Session on West Africa Conferences, 25 November 2013: Financial assistance to Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi to organize an International Conference on "Transitions: State, Society and Culture in China", 10-11 January, 2014.

The Outreach programmes conducted outside India included the following events:

Visit of ICWA delegation to Myanmar to participate in Seminar on "India-Myanmar Relations" organized by the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) and interaction with key Political Stakeholders in Myanmar on 5-8 March 2013; ICWA-MGIMO (Moscow State Institute of International Relations) Dialogue: Interaction with RIAC and organizations in St. Petersburg and Moscow on 21-23 May 2013; ICWA-Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty, Kazakhstan): Second Annual India-Central Asia Dialogue in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 17-18 June

2013; ICWA's Dialogue with its Counterpart Institutions in China :ICWA Dialogue with Chinese Peoples' Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), Beijing and Signing of MoU and Dialogue with Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), Shanghai on 2-6 September 2013; IAFS-II: Third ICWA-Africa Academic Conference in Accra(Ghana) on " India-West Africa: A Dynamic Relationship and Emerging Trends" on 14-15 October 2013; IAFS-II: Fourth ICWA-Africa Academic Conference in Dakar (Senegal) on 17-18 October 2013 and; ICWA's Visit to Australia (Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney) to participate in AIIA-ICWA Dialogue on 17-21 March 2014.

ICWA also organized a number of important lectures, seminars and panel discussions on current topics during the year.

Foreign Dignitaries who visited ICWA included Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', former Prime Minister of Nepal on 29 April 2013; Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Speaker, People's Majlis (Parliament) of Maldives on 7 May 2013; Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China on 21 May 2013; Bruno Eduardo Rodríguez Parrilla, Foreign Minister of Cuba, on 27 May 2013; Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on 12 July 2013; Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Prime Minister of Nepal ,on 26 July 2013; Dr. Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary on 17 October 2013; Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Fiji, 11 February 2014; Ambassador John W. Ashe, President of the 68th Session, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), 21 March 2014.

The Sapru House Library, since its inception in 1955, has emerged as a premier resource centre for Indian and foreign scholars. It houses approximately 141,000 books, journals, maps and UN/EU documents. The entire collection is accessible through a digitised index and can be searched via On-Line Public Access Catalogue on the ICWA web portal. A large part of the Sapru House Library is accessible to research scholars in digital format, as is the entire collection of the ICWA journal – India Quarterly. Endowed with a state of the art Cyber library, the Sapru House Library has linkages with other prestigious institutions that provide for access to ICWA scholars.

The Library aims to be a comprehensive repository of research materials and documents in the core areas of Indian foreign policy, with focus on South Asia. As it strives to meet the demands of ever expanding horizons of our research projects and to upgrade its facilities – the need of augmentation of staff is felt increasingly.

Dissemination

ICWA initiated a policy of wide dissemination of its output and activities to reach the largest possible global audience and raise awareness about Indian concerns and aspirations in the national and global arena. A system of circulating publication alerts as well as revamping of the website: www.icwa.in and global webcasting of important events has been helpful in achieving the ICWA mandate. ICWA has also updated and reprinted its publicity brochure to disseminate information about the Council to a wider global audience.



Research and Information System for Developing Countries

The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), based in New Delhi, is an autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs. The organization specializes in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity building among developing countries on international economic issues. The research agenda of the RIS focuses on promoting South-South cooperation and assisting developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS provides policy inputs to the Government of India on international economic issues, and is engaged in several Track-II processes. The institute also continues to work closely with the network of institutions with which it is linked in order to achieve the objectives of strengthening policy coherence on international economic issues.

The select major events organized by RIS during the period include the following:

- (i) A Panel Discussion on the theme of Emerging Patterns of Regional Cooperation Initiatives in 2013 and Beyond in New Delhi on 8 January 2013.
- (ii) A Workshop on Indian Development Cooperation Policy organised by RIS-Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) in New Delhi on 15 January 2013 featuring a panel discussion on India's Development Cooperation Policy and including a session each on Regional Focus and Development Cooperation and, Thematic Focus and Development Cooperation. Those who participated in the Workshop included, among others, Shri Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, Shri P. S. Raghavan, Additional Secretary (DPA), M.E.A. Shri S. S. Mukherjee, DG, ICWA and Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Joint Secretary (DPA-II), MEA.
- (iii) As part of the Global Ethics in Science and Technology (GEST) study, RIS organised a Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation in India: Issues in Access, Equity and Inclusion New Delhi on 28 January 2013.

The Workshop featured panel discussions on the themes of Perspectives on S&T and Innovation Policy in India and on Access and Inclusion in the Indian Context. It also included sessions on Food Technologies, Nanotechnology and Synthetic Biology. The Workshop was attended, among others, by Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS, Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, RIS, Dr. K. Ravi Srinivas, Associate Fellow, RIS, Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Prof N. S. Siddharthan, of the Madras School of Economics, Dr. S. R. Rao, Advisor, DBT, Government of India, Prof. E. Haribabu, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Central University of Hyderabad, Prof. Indira Ghosh, School of Informatics Technology, JNU, and Prof. Pranav Desai, Centre for Studies in Science Policy, JNU, New Delhi.

- (iv) RIS organised a Brainstorming Seminar on India-Myanmar Strategic Partnership in New Delhi on 4 February 2013. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Joint Secretary (BSM), M.E.A. presented an overview of the India-Myanmar relations. The Seminar included sessions on- India-Myanmar Economic Partnership: India's Development Cooperation which had presentation, among others, by Mr. P. S. Raghavan, Additional Secretary, M.E.A.; India-Myanmar Economic Partnership: Trade, Investment, Finance and Connectivity which had presentations, among others, by Dr. V S Seshadri, Ambassador of India to Myanmar; India-Myanmar Economic Partnership: Energy and Natural Resources which had presentation by Mr. Rajiv Bhatia, Director General, (ICWA) and; India-Myanmar Economic Partnership: Development of India's North-East which had presentations by Mr. Y. S. Shahrawat, Chairman, Land Ports Authority of India and Ms. Patricia Mukhim, Member, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), among others.
- (v) RIS, jointly with IDRC-CRDI organised A Dialogue on India-Canada Economic Cooperation in New Delhi on

