



# Ministry of External Affairs

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15







# **Annual Report 2014-15**

**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](http://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 :*

Dolphin Printo-Graphics  
4E/7, 1st Floor, Pabla Building,  
Jhandewalan Extn. New Delhi-110055  
Ph. : 011-23593541-42  
E-mail : [dolphinprinto2011@gmail.com](mailto:dolphinprinto2011@gmail.com)

# Content

	Introduction and Synopsis	i-xxvi
1.	India's Neighbours	1
2.	South-East Asia and the Pacific	22
3.	East Asia	37
4.	Eurasia	42
5.	The Gulf and West Asia	49
6.	Africa	59
7.	Europe and European Union	82
8.	The Americas	110
9.	United Nations and International Organizations	131
10.	Disarmament and International Security Affairs	151
11.	Multilateral Economic Relations	155
12.	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	159
13.	Development Cooperation	162
14.	Investment and Technology Promotion	166
15.	Energy Security	168
16.	Counter Terrorism and Policy Planning	170
17.	Protocol	172
18.	Consular, Passport and Visa Services	175
19.	Administration and Establishment	184
20.	Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office	187
21.	E-Governance and Information Technology	188
22.	Coordination Division	189
23.	External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division	191
24.	Foreign Service Institute	194
25.	Implementation of Official Language Policy & Propagation of Hindi Abroad	196
26.	Indian Council for Cultural Relations	197
27.	Indian Council of World Affairs	200
28.	Research and Information System for Developing Countries	203
29.	Library	207
30.	Finance and Budget	209

## Appendices

<b>Appendix I :</b>	Treaties/Conventions/Agreements Concluded or Renewed by India with other Countries during the period 01 January-31 December 2014	211
<b>Appendix II :</b>	Instruments of Full Powers issued during the period 01 January- 31 December 2014	224
<b>Appendix III :</b>	Instruments of Ratification/Accession issued during the period 01 January 2014 to 31 December 2014	225
<b>Appendix IV :</b>	List of ITEC and SCAAP countries	228
<b>Appendix V :</b>	List of ITEC/SCAAP Empanelled Institutes	231
<b>Appendix VI :</b>	Conferences/Seminars/Study Projects organized/undertaken by Universities/Institutions which were funded partially or wholly by the Policy Planning & Research Division during 2014-15	233
<b>Appendix VII :</b>	Statement showing the total number of passport applications received and passports issued, total miscellaneous applications received and services rendered; No. of passports issued as well as revenue under tatkaal scheme; and total revenue and expenditure of passport offices during 01 January to December 2014	234
<b>Appendix VIII :</b>	Cadre Strength of Central Passport Organization as on 31 December 2014	236
<b>Appendix IX :</b>	Cadre Strength at Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad as on 31 March 2015 (including posts budgeted by M/o Commerce and those of ex-cadre, etc.)	237
<b>Appendix X :</b>	Data on recruitment through direct recruitment, departmental promotion and limited departmental examination made in the Ministry along with reserved vacancies for the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015	238
<b>Appendix XI :</b>	Number of IFS Officers with Proficiency in various Languages	239
<b>Appendix XII :</b>	List of RIS Publications	240
<b>Appendix XIII :</b>	Finances of the Ministry of External Affairs in 2014-15	241
<b>Appendix XIV :</b>	Major sectoral allocation in 2014-15 Budget Estimates	242
<b>Appendix XV :</b>	Principal Destination of India's Technical Cooperation Programme	243
<b>Appendix XVI :</b>	Status of Pending C&AG Audit paras	244
<b>Abbreviations</b>		247

# 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 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. 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, Association of South East Asian Nations (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.

The unprecedented invitation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the leaders of our neighbours in South Asia and Mauritius for the swearing-in ceremony on 27 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 meetings with each of the visiting leaders. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj later said that the invitation was a first step in realizing the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for friendly cooperation with each of the SAARC countries.

On her assumption of office as the External Affairs Minister of India on 28 May 2014, Smt Sushma Swaraj said that India's foreign policy has civilizational roots and heritage and is based on the principled pursuit of our national interests. External Affairs Minister also said that she looked forward to working with our strategic partners across the globe in tackling these international issues and challenges that confront us collectively.