- 12-13 February 2013. It included sessions on (a) trade and Macroeconomic Issues: An Overview (b) Cooperation in Energy and Agricultural Sectors (c) Immigration Issues (d) Innovation, Production and Technology (e) Bilateral Investment Issues and (f) panel discussion on way forward.
- (vi) RIS, jointly with United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs organised the International Conference of Southern Providers on South-South Cooperation: Issues and Emerging Challenges in New Delhi on 15-16 April 2013 which was attended among others, by Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, Shri Ranjan Mathai, the then Foreign Secretary, Shri Dinesh Bhatia, Joint Secretary (MER), MEA, Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS.
 - (vii) An International Conference on Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in South Asia: Trends, Challenges and Prospects was organised by RIS jointly with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Public Diplomacy Division of the M.E.A. in New Delhi on 2-3 May 2013. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid delivered the keynote address and Dr. Cyrus Rustomjee, Director, Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, London delivered the special address.
 - (viii) RIS and UNCTAD jointly organised a Brainstorming Session on Promoting Enterprise Innovation in India in New Delhi on 8 October 2013.
 - (ix) RIS, TERI, NEPAD and Michigan State University jointly organised a Conference on Africa-India Cooperation for Science, Technology and Innovation in New Delhi on 22 October 2013. It was attended, among others, by Mr. Aston Peterson Kajara, the Ugandan Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Privatization), Prof. Gnissa Isa Konate, the Burkina Faso Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation and Dr. Musheibu Mohammed-Alfa, the Ghanaian Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana. Mr. Ravi Bangar, Additional Secretary, MEA, delivered the inaugural address.
 - (x) RIS, the Third World Network, and Focus on the Global South, organised the National Seminar from Doha to Bali: Challenges to the Development Agenda in New Delhi on 29 October 2013.
 - (xi) RIS-FIDC, European Commission and European, Report Development organised a Conference on Development Cooperation, Trade and Finance: Emerging Academic Perspective in New Delhi on 31 October 2013. Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Joint Secretary, DPA-II, MEA, delivered the inaugural address. Others who participated in the Conference included Mr. Gustavo Martin Prada, Director, Development Policy, European Commission, Dr. Stephan Klingebiel, German Development Institute, Bonn and Dr. James Mackie, European Centre for Development Policy Management, The Netherlands, and Senior Fellows from the RIS.
 - (xii) RIS, jointly with Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute, and Asian Development Bank (ADB) organised the Trade and Development Symposium on 3-5 December 2013 on the sidelines of the WTO Ministerial Conference held in Bali. The theme of the symposium was: WTO Trade Facilitation and Challenges for LDCs and Developing Countries.
 - (xiii) A workshop on India-China Cooperation and Global Economic Governance was held in RIS on 12 December 2013.
 - (xiv) As part of the FIDC programme, RIS organised the Conference on Indian Development Cooperation Policy: The State of the Debate in New Delhi on 18 January 2014. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Special Secretary (ER & DPA), MEA delivered the inaugural address. The agenda of the conference included discussion on the themes: North-South and South-South Cooperation: What Makes India Really Unique; Indian Development Cooperation Policy; CSOs, the Media and Development Cooperation Policy; and Development Cooperation Policy and the Business Sector. Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Joint Secretary (DPA-II), MEA chaired one of the sessions.
 - (xv) The National Seminar on ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Cooperation was organised by RIS jointly with the Indian National Shipowners' Association, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS in New Delhi on 31 January 2014. Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), M.E.A delivered the Keynote Address. The agenda of the seminar included discussion on Mega Regional

Agreements: Implications for ASEAN-India Trade and Maritime Connectivity; ASEAN-India Ports and Shipping Networks: Emerging Structure, Challenges and Identification of Ocean Routes; ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Cooperation: The Way Forward. Ms. Renu Pall, Joint Secretary (ASEAN ML), M.E.A chaired one of the sessions.

- (xvi) The Conference on Ethics, Equity and Inclusion in Science and Technology: Global and Regional Perspectives was held in New Delhi on 6-7 March 2014. The agenda of the conference had discussion on Ethics and Equity in Emerging Technologies and S&T Policy: Food Technologies; Nanotechnology; Synthetic Biology; Building Blocks for Way Forward; Ethics in Indian S&T Policy and Practice; and Communication and Engagement in S&T Policy and Ethics. The participants included Shri Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, Dr. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Dr. Y. S. Rajan, ISRO, Bangalore and Dr. S. R. Rao, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, among others.
- (xvii) The ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, National University of Singapore, and the Institute for South Asian Studies jointly organised the Dialogue on India-Singapore Relations on 6 March 2014 at RIS. Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), M.E.A was one of the main speakers. The meeting had open discussion on the themes of India's Look East policy, India-Singapore relations and ASEAN-India relations.
- (xviii) WWF-India and RIS organized a discussion meeting on the Changthang Borderlands of Ladkha in New Delhi on 21 March 2014.

ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

Shri Salman Khurshid, EAM inaugurated the ASEAN-India Centre at RIS in New Delhi on 21 June 2013. Mr. K. Shanmugam, Foreign Minister of Singapore, delivered the inaugural lecture of the ASEAN-India Centre at RIS in New Delhi on 30 July 2013.

Second Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks

The Second Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) was organised jointly by RIS, ASEAN Secretariat, M.E.A. and the Institute of Foreign Affairs,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR in Vientiane on 10 September 2013. Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR made opening remarks. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid delivered the inaugural address. Dr. A.K.P Mochtan, Deputy Secretary General, Community and Corporate Affairs Department, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta delivered the special address. The RIS Volume entitled *ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership: Perspective from the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks* was also released on this occasion.

Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman RIS, Ambassador Dr. V. S. Seshadri, Adviser and Shri Sayan Samanta, Consultant participated in a seminar on 'From Connectivity Corridors to Development Corridors between India and Myanmar' organised on 28 November 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

RIS conducted a number of Capacity Building and Training Programmes such as those on International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP) on 11 February to 8 March 2013 under ITEC/SCAAP of the MEA; International Economic Issues and Development Policy on 10 February to 7 March 2014, under ITEC/SCAAP Programme of the MEA; Workshop on Global and Regional Dimensions of Trade and Economic Integration on 29 January 2013, for foreign Diplomats under the 56th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) on behalf of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), MEA; Workshop on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives on 10 September 2013 for Foreign Diplomats under the 3rd Special Course for IOR-ARC and Bangladeshi Diplomats, jointly with the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), MEA.; Workshop on Global and Regional Perspectives on WTO and Climate Change Issues on 18 October 2013, for Foreign Diplomats under the 58th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, jointly with the FSI, MEA. For details, RIS website: www.ris.org.in may be visited.

RIS Publications

A list of RIS publications is given in the **Annexure XII**.

Budget

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, sanctioned the budgetary support of Rs. 5.35 crore to RIS for 2013-14.



The Ministry's Library has over 100,000 books and a large collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. It is also equipped with modern facilities to support policy planning and research. The library subscribes / receives and maintains about 350 Periodicals / Journals including online journals and databases. In addition, Library also subscribes to "EIU online services", "Marketline from Datamonitor", "Business Monitor International", "Keesing's World News Archive", "Newspaper Direct" and "JSTOR" etc for the users in the Ministry at HQ and Indian Missions and Posts abroad. These online databases and journals / periodicals may be accessed through username and password. Necessary information is circulated from time to time in the Ministry at HQ as well as Indian Missions and Posts abroad and also available on MEA Library's Website: <http://mealib.nic.in>.

A Library Committee manages library activities including purchase of books and subscription of journals / periodicals, and data bases. The present committee consists of Joint Secretary (CT, CS & PP & R) as Chairman, 3 Directors from Territorial Divisions as Members and Director (Lib & Info) as Member Secretary.

The Library has an in house computer system consisting of a server, and 12 PCs. The system supports data entry and retrieval in Hindi as well. The Library also has CD-ROM databases on foreign affairs and current affairs. All Documentation / Bibliographic services as well as other library operations and services have been computerized, using an integrated library management software "LIBSYS". Information on all books, maps, documents and selected articles from periodicals / journals received in the Library are available online through intranet in the Library. Information on MEA Library may be accessed on MEA Library's website: (<http://mealib.nic.in>) which is also linked with MEA website (www.mea.gov.in). MEA Library website (<http://mealib.nic.in>) is being updated regularly.

All new documents received in the Library i.e. books, maps, microfilms, selected articles from journals / periodicals are

being fed on a regular basis in the database on foreign affairs called "FAIRS". Using this database and CD-ROM databases, the Library provides Current Awareness Service and Bibliographical and Reference Services. In addition, the Library regularly issues:

Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin (FADB): a list of Selected articles on International Relations and related subjects.

Recent Additions: an annotated list of Books/ Publications added to the Library.

Chronicle of Events: important news items on International Relations and related subjects. The library also regularly issues daily news chronicle, book alerts, and article alerts, which are sent through group email id's to all Foreign Service Officers in the Ministry at HQ and Indian Missions abroad.

The Library in cooperation with NIC has brought out a full text CD-ROM version of Annual Report of Ministry of External Affairs [from 1948 to 1998-99] and foreign Affairs Record [1955 to 1999]. The Information on the CD-ROM can be retrieved via combination of searches including Boolean search on any given word or combination of words. This CD-ROM version was prepared based on material available as on 1st January 2000 and is available for consultation in the Library.

A separate "Rare Books Reference Library" was established in Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan in 2011 and a "Catalogue of Rare Books 1824- 1947" containing more than 500 rare books was published and is available in the Library.

The representatives of Library attended Annual IFLA 2013 Conference and Committee meetings in Singapore. Library officers and staff members participated in various International and National Conferences / Seminars of other professional organizations and associations including SLA, ILA, IASLIC and CGLA. Director (Lib & Inf.) was re-elected as Chair of Government Information and Official

Publications Section (GIOPS) of IFLA for 2013-2015. ALIO was has elected as new Chair of Government Libraries (GL) section of IFLA for 2013-2015. ALIO is also working as EC Member for IFLA Journal and a Member of WG on IFLA Standards Manual. An ALIO of the Library assisted the Library of our Mission in Beijing for its automation.

Library also provides practical training to the students of

Library & Information Science studying in various Institutions of Delhi from time to time. Library users including research scholars are welcome to access the library and its databases, including CD-ROM databases. Photocopy and computer print-out facilities are also available to all library users including research scholars.



The total budget outlay (at the RE stage) for the Ministry of External Affairs for 2013-14 was Rs 11793.65 cr. which was 23.37% more than the budget allocated for 2012-13(Rs. 10120.69 cr). A major part of this Budget is committed towards technical and economic cooperation with other countries through both Plan and Non-plan funds.

Plan

The Plan component of MEA's Budget caters to several large developmental projects in the areas of infrastructure, hydroelectric power projects, agriculture, industry,etc, which are undertaken in the neighbouring countries of India like Bhutan, Afghanistan and Myanmar.

Bhutan is one of our principal beneficiaries from the Plan budget head. Many important hydroelectric power projects like Punatsangchu Hydroelectric Projects – I and II and the Mangdechu Hydroelectric Project are been implemented. Afghanistan is also another important destination for funds from Plan component. The construction of the Kabul to Pul-e-Khumri double circuit transmission line in Afghanistan has been completed. Two sub-stations are now being constructed at Doshi and Charikar as additional components of this project. There has also been considerable progress on the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project in Myanmar.

Non-Plan

The principal beneficiaries of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes in the financial year 2013-14 were Bhutan (Rs. 2640.5 cr), Bangladesh(Rs. 580 cr), Afghanistan (Rs. 525 cr.), Sri Lanka(Rs. 410 cr), Nepal (Rs. 380 cr), Myanmar (Rs. 255 cr) and African countries (Rs. 250 cr). Some other beneficiaries include Maldives, Mongolia, countries from Latin American, Eurasia and other regions.

The Ministry had revenue receipts from issuance of passports, visa fees and other receipts to the tune of Rs. 4046.66 crore upto 31.03.2014 The Revenue receipts were Rs.1846.54 crores(Passports), Rs.1895.57 crores (Visa fees), Rs.304.29 crores (Others), Rs.0.25 crores (receipts from Govt. Hostels, Guest Houses etc.) and Rs.0.01 crores (RTI).

A sectoral analysis of the budget allocation as per the Revised Estimates of 2013-14 show that out of a total allocation of Rs. 11793.65 cr , 60% (Rs. 7038.15 cr) of the budget was spent on projects under Technical and Economic cooperation (Rs 5411.65 cr) and as loans and advances to Foreign Governments(Rs. 1626.50 cr). The Missions and Posts were allocated 15% (Rs. 1738.23 cr) of the budget. The rest of the allocation was on Special Diplomatic Expenditure (12%), Passport & Emigration (4%), International Organisations and Grant to Institutions(4%), Capital Outlay(2%), MEA Secretariat (2%) and others(1%).



Appendices

Appendix I

Treaties/Conventions/Agreements Concluded or Renewed by India with other countries 2013-2014

A. MULTILATERAL

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
1	Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks.		1 st Apr, 2013	

B. BILATERAL

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
1.	Statement of Intent for long-term cooperation in Space between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Centre national d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)	14 th Feb, 2013	14 th Feb, 2013	
2.	Letter of Intent on the Intensification of cooperation in fields of Education, Higher Education and Research between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic	14 th Feb, 2013	14 th Feb, 2013	
3.	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic for 2013-2015	14 th Feb, 2013	14 th Feb, 2013	
4.	To follow-up and strengthen co-operation in the railway sector Between the Minister of Railways of the Republic of India and the Minister of Foreign Trade and the Minister of Transportation, Sea and fishing of the French Republic	14 th Feb, 2013	14 th Feb, 2013	
5.	MoU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of India	7 th Feb, 2013	7 th Feb, 2013	
6.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for "Development of Railway Infrastructure to Establish Rail Link between Agartala (India) and Akhaura (Bangladesh)	16 th Feb, 2013	16 th Feb, 2013	

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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
7.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Establishment of the India-Bangladesh Foundation.	16 th Feb, 2013	16 th Feb, 2013	
8.	Protocol amending the convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital	07 th Feb, 2013		
9.	MoU between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs Government of the Republic of India and the Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	10 th Feb, 2013	10 th Feb, 2013	
10.	Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil Matters between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan	4 th April, 2013		
11.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters	4 th April, 2013		
12.	Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan	4 th April, 2013	18 th April, 2013	
13.	Joint Declaration of Intent by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Establishment of an Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure for Cooperation in Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Product Safety.	11 th April, 2013		
14.	Joint Declaration of Intent Indo-German cooperation on Civil Security Research	11 th April, 2013		
15.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany on Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education	11 th April, 2013		

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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
16.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India on Indo-German Development Cooperation regarding the Establishment of Green Energy Corridors	11 th April, 2013		
17.	Joint Declaration of Intent Between Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Republic of India and the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding Promotion of German as a foreign language in India	11 th April, 2013		
18.	Joint Declaration Between Department of Agriculture & cooperation(DAC), the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany(BMELV)	11 th April, 2013		
19.	MoU between India and Germany on Solar Energy Centre	11 th April, 2013		
20.	Agreement between the Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China to facilitate cooperation and linkages between Indian and Chinese cities & States/provinces.	20 th May, 2013		20 th May, 2013
21.	MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China on cooperation in mutual translation and publication of classic and contemporary works.	20 th May, 2013		20 th May, 2013
22.	Protocol between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on Indian official Pilgrimage (the kailash Mansarovar Yatra) to the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.	20 th May, 2013		20 th May, 2013
23.	Work Program between Ministry of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China.	20 th May, 2013		20 th May, 2013

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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
24.	MoU for the Export of Buffalo Meat from India to China between the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Ministry of Commerce & Industry Government of India of the Republic of India and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China.	20 th May, 2013		20 th May, 2013
25.	MoU on cooperation related to Import and Export trade of Fishery products between the Marine Industry, Government of the Republic of India and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China.	20 th May, 2013		20 th May, 2013
26.	Agreement on Trade and Safety of Feed and Feed ingredients between the Export Inspection Council of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry Government of India and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China.	20 th May, 2013		20 th May, 2013
27.	MoU between the Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of the Republic of India and the National Development and Reform Commission, Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the field of Water Efficient Irrigation.	20 th May, 2013		20 th May, 2013
28.	MoU between the Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China upon provision of Hydrological Information of the Yaluzangbu/Brahmaputra River in Flood Season by China to India.	20 th May, 2013		05 th June, 2013
29.	MoU between the Ministry of Urban Development of the Government of the Republic of India and the National Development and Reform Commission, Government of the People's Republic of China in the field of Sewage Treatment.	20 th May, 2013		20 th May, 2013
30.	Maritime Shipping Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	24 th May, 2013		