India has a close strategic partnership with Afghanistan, underscored by the Strategic Partnership Agreement of October 2011, which covers a broad spectrum of areas. In his meeting with President Mr Hamid Karzai on 27 May 2014, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi thanked Afghanistan for the assistance provided by the Afghan National Security Forces in repelling the attack on our Consulate in Herat. He also indicated India's commitment to the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan and India's interest in seeing a prosperous, independent and sovereign Afghanistan where the reconciliation process would be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled. India continues to assist Afghanistan's reconstruction through a comprehensive bilateral assistance program of US\$ 2 billion.

India worked closely with Bangladesh to strengthen our wide-ranging bilateral cooperation in areas including security, infrastructure, trade, development and people-to-people exchanges. In his meeting with the Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury on 27 May 2014, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted that India and Bangladesh have shared stakes in each other's progress and prosperity. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj paid a goodwill visit to Bangladesh from 25-27 June 2014 at the invitation of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. The visit provided further momentum to the close and friendly relationship between India and Bangladesh.

With Bhutan India continued to strengthen its unique and special relationship as demonstrated by the maiden foreign visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Bhutan soon after assuming office. During his visit to Bhutan on 14 June 2014, Prime Minister described the bilateral relations as "B2B" relations-"Bharat to Bhutan" relations. Prime Minister suggested doubling the scholarships being provided to Bhutanese students in India. Prime Minister also announced that India will assist Bhutan in setting up a Digital Library which will provide access to Bhutanese youth to 2 million books and periodicals. Earlier, in his meeting with Prime Minister Mr Tshering Tobgay of Bhutan on 27 May 2014,

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted that India and Bhutan shared a unique and special relationship with long-standing historical and cultural linkages. He assured India's unflinching support for Bhutan's socio-economic development. The two Prime Ministers affirmed their mutual security interests, and agreed to closely coordinate and cooperate on issues of their national interests.

India and Maldives enjoy close and cordial relations. In his meeting with Maldives President Mr Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom on 27 May 2014, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi pledged to work toward further enhancing bilateral cooperation. Prime Minister noted that India and Maldives had a shared recognition that the security interests of both countries were interlinked and agreed that each side would continue to be sensitive to each other's concerns. Prime Minister also expressed Government's support to cooperate with Maldives in the field of Petroleum and Natural Gas, particularly in oil exploration as well as in the tourism and education sectors.

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. In his meeting with Prime Minister Mr Sushil Koirala of Nepal, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted that Nepal was an old and deeply valued friend with whom India shared history, geography and ancient civilizational ties. Prime Minister stressed the importance of expediting implementation of projects particularly projects in hydropower and also expressed his determination to further strengthen connectivity and economic inter-linkages between India and Nepal, including through projects for rail and road connectivity.

India is committed to the resolution of all outstanding issues with Pakistan through peaceful bilateral dialogue in an environment free from terror and violence. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi underlined India's concerns relating to terrorism in his meeting with Prime Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif on 27 May 2014. He asked Pakistan to abide by its commitment to prevent the territory under its control from being used for terrorism against India. Prime Minister also said that we expect Pakistan to take necessary steps in the Mumbai terror attack trial underway in Pakistan to ensure speedy progress of the case and the conviction of those responsible. Following incidents of killing of Indian soldiers and transgressions by the Pakistani forces along the Line of Control and International Boundary, India has also 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.

In a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa during the latter's visit to India from 26-27 May 2014, Prime Minister noted India's valued ties with Sri Lanka and requested the government of Sri Lanka to expedite the process of national reconciliation in a manner that meets the aspirations of the Tamil community for a life of equality, justice, peace and dignity in a united Sri Lanka. Prime Minister also expressed interest in early launch of the 500 MW Sampur Coal Power project and greater connectivity between the two countries.

India has established a Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) with China. In a telephone conversation with Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang on 29 May 2014, Prime Minister underlined India's resolve to utilize the full potential of our Strategic and Cooperative Partnership with China and his keenness to work closely with the Chinese leadership to deal with any outstanding issues in our bilateral relations proceeding from the strategic perspective of our developmental goals and long term benefits to our people. 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.

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.

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 ₹3000 crore.

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, with a renewed energy and focus received owing to the high level exchanges between the two countries.

Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam was one of the first world leaders to personally congratulate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the historic electoral outcome in May 2014. He visited New Delhi from 25-28 May 2014 as the only

leader from a non-SAARC nation to be invited to witness the swearing-in of the new government. Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and held discussions with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on various aspects of the India-Mauritius relationship.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius, Prime Minister noted that the two countries are bound together by history, common ancestry and kinship of their people. They agreed to further strengthen the relationship, especially economic cooperation and interactions in the field of maritime security, renewable energy and the blue-economy, including development of related infrastructure. They also agreed to work together with all other member countries in further strengthening the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

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 and 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 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 ceremony and invited him to visit the United States of America. At the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, US President Mr Barack Obama visited India to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2015.

India's traditional partnership with Russia continues to be carried forward. Defence cooperation is a crucial element of our strategic partnership. During a call on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi by the Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Dmitry Rogozin, Prime Minister described Russia as a time tested and reliable friend and a major partner in building India's defence capabilities. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj held a four hour long bilateral meeting with the Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Dimitry Rogozin during which detailed and extensive discussions on all aspects of our bilateral relations took place. 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 safeguarding 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, focusing 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. The multifaceted bilateral relations with most of the countries of Central Europe reflected the opportunities that India offers, in terms of trade and investment and the sustained mutual interest of these countries in India's fast growing economy and that of India to engage with a region which holds the potential for economic, cultural and scientific collaborations.

Africa continues to gain strategic importance, particularly in terms of the economic and commercial aspects of India's engagement with it. India's relations with Africa were strengthened through political support and implementation of projects under the two India-Africa Forum Summits (IAFS), including scholarships, training, grants, loans and private sector investment. New initiatives announced at IAFS-II included Lines-of-Credit (LoCs) 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.

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 (UN) 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 Group of Twenty (G-20), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA), and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

Along with like-minded countries in the G-4 and L-60 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 visit of President Mr Hamid Karzai to India on 27 May 2014 to participate in the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his government. Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari led an Indian delegation to Kabul on 29 September 2014 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Afghan President Dr Mohammad Ashraf Ghani. Prime Minister met Afghan President on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit in Kathmandu on 26 November 2014. The two major

infrastructure projects funded by the Government of India 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 Chimtala. Construction of Afghanistan's new Parliament building in Kabul as well as Salma Dam in Herat Province is progressing and their completion is expected shortly. India is actively participating in Heart of Asia- Istanbul process for regional cooperation on Afghanistan. Under this process, India is leading the 'Trade, Commerce & Investment Opportunities' Confidence Building Measure (CBM).

**Bangladesh:** High level visits from both sides characterized the bilateral relations between the two countries. The significant developments during the year included the visit of President of Bangladesh to India in December 2014, visit of External Affairs Minister on her first foreign visit to Dhaka in June 2014 and the up gradation of Bangladesh Visa Office in Agartala to Assistant High Commission. The India-Bangladesh relationship has become truly multifaceted, encompassing a wide range of areas including trade and investment, security, connectivity, border management, water, power, shipping, renewable energy, development cooperation, art and culture, people to people exchanges, human resource development, amongst others. The third meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) was held in New Delhi on 20 September 2014, wherein, the entire gamut of bilateral relations between the two countries was reviewed. During the JCC, Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on co-operation on Nalanda University with India.

**Bhutan:** India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations underscored by mutual trust and confidence. The year 2014 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. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi undertook his first foreign visit to Bhutan on 14 June 2014. Prime Minister Mr Tshering Tobgay had also visited India from 26-28 May 2014 to attend Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee visited Bhutan in November 2014. Prime Minister met the Bhutanese Prime Minister on the sidelines of 18th SAARC Summit in Nepal in November 2014. These visits and meetings further strengthened the close bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

India continues to be the largest trade and development

partner of Bhutan. Construction of three Hydroelectric Projects (HEPs) Punatsangchhu-I (1200 MW), Punatsangchhu-II (1020 MW) and Mangdechhu (720 MW) is ongoing and are expected to be commissioned in 2017-18. In April 2014, India signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement on four Joint Venture Hydroelectric Projects with Bhutan and implementation of the 600 MW Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan. Prime Minister during his visit to Bhutan in June 2014, laid the Foundation Stone for Kholongchhu HEP. Financial assistance towards the 11th Five Year Plan (2013-18) of Royal Government of Bhutan is being regularly disbursed.