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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
31.	Arrangement Between the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India and The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Pursuant to the Agreement Between The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Canada for Co-Operation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.	14 th March, 2013 in New Delhi 21 st March, 2013 in Canada		21 st March, 2013 in Canada
32.	MoU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of India.	7 th Feb, 2013		7 th Feb, 2013
33.	Regulation of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission for Cooperation in Prevention and Elimination of Consequences of Emergencies.	10 th April, 2013		
34.	Implementation Plan between the Central Water Commission, Ministry of Water Resources, the Republic of India and the Bureau of Hydrology and Water Resources, Tibet Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China upon Provision of Hydrological Information of the yaluzangbu/ Brahmaputra River in Flood Season by China to India.	30 th May, 2013		5 th June, 2013
35.	Cultural Exchange programme between the government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Cuba for 2013-2016	27 th May, 2013		27 th May, 2013
36.	Regulation of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission for Cooperation in Prevention and Elimination of Consequences of Emergencies	10 th April, 2013		
37.	Joint Declaration between Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMELV) acting according to its mandate for the bilateral "Cooperation program" of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMELV) and the National Seeds Association of India (NSAI) and the German Association of Plant Breeders (BDP)	11 th April, 2013		11 th April, 2013

Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
38.	Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan	3 rd May, 2013		3 rd May, 2013
39.	MoU between Solar Energy Centre Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India Block No. 14 CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, India and Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Forderung der angewandten forschung e.V., Hansastrasse 27c, 80686 Munchen as legal entity for its Fraunhofer Institut fur Solare Energiesysteme (ISE)	11 th April, 2013		11 th April, 2013
40.	Joint Statement to follow-up and Strengthen co-operation in the railway sector between the Minister of Railways of the Republic of India and The Minister of Foreign Trade and the Minister of Transportation Sea and Fishing of the French Republic.	14 th Feb, 2013		
41.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters.	12 th June, 2013		12 th June, 2013
42.	Joint Declaration of Intent by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution of the Republic of India on the Establishment of an German-Indo Working Group on Quality Infrastructure for Cooperation in Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Product Safety	11 th April, 2013		
43.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic on mutual exemption of short stay visas for holders of diplomatic passports.	17 th June, 2013		
44.	MoU between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India and School of International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran	4 th May, 2013		4 th May, 2013

Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
45.	MoU between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran (ISIRI)	4 th May, 2013		4 th May, 2013
46.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran on Cooperation in the field of Water Resources Management	4 th May, 2013		4 th May, 2013
47.	MoU between Suriname Standards Bureau and The Bureau of Indian Standards	14 th June, 2013		14 th June, 2013
48.	Protocol Between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Republic of Poland amending the agreement for the Avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income	29 th January, 2013		
49.	Addendum to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives on standby credit facility 2011	10 th September, 2013		
50.	Joint Statement on the occasion of the 7 th India-Japan Energy Dialogue between the Planning Commission of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.	12 th September, 2013		
51.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Republic of India And the Ministry of Oil of the Republic of Iraq on Cooperation in the Field of Energy	23 rd August, 2013		
52.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq on Bilateral Cooperation in Water Resources Development and Management	23 rd August, 2013		
53.	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	3 rd January, 2012		

Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
54.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Liberia on the Establishment of a Joint Commission	11 th September, 2013		
55.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy of the Republic of Liberia on Cooperation in the field of oil and gas	11 th September, 2013		
56.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India and the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Liberia	11 th September, 2013		

Appendix II

Instruments of full powers issued during the period January 2013 to October 2013

Sl. No.	Convention/Treaty	Date of Full Powers
1.	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Republic of Austria.	23 rd January, 2013
2.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Gibraltar for Exchange of Information <i>with</i> respect to Taxes.	23 rd January, 2013
3.	Treaty between the Republic of India and People's Republic of Bangladesh Relating to Extradition.	25 th January, 2013
4.	Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Polish People's Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	29 th January, 2013
5.	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital	4 th February, 2013
6.	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	12 th February, 2013
7.	Agreement of Social Security between the Republic of India and the Portuguese Republic	21 st February, 2013
8.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Republic of India and Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions of the Republic of Mauritius in the Field of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens.	19 th February, 2013
9.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	28 th February, 2013
10.	MoU between the Ministry of Communications and Information Society of Romania and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the field of Communication and Information Technology	27 th February 2013
11.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	14 th March, 2013

Appendix II

Sl. No.	Convention/Treaty	Date of Full Powers
12.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters	26 th March, 2013
13.	Agreement between Government of the Republic of India and Government of Malta for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on Income	28 th March, 2013
14.	Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein on the Exchange of Information on Tax Matters.	1 st March, 2013
15.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital.	19 th June, 2013
16.	Amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Central Board of Excise and Customs of the Republic of India and the Australian Customs Service on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters signed on 6 March 2006.	10 th July, 2013
17.	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Morocco for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	1 st August, 2013
18.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Belize for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes.	29 th August, 2013
19.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and for the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	29 th August, 2013
20.	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Denmark for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital.	11 th September 2013
21.	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	17 th September 2013
22.	Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Nalanda University	8 th October, 2013

Appendix III

Instruments of Ratification/Accession issued during the period December 2012 to September 2013

Sl. No.	Instruments of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification
1.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of El Salvador on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.	27 th February, 2013
2.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.	13 th August, 2013
3.	Agreement between the Republic of India and Japan on Social Security.	26 th December 2012
4.	Agreement between the Republic of India and Canada on Social Security.	26 th December, 2012
5.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Argentine Republic for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.	14 th February, 2013
6.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	14 th February, 2013
7.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	14 th February, 2013
8.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Indonesia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	1 st February, 2013
9.	Accession of Agreement for Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy as an International Organization.	6 th February, 2013
10.	Tripartite Agreement among the Government of the Republic of India, the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the Republic of South Africa for Co-operation in the field of Tourism under IBSA	11 th February, 2013
11.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the field of Defence	21 st February 2013
12.	Treaty on Extradition between the Republic of India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	7 th March 2013
13.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Gibraltar for Exchange of Information with respect of Taxes.	7 th March, 2013

Appendix III

14.	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	18 th March 2013
15.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Gibraltar for Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes.	7 th March 2013
16.	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Republic of Austria	2 nd April, 2013
17.	Agreement between the Republic of India and Romania for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	2 nd April, 2013
18.	Treaty between the Republic of India and People's Republic of Bangladesh Relating to Extradition.	20 th March, 2013
19.	Agreement of Social Security between the Republic of India and the Portuguese Republic	9 th April, 2013
20.	Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks (Accession).	1 st April, 2013
21.	Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Polish People's Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	12 th April, 2013
22.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein on the Exchange of Information on Tax Matters	12 th April 2013
23.	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital	18 th April, 2013
24.	Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan	18 th April, 2013
25.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income	17 th May, 2013
26.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes	17 th May, 2013
27.	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	17 th May, 2013

Appendix III

28.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	3 rd May, 2013
29.	Treaty between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of India on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	3 rd May, 2013
30.	Agreement between Government of the Republic of India and Government of Malta for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on Income	31 st May, 2013
31.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of Colombia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income	31 st May, 2013
32.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital.	19 th July, 2013
33.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Thailand on Extradition.	19 th July, 2013
34.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.	13 th August, 2013
35.	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Morocco for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	9 th September, 2013
36.	Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Republic of India and the Republic of Turkey	27 th September, 2013

Appendix IV

List of ITEC and SCAAP Countries

ITEC Countries

S. No.	Country	S. No.	Country
1	Afghanistan	35	Cooks Island
2	Albania	36	Costa Rica
3	Algeria	37	Cote D' Ivoire
4	Angola	40	Czech Republic
5	Anguilla	41	Democratic Republic of Congo
6	Antigua and Barbuda	S.No.	Country
7	Argentina	42	Djibouti
8	Armenia	43	Dominican Republic
9	Azerbaijan	44	Ecuador
10	Bahamas	45	Egypt
11	Bahrain	46	El-Salvador
12	Bangladesh	47	Equatorial Guinea
13	Barbados	48	Eritrea
14	Belarus	49	Estonia
15	Belize	50	Ethiopia
16	Benin	51	Fiji
17	Bhutan	52	Gabon
18	Bolivia	53	Georgia
19	Bosnia - Herzegovina	54	Grenada
20	Brazil	55	Guatemala
21	Brunei Darussalam	56	Guinea
22	Bulgaria	57	Guinea Bissau
23	Burkina Faso	58	Guyana
24	Burundi	59	Haiti
25	Cambodia	60	Honduras
26	Cape Verde Island	61	Hungary
27	Cayman Island	62	Indonesia
28	Central African Republic	63	Iran
29	Chad	64	Iraq
30	Chile	65	Jamaica
31	Colombia	66	Jordan
32	Commonwealth of Dominica	67	Kazakhstan
33	Comoros	68	Kiribati
34	Congo	69	Korea(DPRK)

Appendix IV

S. No.	Country	S. No.	Country
70	Kyrgyzstan	104	Poland
71	Laos	105	Qatar
72	Latvia	106	Republic of Sao Tome
73	Lebanon	107	Romania
74	Liberia	108	Russia
75	Libya	109	Rwanda
76	Lithuania	110	Samoa
77	Macedonia	111	Senegal
78	Madagascar	112	Serbia
79	Malaysia	113	Singapore
80	Maldives	114	Slovak Republic
81	Mali	115	Solomon Island
82	Marshall Islands	116	Somalia
83	Mauritania	117	Sri Lanka
84	Mexico	118	St. Kitts & Nevis
85	Micronesia	119	St. Lucia
S.No.	Country	120	St. Vincent & Grenadines
86	Moldova	121	Sudan
87	Mongolia	122	South Sudan
88	Montenegro	123	Suriname
89	Montserrat	124	Syria
90	Morocco	125	Tajikistan
91	Myanmar	126	Thailand
92	Nauru	127	Timor Leste
93	Nepal	128	Togo
94	Nicaragua	S.No.	Country
95	Niger	129	Tonga
96	Oman	130	Trinidad & Tobago
97	Palau	131	Tunisia
98	Palestine	132	Turkey
99	Panama	133	Turkmenistan
100	Papua New Guinea	134	Turks & Caicos Island
101	Paraguay	135	Tuvalu
102	Peru	136	Ukraine
103	Philippines	137	Uruguay

Appendix IV

S. No.	Country	S. No.	Country
138	Uzbekistan	150	Mauritius
139	Vanuatu	151	Mozambique
140	Venezuela	152	Namibia
141	Vietnam	153	Nigeria
142	Yemen	154	Seychelles
SCAAP COUNTRIES		155	Sierra Leone
143	Botswana	156	South Africa
144	Cameroon	157	Swaziland
145	Gambia	158	Tanzania
146	Ghana	159	Uganda
147	Kenya	160	Zambia
148	Lesotho	161	Zimbabwe
149	Malawi		

Appendix V

List of ITEC/SCAAP Empanelled Institutes

S. No.	Name of Institute	City
Accounts, Audit, Banking and Finance Courses		
01.	Institute of Government Accounts and Finance	New Delhi
02.	International Center for Information and System Audit	Noida
03.	National Institute of Bank Management	Pune
IT, Telecommunication and English Courses		
04.	Aptech Limited	New Delhi
05.	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing	Mohali
06.	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing	Noida
07.	Centre for Excellence in Telecom Technology and Management	Mumbai
08.	CMC Ltd.	New Delhi
09.	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
Specialized 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
26.	National University of Educational Planning and Administration	New Delhi
27.	Postal Staff College	Ghaziabad

Appendix V

S. No.	Name of Institute	City
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	Bangaluru
46.	Solar Energy Centre	Gurgaon
47.	TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute)	New Delhi

Appendix VI

Conference/Seminars/Study Projects organized/ undertaken by Universities/ Institutions, which were funded, partially or wholly, by the Policy Planning and Research Division during 2013-2014.

S. No.	Project Details	Institute
1.	Recurring Grant to Institute of Foreign Policy Studies in Calcutta University Campus, Alipur, Kolkatta.	Calcutta University, Kolkatta
2.	Continuation of Research Project to develop an institutional basis for a better understanding of area falling within POK which includes Gilgit Baltistan by IDSA.	IDSA New Delhi
3.	An International Seminar on "India-China Relations in the Contemporary Era: Opportunities, Obstacles and Outlooks" by Garhwal University	Garhwal University
4.	An International Conference on "Diaspora and National Security" by Centre for African Studies, JNU New Delhi.	JNU New Delhi
5.	Two Seminars on (i) The Turmoil in West Asia and its Significance from an Indian Perspective, (ii) India's Interest in South China Sea and West Pacific" by Asia Centre Bangalore	Asia Centre Bangalore

Appendix VII

Statement showing the number of passport services rendered by Passport Offices January 01 to December 31, 2013							
RPO	Total No. of Passport application received (Normal+ Tatkal)	No. of Normal Passport issued	No. of Tatkal Passport issued	Total No. of Passports issued (Normal +Tatkal)	No. of miscellaneous applications received	No. of miscellaneous services rendered	Total issued Passport and miscellaneous services rendered
Ahmedabad	3,27,352	3,19,545	2,855	3,22,400	9,843	9,471	3,31,871
Amritsar	88,042	84,115	3,377	87,492	5,539	5,472	92,964
Bangalore	4,48,308	3,87,600	37,410	4,25,010	12,238	11,989	4,36,999
Bareilly	78,565	70,947	2,954	73,901	1,865	1,797	75,698
Bhopal	1,10,844	88,614	13,019	1,01,633	1,145	1,107	1,02,740
Bhubaneswar	78,191	72,434	5,878	78,312	3,234	3,094	81,406
Chandigarh	2,94,220	2,73,953	7,720	2,81,673	13,586	13,017	2,94,690
Chennai	3,60,236	3,21,038	33,570	3,54,608	13,068	12,745	3,67,353
Cochin	2,69,940	2,14,672	54,619	2,69,291	18,049	17,918	2,87,209
Coimbatore	98,185	97,942	3,987	1,01,929	1,401	1,383	1,03,312
Dehradun	49,945	42,260	4,288	46,548	1,513	1,468	48,016
Delhi	4,07,700	3,30,428	65,346	3,95,774	*12958	*12814	4,08,588
Ghaziabad	1,12,523	97,411	12,530	1,09,941	1,864	1,786	1,11,727
Goa	43,684	44,831	716	45,547	2,905	2,821	48,368
Guwahati	62,443	41,484	9,260	50,744	1,355	1,072	51,816
Hyderabad	5,90,964	5,51,699	34,505	5,86,204	46,108	44,253	6,30,457
Jaipur	1,95,661	1,85,290	7,077	1,92,367	10,244	9,964	2,02,331
Jalandhar	1,63,348	1,65,498	1,163	1,66,661	17,317	17,115	1,83,776
Jammu	26,162	25,700	20	25,720	941	917	26,637
Kolkata	3,45,096	3,09,693	18,909	3,28,602	8,911	8,630	3,37,232
Kozhikode	2,46,978	2,18,255	29,447	2,47,702	8,470	8,423	2,56,125
Lucknow	4,27,546	3,91,375	10,673	4,02,048	19,799	19,180	4,21,228
Madurai	1,89,982	1,86,878	104	1,86,982	8,566	8,214	1,95,196
Malappuram	2,16,747	1,84,527	42,964	2,27,491	4,461	4,416	2,31,907
Mumbai	3,35,380	3,04,831	35,735	3,40,566	8,279	7,919	3,48,485
Nagpur	80,448	69,624	5,947	75,571	1,023	1,000	76,571
Patna	1,78,754	1,58,569	2,433	1,61,002	8,732	8,449	1,69,451