**China:** India and China enjoy a strategic and cooperative partnership. The bilateral relations have witnessed all-round progress in the year 2014. Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi visited India as Special Envoy of President Mr Xi Jinping from 08-09 June 2014. Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh visited Beijing for the 6th India-China Strategic Dialogue from 13-14 April 2014. President Mr Xi Jinping paid a State visit to India from 17-19 September 2014. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had earlier met the Chinese President on 14 July 2014 in Fortaleza, Brazil on the sidelines of the 6th BRICS Summit. Prime Minister also met Premier Mr Li Keqiang on 13 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw on the sidelines of East Asia Summit meeting. Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari, paid an official visit to China from 26 – 30 June 2014.

**Maldives:** India and Maldives enjoy close and cordial relations. It is also 50th year of establishment of diplomatic relations with Maldives. Strong economic ties underpin the relationship, which involve development assistance, Lines of Credit, Standby Credit Facility and supply of essential commodities. India continued its close engagement through exchange of high level visits and by providing all the necessary assistance in evacuation of Maldivian students from Ukraine and by supplying of drinking water by Air Force planes and naval ships during the water crisis in Male'. Government of India has also announced special oil arrangements for Maldives recently.

**Myanmar:** India-Myanmar relations are rooted in shared historical, ethnic, cultural and religious ties. India-Myanmar relations are reflective of our common desire to cooperate with each other in order to promote peace and tranquillity along our border; achieve sustained economic development and foster people-to-people interaction. Myanmar is the only ASEAN country that shares land border with India and thus acts as a land bridge between India and South East Asia. In recent years, there is a renewed momentum in the India-

Myanmar relations with focus on development cooperation in infrastructure, connectivity, human resource and capacity building.

**Nepal:** India and Nepal share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation characterized by open borders, historic socio-cultural and civilization links, economic ties and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts often referred to as 'Roti-Beti ka sambandh'. Two Prime Ministerial visits to Nepal, the first on 03-04 August 2014 after a gap of 17 years and the second one to attend 18th SAARC Summit on 25-27 November 2014, demonstrates the high priority attached by Government of India to further strengthen bilateral ties with Nepal. The revival of the India-Nepal Joint Commission after 23 years with its 3rd meeting co-chaired by External Affairs Minister in Kathmandu on 26-27 July 2014 gave a fresh impetus to progress across entire gamut of sectors for bilateral cooperation. The signing of the Project Development Agreements for the 900MW Upper Karnali by GMR in September 2014 and the 900MW Arun-III by SJVN in November 2014, coupled with the signing of the Power Trade Agreement in October 2014 and setting up of the Pancheshwar Development Authority in August 2014, signified progress in the difficult area of energy cooperation after decades were indicative of the qualitative change in our bilateral relations. Earlier Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Sushil Koirala had visited India from 26-28 May 2014 to attend Prime Minister's swearing-in ceremony. India continues to support Nepal in its transition to a prosperous, peaceful, stable and democratic country.

**Pakistan:** In keeping with India's long-standing policy of strengthening relations with Pakistan based on peace and cooperation, Pakistani Prime Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif was invited along with other SAARC leaders to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Indian Government on 26 May 2014. During the bilateral talks that followed on 27 May 2014, the Prime Minister reiterated to Prime Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif India's concerns relating to terrorism. In his address to the UN General Assembly on 27 September 2014, the Prime Minister once again reiterated India's willingness to engage with Pakistan in a serious bilateral dialogue which requires a peaceful environment without the shadow of terrorism. On the occasion, Prime Minister also underlined Pakistan's own responsibility in creating an appropriate environment for a constructive and sustainable bilateral engagement. Matters related to the civil prisoners and Indian fishermen in Pakistan custody continue to be dealt with in a regular manner.

**Sri Lanka:** Relations between India and Sri Lanka have been marked by close contacts at the highest political level, growing trade and investment, cooperation in the fields of development, education, culture and defence, as well as a broad understanding on major issues of international interest. Bilateral exchanges at various levels over the past year and significant progress in implementation of developmental assistance projects for the internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka has helped further cement the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

## **South East Asia and Pacific**

The transformation in India's relations with the countries in South East Asia and the Pacific region, in recent years, took on a new momentum last year. The expansion and deepening of our engagement in our extended neighbourhood, particularly, after the new Government assumed office in 2014, led to the enhanced Look East Policy, acquiring a new dimension as 'Act East'. This new phase in our relations is characterized by a more pro-active and pragmatic approach to Foreign Policy with emphasis on concrete forms of cooperation in political, economic and cultural spheres and timelines for implementation.