Appendix VII

Statement showing the number of passport services rendered by Passport Offices January 01 to December 31, 2013							
RPO	Total No. of Passport application received (Normal+ Tatkal)	No. of Normal Passport issued	No. of Tatkal Passport issued	Total No. of Passports issued (Normal + Tatkal)	No. of miscellaneous applications received	No. of miscellaneous services rendered	Total issued Passport and miscellaneous services rendered
Pune	1,81,397	1,58,461	20,015	1,78,476	3,619	3,509	1,81,985
Raipur	30,061	27,498	2,697	30,195	271	258	30,453
Ranchi	62,620	57,559	1,056	58,615	1,897	1,833	60,448
Shimla	28,842	23,957	2,864	26,821	1,466	1,449	28,270
Srinagar	65,052	59,660	138	59,798	821	236	60,034
Surat	1,18,572	1,23,152	1,479	1,24,631	6,796	6,652	1,31,283
Thane	2,06,103	1,83,310	13,924	1,97,234	4,903	4,690	2,01,924
Trichy	1,64,704	1,57,212	1,417	1,58,629	10,773	9,901	1,68,530
Trivandrum	1,65,338	1,35,935	28,650	1,64,585	10,862	10,785	1,75,370
Visakhapatnam	1,22,213	1,12,872	7,534	1,20,406	25,551	24,835	1,45,241
Total	69,72,146	62,78,829	5,26,280	68,05,109	3,04,373	2,94,582	71,05,691
* (including 6000 ICs)							
A	37 RPO's (Passport+Miscellaneous Services =6805109+294582					71,05,691	
B	MEA, PV-II Section (Official & Diplomatic Passports)					25,130	
C	Andaman & Nicobar Islands					3,008	
D	PPt+ECs+Miscellaneous services by Indian Missions/Posts					13,83,686	
	Grand Total					85,17,515	

Appendix VIII

Cadre Strength of the Central Passport Organisation as on 31.12.2013

Group & Name of post	Total sanctioned strength
Group 'A'	
Passport Officer	17
Deputy Passport Officer	71
Assistant Passport Officer	135
Sub-total :	223
Group 'B'(Gazetted)	
Passport Granting Officer	320
Superintendent	245
Subtotal :	565
Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted)	
Assistant	428
Hindi Translator	23
Group 'C' (Non-Gazetted)	
UDC	628
UDC(Hindi)	04
LDC	648
Driver	00
Stenographer	30
Office Assistant	148
Subtotal :	1,909
Grand Total :	2,697

Appendix XI

Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad as on 31st March, 2014 (including posts budgeted by M/o Commerce and those of ex-cadre etc.)

S.No.	Cadre/Post	Posts at Hqrs.	Posts at Missions	Total
1	Grade I	5	28	33
2	Grade II	6	40	46
3	Grade III	38	126	164
4	Grade IV	54	148	202
5	Junior Admn. Gradee/Senior Scale	98	231	329
6	(i) Junior Scale	10	25	35
	(ii) Probationers Reserve	62		62
	(iii) Leave Reserve	15		15
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	19		19
	(v) Training Reserve	7		7
	Sub Total	314	598	912
	IFS(B)			
7	(i) Grade I	126	120	246
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6		6
8	(i) Integrated Grades II & III	351	225	576
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30		30
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	16		16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25		25
9	(i) Grade IV	186	431	617
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	55		55
10	(i) Grade V/VI	157	88	245
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	14		14
11	(i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre	40	149	189
	(ii) Leave Reserve	24		24
12	(i) Stenographer's Cadre	377	508	885
	(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	1626	1548	3174
	Grand Total	1940	2146	4086

Appendix X

Data on recruitment through direct recruitment, departmental promotion and limited departmental examination made in the Ministry along with reserved vacancies for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

S.No	Groups	Total number of vacancies	SC	ST	OBC
1.	Group A	188	32	14	9
2.	Group B	193	26	16	21
3.	Group C	180	14	4	27
	Total	561	72	34	57

Appendix XI

Number of IFS Officers with Proficiency in various languages:

Sr. No.	Language	Number of officers
1.	Arabic	98
2.	Bahasa Indonesia	10
3.	Bahasa Malay	02
4.	Burmese	05
5.	Chinese	67
6.	Dutch	00
7.	French	73
8.	German	31
9.	Hebrew	06
10.	Italian	01
11.	Japanese	20
12.	Kazakh	01
13.	Kiswahili	06
14.	Korean	04
15.	Nepalese	02
16.	Persian	18
17.	Portuguese	20
18.	Pushtu	02
19.	Russian	83
20.	Serbo-Croatian	01
21.	Sinhalese	04
22.	Spanish	68
23.	Thai	00
24.	Turkish	07
25.	Ukrainian	01
26.	Vietnamese	03
27.	Dzongkha	01

Appendix XII

List of RIS Publications

Book

- The Living Tree: Traditional Medicine and Public Health in China and India

Reports

- Conference Report of Southern Providers South-South Cooperation: Issues and Emerging Challenges
- Indian-China Trade Relationship
- ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership: Perspectives from the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks
- Profile of Indian Voluntary Organisations 2013
- The Survey on Biotechnology Capacity in Asia-Pacific: Opportunities for National Initiative and Regional Cooperation

Discussion Papers

- An Assessment of India's Innovation Policies by Biswajit Dhar and Sabyasachi Saha
- Demographic Change, Brain Drain, and Human Capital: Development Potentials in Services-Driven South Asia by Biswajit Dhar and Sayan Samanta
- The Changthang Borderlands of Ladakh: A Preliminary Inquiry by Siddiq Wahid
- India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Some Implications for East Asian Economic Regionalism and RCEP by Ram Upendra Das
- Transatlantic Trades and Investment Partnership by V. S. Seshadri
- Financial Crisis of 2008 and Shifting Economic Power: Is There Convergence by Manmohan Agarwal and Sayan Samanta
- Balancing State and Community Participation in Development Partnership Projects: Emerging Evidence from Indian SDPs in Nepal by Sachin Chaturvedi, Sushil Kumar and Shashank Mendiratta
- The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) by V. S. Seshadri
- Logistics, Trade and Production Networks: An Empirical Investigation by Prabir De and Amrita Saha

Policy Briefs

- China's Economy: Stable, but needs to be Sustainable December 2013
- Foodgrain Management Policy, FCI and Implications for Food Security July 2013
- Why South Africa should Examine Pharmaceutical Patents by TAC, MSF and RIS January 2013

FIDC Policy Briefs

- Features of South-South Cooperation and Global Dynamics January 2014
- India-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture Science, Technology and Innovation: New Avenues and Opportunities

Mekong-Ganga Policy Brief

6, November 2013

Journals

South Asia Economic Journal

- Volume 14, Number 1, March 2013
- Volume 14, Number 2, December 2013

Asian Biotechnology Development Review

- Volume 15, Number 1, March 2013
- Volume 15, Number 2, July 2013
- Volume 15, Number 3, November 2013

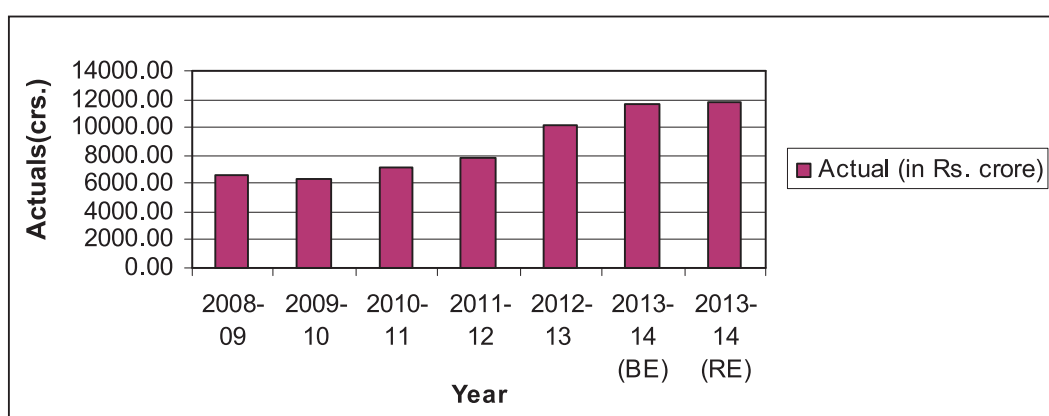
Appendix XIII

The Budget allocation (BE) 2013-14 is Rs.11719 crore, which is 22.73 % more than BE 2012-13. The RE 2013-14 is Rs. 11793.65 crore which is 0.64 % more than BE 2013-14 of Rs.11719 crore.

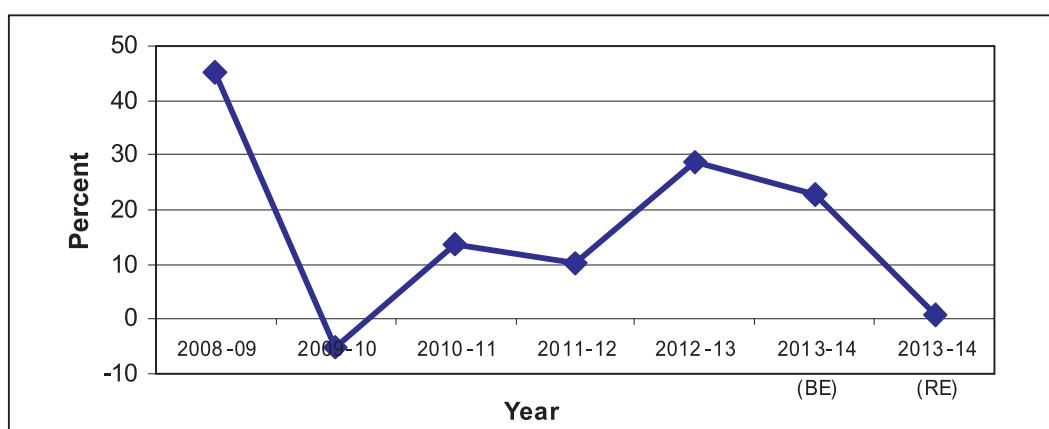
MEA Actual Expenditure 2008-09 to 2013-14 (Revenue and Capital)

Years	Actual (in Rs. crore)	%age variation from previous year
2008-09	6630.73	45.02
2009-10	6290.77	-5.13
2010-11	7153.27	13.71
2011-12	7872.76	10.06
2012-13	10120.88	28.55
2013-14 (BE)	11719.00	22.73
2013-14 (RE)	11793.65	0.64

**MEA Actual Expenditure 2008-09 to 2013-14
(Revenue and Capital)**



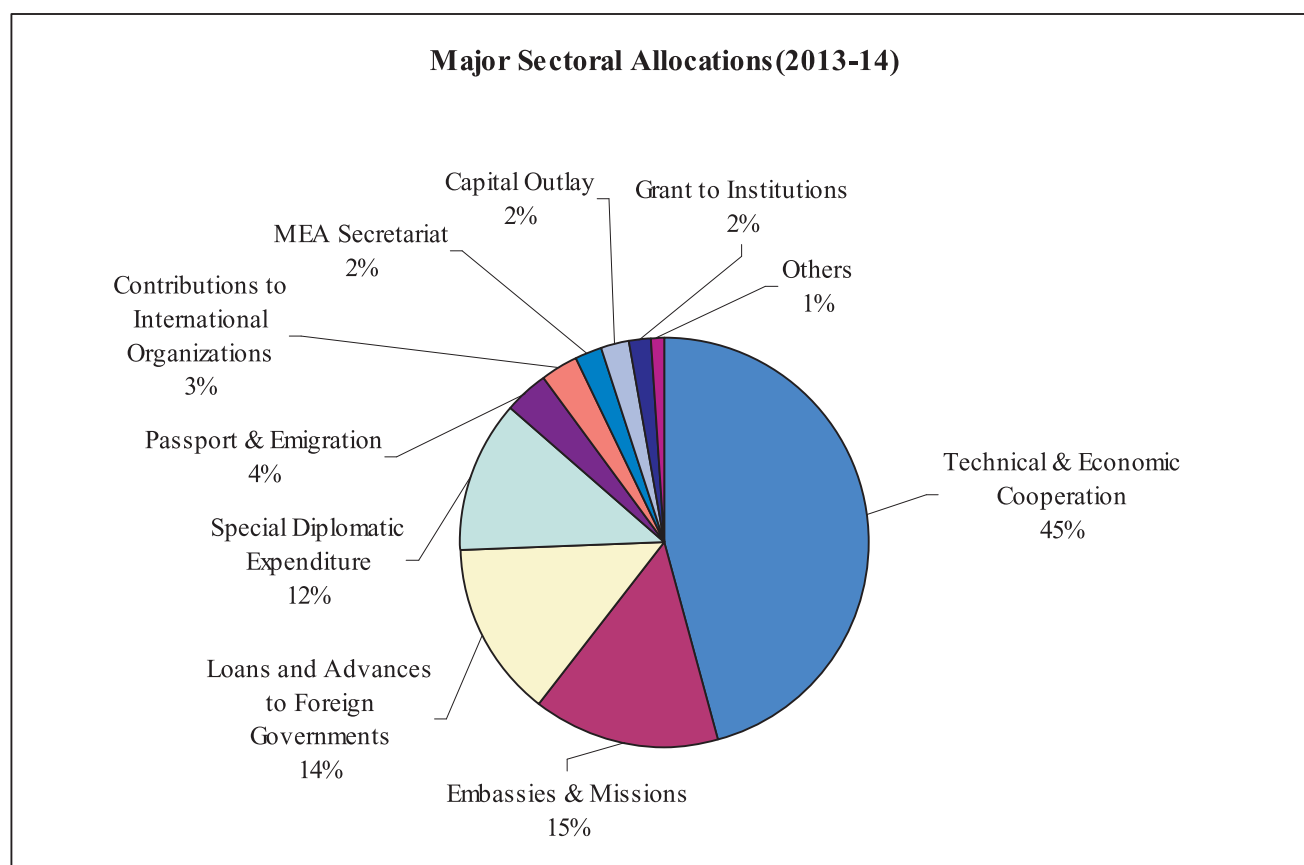
Trend of variation in Budget allocation 2008-09 to 2013-14



Appendix XIV

Major Sectoral Allocations in 2013-14 Budget (Revised Estimates)

Sectors	Allocation (in Rs. crore)
Technical & Economic Cooperation	5411.65
Embassies & Missions	1738.23
Loans and Advances to Foreign Governments	1626.50
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	1420.00
Passport & Emigration	432.48
Contributions to International Organizations	299.23
MEA Secretariat	261.67
Capital Outlay	270.00
Grant to Institutions	209.12
Others	124.77
Total	11793.65



Appendix XV

Principal Destinations of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes

The principal beneficiaries of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes in the Current Financial Year 2013-14 were as under (figures pertain to Revised Estimates 2013-14):

S. No.	Technical Cooperation Budget	(In Rupees crore)	% of India's Total Aid & Loan Budget
1.	Bhutan	2640.5	48.79
2.	Bangladesh	580.00	10.72
3.	Afghanistan	525.00	9.70
4.	Sri Lanka	410.00	7.58
5.	Nepal	380.00	7.02
6.	Myanmar	255.00	4.71
7.	African Countries	250.00	4.62
8.	Eurasian Countries	25.00	0.46
9.	Maldives	10.00	0.18
10.	Latin American Countries	5.00	0.09
11.	Mongolia	1.50	0.03
12.	Others	329.65	6.09
	Total	5411.65	100.00

Appendix XVI

Status of pending C & AG Audit paras

S.No.	Year	No. of Paras/PA reports on which ATNs have been submitted to PAC after vetting by Audit	Details of the Paras/PA 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	-	-	-	-
4	2006	-	-	-	-
5	2007	-	-	-	-
6	2008-09	-	-	-	-
7	2009-10	-	-	-	-
8	2010-11	-	-	1	-
9	2011-12	-	-	-	-
10	2012-13	-	-	1	-
11	2013	-	1	1	-
Total		-	1	3	-