Our civilizational contacts, mutual goodwill and desire to strengthen economic, security and cultural cooperation, are multifaceted and forward-looking and have strong focus on strengthening links with our diaspora in the region. Our relations have a strategic dimension with many partners and our close bilateral ties and multilateral engagement with regional fora complement and supplement one another. The prospects of the region returning to higher economic growth and stability contributed to greater confidence, while the continuing geo-political shift towards Asia imparted new momentum and positive trajectory to our partnerships in the region.

Our enhanced Look East Policy/ Act East built upon what was enunciated in the early nineties as an economic initiative for Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). It has acquired political, strategic and cultural dimensions and now extends beyond the ASEAN. It placed additional priority on security, connectivity and regional integration. India, as a major engine of growth in the regional and global economy, sought to leverage the opportunities for peace, prosperity and stability in the region. Our enhanced Look East Policy put a deep imprint in the region and beyond, complemented the regional approach of several partners and emerged as an integral component of our strategic agenda.

With the new Government assuming office in May 2014, there was intensification of high level visits, regular meetings of existing institutional mechanisms of cooperation and establishment of new mechanisms, which contributed to strengthening of relations and enhanced prospects for an upward trend in bilateral cooperation. The first State visit hosted by the new Government was that of the Prime Minister of Australia (September 2014) and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a return visit to Australia (November 2014), a visit coming after 28 years at Prime Minister level. Agreements were reached in several areas, most prominently on civil nuclear energy cooperation and on security issues. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee visited Vietnam (September 2014) and the Prime Minister of Vietnam visited India (October 2014). These visits significantly enhanced bilateral understanding and cooperation and we signed major agreements in the fields of energy, defence and economic cooperation. Prime Minister attended the India-ASEAN Summit and East Asia Summit (EAS) (November 2014) in Nay Pyi Taw, where he met several leaders including the Sultan of Brunei, President of the Philippines and Prime Ministers of Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a historic visit to Fiji (November 2014), where he renewed contacts with the Pacific region and hosted a Summit meeting at 1st Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) for the 14 member Pacific island community.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) visited Nay Pyi Taw for ASEAN-India and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting (August 2014), during which she met with the Foreign Ministers from the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Brunei, New Zealand and Thailand. EAM hosted the Singapore Foreign Minister (June 2014) and also paid a bilateral visit to Singapore (August 2014) to launch the Festival of India in Singapore to commemorate the 50th anniversary of our establishment of diplomatic relations. She also visited Vietnam (August 2014), during which, she also presided over the regional Head of Missions (HOMs) Conference and the ASEAN-India Think Tanks Network. Regular official level interaction has improved coordination and implementation. Parliamentary exchanges continued with delegations from Indonesia and Australia visiting our new Parliament.

With signs of revival in the global economy, our economic relations with South East Asian countries emerged as a major pillar. The implementation of India- ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Goods facilitated our trade with ASEAN

countries which has shown steady trends, with total trade with ASEAN crossing \$75 billion, in 2013-14, despite the weakening of the Rupee, and growing to \$44 billion in the first six months of 2014-15. With the Pacific region, our total trade was almost \$13 billion in 2013-14, and rose to over \$8 billion in the first six months of 2014-15. The conclusion of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreements in Services and Investments will provide further impetus to our growing economic engagement with the region. Negotiations with ASEAN and partners have picked up momentum on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and India hosted a session. RCEP, which will promote economic cooperation and regional integration, assumed added relevance in the context of ASEAN's move towards creation of an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 and we hosted its meeting in India. At the same time, our bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Thailand, Australia and New Zealand, which will promote competitiveness and growth, saw new momentum with deeper interactions. Our Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements (CECAs) with Singapore and Malaysia are being reviewed to make them more effective. The economic momentum in the region contributed to growth and development. For India, our economic interaction with the region became more important for our development priorities as the countries of the region emerged as major trade and investment partners; Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand as key players in infrastructure development; and Indonesia, Australia, Vietnam and Brunei emerged as long-term, reliable sources of resources and energy security. The Make in India initiative attracted great interest in the region as did investment opportunities in the new industrial corridors, smart cities, Buddhist circuit and the North East. There was closer interaction between the States of India and countries in South East Asia to develop economic linkages. Moreover, our corporate sector developed business links with their counterparts and established business presence to further strengthen economic ties.

The strategic importance of the region has grown as has our commitment to the desire for peace and stability in the region. Our cooperation in the fields of security and defence was strengthened through regular exchanges and dialogues in several areas. We had close coordination with our ASEAN partners, particularly, with Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, participated as co-chair for humanitarian mine action and in ARF and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting + (ADMM+) mechanisms. We concluded a Framework on Security Cooperation with Australia. The

Defence Ministers of Singapore and Australia paid visits to India for improved mutual understanding and cooperation. Our security engagement, at both bilateral and regional levels, in combating counter terrorism and other trans-national crimes were stepped up, with closer coordination and exchange of information. We established mechanisms for cooperation between law enforcement agencies and disaster relief (HADR) and expanded dialogue on maritime security and cyber security with key partners. Our assistance in the search mission for the missing MH-370 aircraft and other incidents helped build inter-operability with search and rescue missions in our neighborhood. We also stepped up exchanges in science and technology and provided assistance on space applications leading to meaningful cooperation in cutting edge and popular technologies. The Mangalyaan Mars Mission received wide support from many countries in the region.

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 priority was placed on connectivity, establishment of institutions for entrepreneurship development, vocational training, ICT and English language. The second India-CLMV Business Conclave was held in New Delhi to create new economic opportunities. India extended offer of assistance in the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites such as Siem Reap, Wat Phu, My Son and Preah Khan. India also extended her support to the recognition of the Preah Vihar complex as a heritage site and offered to assist in its restoration.

The ASEAN-India strategic partnership was consolidated further through close cooperation in a range of joint initiatives and projects, including our close participation in connectivity projects. A separate Ambassador to ASEAN assumed charge in Jakarta to help strengthen our partnership and facilitate collaboration and implementation. The Nalanda University commenced classes in the School of Historical Studies and School of Ecology and Environment Studies from a temporary campus in Rajgir, Bihar in the vicinity of the old Nalanda University. The MGC Museum on Traditional Textiles was inaugurated in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The 3rd BIMSTEC Summit held in Nay Pyi Taw gave strong impetus to the movement with the establishment of the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka and its coordinating role in guiding the

agenda. India played the lead role in finalizing the connectivity agenda with a list of priority transport and infrastructure projects for implementation in all BIMSTEC countries with the aim of strengthening regional integration and acting as a bridge between ASEAN and SAARC.

The relations between India and the Pacific Island nations saw quantum change with the holding of the Summit meeting between India and the Pacific Island leaders in Suva, Fiji. Prime Minister announced a range of major initiatives keeping in view the development priorities and concerns of the Pacific Islands. We stepped up our cooperation activities with all countries in the Pacific region through new initiatives in small development projects, institutional assistance, training programmes, cooperation in education, health, science and technology applications, agriculture, climate change adaptation programme, development of small business and others. Further, our interactions with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and regular meetings with partners at the Post Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting held in Palau, in 2014, and at the SIDS Conference in Samoa added to our commitment in the region.

The focus on diaspora relations was stepped up during the year with interaction with members of Indian community across the region. Prime Minister met with a large gathering of diaspora members in Sydney and a civic event in Fiji; EAM met with the Indian community in Singapore and Hanoi. The Indian diaspora in the region, which is considerable both in numbers and influence, was actively engaged. There was a tremendous response at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2015 in Gandhinagar, where two Australians and one New Zealander were awarded Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.

To further broaden relations and foster closer people-to-people contacts, new Indian Cultural Centres are being opened in Sydney and Hanoi, while Festivals of India were held in the neighbourhood and Yoga, Ayurveda, and Bollywood were promoted along with exchanges of traditional cultural events. Chairs of Indian Studies were instituted in several Universities in the region, links were established between think tanks and regional dialogue was promoted on strategic, economic and cultural issues. Further, new educational links and cooperation in vocational training was established and implementation of ITEC programmes for training was expanded and strengthened. The Buddhist Circuit and the North-East were promoted for tourism and cultural exchanges. Agreements were concluded to promote exchanges of youth and of distinguished persons. Direct air

links have been promoted to strengthen connectivity, business links and people-to-people exchanges. The extended neighbourhood of India in South East Asia and the Pacific region was in focus in our foreign policy approach.