The Summary of important audit observations appearing in the most recent audit reports of the year ending April, 2014 are given below:

1	Performance of Consular Wings	<p>A number of Missions and Posts were not levying fees for visas and other consular services as per the rates prescribed by the Ministry, resulting in short levy of Rs. 37.26 crore. Delays in the implementation of the Indian Community Welfare Fund scheme by the Missions and Posts resulted in non-levy of fees of Rs. 21.55 crore. There were considerable delays in remittances of consular receipts in the Government account. Missions abroad were outsourcing visa services in violation of the laid down provisions, resulting in financial impropriety and lack of transparency in selecting service providers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Paragraph 3.1</p>
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2	Outsourcing of visa support services in Mission/Posts abroad	<p>The process of tender evaluation and selection of Service Provider (SP) for outsourcing of visa support services in CGI, Milan was flawed leading to selection of a vendor who was not the lowest bidder. In HCI, London an undue financial benefit of Rs. 3.63 crore was extended to the SP due to non-consideration of rates linked with the number of visa service centres operated. Besides, due to incorrect interpretation of the provisions of the agreement, the SP was additionally benefited by Rs. 1.96 crore by way of levy of administrative fee from the visa applicants. In EI, Washington DC the SP continued to collect a minimum rate of USD 21 per application on account of mailing charges vis-a-vis the minimum mailing charges of USD 18.95 per application, resulting in an undue benefit of Rs. 1.16 crore to the SP. Exclusion of and deviation from the important provisions of the model agreement diluted the control of the Missions/Posts over the functioning and quality of the services rendered by the SPs. While CGI, Frankfurt was yet to review its staff strength for consular services, EI, Paris was holding excess consular staff.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Paragraph 6.6</p>
3	Undue financial benefit to the service provider	<p>The permission of the Ministry to enhance the service charge per visa applicant by 12 per cent of the existing rates on the basis of increase in property tax resulted in undue financial benefit of Rs. 3.45 crore to the service provider from October 2011 to December 2012.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Paragraph 5.1</p>
4	Working of Indian Council of Cultural Relations	<p>Details attached Paragraph Chapter-1</p>

CHAPTER I: MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Working of Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Highlights:

- The Council did not hold the prescribed number of meetings of the General Assembly (GA) and the Governing Body (GB). It did not place its budget for the years 2007-08 to 2009-10 before the Finance Committee, the Governing Body and the General Assembly for approval. This undermined the role of these bodies.
(Paragraph 1.2.1.1, 1.2.1.2 and 1.2.1.3)
- The Council did not prepare the annual plan of action for the years 2006-07 to 2011-12. The omission was in contravention of its constitution and specific directions from the GB.
(Paragraph 1.2.1.4)
- The Council failed to comply with the directions of the Finance Committee and the GB about setting up of a mechanism to assess the effectiveness of its programmes.
(Paragraph 1.2.1.5)
- The Council did not give adequate publicity to one of its Scholarship Schemes resulting in low utilisation of slots and skewed representation.
(Paragraph 1.2.2.1)
- The Council allocated 25 percent slots under Cultural Exchange programme Scholarship Scheme to countries with which no valid agreement for Cultural Exchange Programme/Education Exchange Programme existed.
(Paragraph 1.2.2.2)
- Against the approval for opening 14 Indian Cultural Centers (ICCs) abroad, the Council had opened 17 ICCs. The Council was also in the process of opening eight additional ICCs, without obtaining the required approval.
(Paragraph 1.2.3.3)
- The Council was operating posts of Directors for its ICCs abroad, without sanction of posts by the Ministry of Finance.
(Paragraph 1.2.4.2.a)
- The Council has not laid down guidelines/norms for appointment and payment of pay and allowances to external persons appointed as Directors in ICCs.
(Paragraph 1.2.4.2.b)
- The Council did not frame rules, regulations or norms for selection and sponsorship of artists for exhibitions abroad.
(Paragraph 1.2.5)
- Thirty four delegations sent to 70 countries during 2009-10 to 2011-12 involving an expenditure of Rs. 8.15 crore were unauthorised in the absence of approval of the competent authority i.e., President ICCR.
(Paragraph 1.2.6.1)
- There were major deficiencies in the procurement process and processing of bills for payment in the Council.
(Paragraph 1.2.6.2)

Abbreviations

AALCO	Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation		Commerce and Industry
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum	FIDC	Forum for Indian Development Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations	FMCT	Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty
ASEM	Asia Europe Meeting	FTA	Free Trade Agreement
ASSOCHAM	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry	G-20	Group of Twenty
AU	African Union	GCTF	Global Counter Terrorism Forum
AWG-LC	Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action	GFMD	Global Forum for Migration and Development
AYUSH	Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy	GOI	Government of India
BARC	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	HEP	Hydro-Electric Project
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	HRC	Human Rights Council
BIPPA	Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement	IAFS	India-Africa Forum Summit
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China	IANIS	Indo-Asian News Service
CBM	Confidence Building Measure	IBSA	India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear	I/C	Independent Charge
CECA	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States	ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
CEPA	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet	ICWA	Indian Council of World Affairs
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry	IDP	Internally Displaced Person
CLMV	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Burma, and Vietnam	IDFR	Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations
CPIO	Central Public Information Officer	IDSA	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses
CPV	Consular Passport and Visa	IEA	International Energy Agency
DTAA	Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement	IFS	Indian Foreign Service
EASA	External Affairs Spouses' Association	IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council	IIFT	Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
EEPC	Engineering Exports Promotion Council	IIMC	Indian Institute of Mass Communication
EU	European Union	ILO	International Labour Organisation
EXIM	Export Import Bank of India	IOM	International Organization on Migration
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	IONS	Institute of Noetic Sciences
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of	IOR-ARC	Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation
		IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
		IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
		IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
		ISRO	Indian Space Research Organization
		ITEC	Indian Technical and Economic

	Cooperation		Cooperation
ITMA	International Textile Manufacturers Association	SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Area
IVFRT	Immigration, Visa, and Foreigners' Registration & Tracking	SAU	South Asian University
JCBC	Joint Commission on Business Cooperation	SBI	State Bank of India
JWG	Joint Working Group	SCAAP	Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme
LCS	Land Customs Stations	SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
LDC	Least Developed Country	SDP	Small Development Projects
LoC	Line of Credit	SEBI	Securities and Exchange Board of India
MEP	Member of the European Parliament	SED	Strategic Economic Dialogue
MERCOSUR	Market of Southern Cone Countries	SICA	Central American Integration System
MGC	Mekong-Ganga Cooperation	SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
MoEF	Ministry of Environment & Forests	SR	Special Representative
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	TERI	Tata Energy and Research Institute
MP	Member of Parliament	UNASUR	Union of South American Nations
MTCR	Missile Technology Control Regime	UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement	UNCOPUOS	UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
NASA	National Aeronautical and Space Administration	UNCSTD	United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development
NDC	National Defence College	UNCTAD	United Nations Conferences on Trade and Development
NGO	Non-Government Organisation	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NIFT	National Institute of Fashion Technology	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
NPT	Non-Proliferation Treaty	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
NSCS	National Security Council Secretariat	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
OCI	Overseas Citizenship of India	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
OTs	Officer Trainees	UNSC	United Nations Security Council
PHARMEXCIL	Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India	UNODC	United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime
PIO	Persons of Indian Origin	UPA	United Progressive Alliance
PTA	Preferential Trade Agreement	WHO	World Health Organization
PTI	Press Trust of India	WIPO	World Intellectual Rights Organisation
PSP	Passport Sewa Project	WTO	World Trade Organisation
PSU	Public Sector Undertaking	XPD	External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division
RBI	Reserve of Bank of India		
RGoB	Government of Bhutan		
RTI	Right to Information		
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional		





**Ministry of External Affairs
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