## East Asia

**Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK):** Relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) remained cordial. The two nations continued to cooperate in the United Nations and other international fora. DPRK supported India's candidature at UNHRC (2015-2017); Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage for the term 2014-2018; and the post of Secretary General of Asia Pacific Tele-community for the term 2015-2018.

**Japan:** India enjoys a strong bilateral relationship with Japan, premised on peace, prosperity and development. The India-Japan relationship continued to broaden in its scope, and this dynamic growth was reflected in the political, economic and security interactions between the two countries. Prime Minister of Japan Mr Shinzo Abe congratulated Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on his election. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Japan from 30 August to 03 September 2014 for the annual Summit meeting. It was his first major bilateral visit outside India's immediate neighbourhood. Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh visited Tokyo on 23-26 April 2014 for Vice-Ministerial consultations with her Japanese counterpart.

**Mongolia:** India-Mongolia ties continued to flourish. The two nations took stock of their overall relationship during the 1st Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) held on 27 November 2014. The two countries participated in annual military exercises. India continued to provide development assistance to Mongolia in civil, defence and strategic sectors. There was progress in economic and trade ties with Mongolia. The two nations continued to support each other in the United Nations and other international fora.

**Republic of Korea (RoK):** India and South Korea steadily expanded their strategic partnership by further increasing political cooperation, economic engagement and cultural exchanges. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Ms. Park Geun-hye met in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2014, on the margins of the EAS and ASEAN summit and held a detailed exchange of views on further deepening bilateral relations. The defence and security relationship between the two countries was boosted.

## Eurasia

Russia, as India's 'special and privileged' strategic partner, continues to occupy an important place in India's foreign policy priorities. Bilateral relations with Russia struck a high note with the successful visit of President Mr Vladimir Putin to India for the 15th Annual Summit in December 2014. During the visit, the Russian President and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi outlined an ambitious vision of bilateral cooperation which will guide the relationship in the coming years. India continued to strengthen political and economic relations with Ukraine and Belarus. Of specific significance is the Central Asian region, part of India's extended neighbourhood, with which India has intensified its interaction under a comprehensive "Connect Central Asia" policy. With the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) India continues to deepen and broaden its relations.

**Russian Federation:** Continuing India's special relationship with Russia, the new government established contacts with Russia immediately after assuming office. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Mr Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Summit in Brazil (July 2014), followed by a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Australia (November 2014). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also met Russian Prime Minister Mr Dmitry Medvedev in Myanmar on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit held in November 2014. President Mr Vladimir Putin visited India for the 15th Annual Summit on 11 December 2014, during which the two leaders held constructive discussions on a range of bilateral and global issues. The Summit resulted in the signing of at least twenty agreements (both government and private), which included two vision documents namely (i) Druzhba-Dosti: A vision for strengthening the Indian-Russian Partnership over the next decade and (ii) Strategic Vision For Strengthening Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Dmitry Rogozin visited New Delhi three times in 2014. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj met with Russian Foreign Minister Mr Sergei Lavrov in September 2014 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Dushanbe and on the sidelines of UNGA in New York. Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh visited Moscow in March 2014, to hold Foreign Office Consultations with her counterpart.

The 20th Session of the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) was held in New

Delhi on 05 November 2014, co-chaired by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Dmitry Rogozin and External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj. Various working groups met in the run-up to the 20th IGC, to take stock of cooperation and opportunities in respective sectors.

Energy cooperation between India and Russia intensified in 2014. Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited Russia from 18-21 June 2014 to participate in the 21st World Petroleum Congress. In May 2014, ONGC and Russia's Rosneft signed an MoU for cooperation in the field of oil and gas exploration in the Arctic Shelf.

Important commercial visits to Russia included those by Commerce Secretary, a delegation from Gujarat to promote the 'Vibrant Gujarat Summit', a delegation from Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and a tourism delegation.

Air India resumed flights to Moscow on 18 July 2014, after a gap of about 15 years. There was also an increase in cultural exchanges, tourism, academic exchange and people-to-people contacts during the year.

**Belarus:** Bilateral relations between India and Belarus continued to be marked by warmth and closer cooperation. India supplied 90 radio sets and 30 GPS navigations and sanctioned supply of 25 mine detectors to Belarus under the convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Protocol V Assistance programme.

**Ukraine:** Despite the crisis in Ukraine, India continued to forge closer bilateral relations with the country. In June 2014, the Ukrainian Government extended all support to the Indian Mission in Kyiv, in evacuation of Indian students by arranging trains to transport them from Lugansk in the eastern region to Kyiv. The Indian Mission made arrangements for the accommodation and travel to India. The Ukrainian government also helped the Mission in the transfer of Indian students from medical colleges in the eastern region to other peaceful parts of the country.

## Central Asia

India continued its high-level interactions with the five Central Asian countries (Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) which form part of India's extended neighbourhood. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh visited Tajikistan. The then Minister of Finance Shri P. Chidambaram participated in the 47th Annual Board of

Governors meeting in Kazakhstan. The Third Connect Central Asia Track II Dialogue was held in Dushanbe in October 2014. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas led the Indian delegation to Turkmenistan for the 19th Steering Committee meeting of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.) visited Astana, Kazakhstan in December 2014 in connection with SCO Council of Heads of Governments meeting and had bilateral meeting with Kazakh Prime Minister Mr Karim Massimov.

## South Caucasus

Bilateral relations with the South Caucasus countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia saw wider bilateral interaction. The region, lying between Europe and Asia, has potential for developing into an international hub, which could be of great interest to Indian business.

An international consortium led by energy major BP with ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), as one of the partners, held the ground breaking ceremony in Baku in September 2014 of the Southern Gas Corridor Project, which will deliver Azerbaijani gas through Georgia and Turkey to Europe.

The first Session of the India-Georgia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Education cooperation was held in New Delhi on 29 April 2014. A Memorandum of Understanding for establishing a telemedicine network in Armenia and another for setting up computer labs in 50 schools in a region in Armenia were signed.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

India sees the SCO as an important regional forum focussing on security and development. External Affairs Minister represented India in the SCO Heads of States Summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 11-12 September 2014, where India submitted its formal application for the full membership of the SCO. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.) represented India at the SCO Council of Heads of Governments meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan on 15 December 2014.

## The Gulf, West Asia & North Africa

India's historical, traditional, and close and multi-dimensional friendly relations with the countries of the Gulf region were

further cemented during the year. The Gulf region has been India's substantial trading region in the world and bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 171.8 billion in 2013-14. Being a major supplier of crude oil and LNG, this region provided around two-third of India's energy requirements. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and UAE continue to be in the list of top five oil sourcing countries for India.

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 contributing considerably towards the development of it. India's bilateral relationship with the countries of the region were further strengthened by visits at the highest level including visits to India of Dr Abdulmohsen Medaj Al-Medaj, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Commerce and Industry, State of Kuwait in November 2014, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Mr Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah in June 2014, and Mr Tawfiq Fawzan Al Rabiah, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in November 2014. During the period, visit of External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj to Bahrain in September and UAE in November 2014 have strengthened the ties further. 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 West Asia region is part of India's extended neighbourhood and is of vital importance. The region is home to more than 7 million Indians, who contribute around US\$ 40 billion in remittances annually. Our economic and commercial engagement with the region is US\$ 185.6 billion (2013-14). The region is a source for more than 60 per cent of our oil and gas requirements, and hence critical for our energy security. The Maghreb region is a major source of phosphate and other fertilizers, a significant factor in our food security. Continued peace and stability in the region is therefore in our strategic interest.

The region was in a state of flux and uncertainty during the year, which heightened the difficulty in fully assessing the unfolding events. The ongoing conflicts in Syria, Libya, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, etc., were further layered by the Iran nuclear negotiations and the surge of ISIS in the region. Our position remained guided by our long standing ties with the region and desire not to interfere in the internal affairs of States or being prescriptive. Despite the challenges of the changing

situation in West Asia, our bilateral relationships with all countries of the region were progressed constructively towards safeguarding our core economic, trade and energy interests.

The surge of ISIS in the region, in particular, raised strategic security concerns for the entire West Asia region. It was our position that the sustainable solution to the ISIS threat can only be through a larger political approach to address the rising extremism and radicalism in the region. Consolidation of political processes and solutions while building of durable state institutions was important. The issue required a consolidated, rather than fragmented approach incorporating aspects like intelligence sharing; counter-terrorism; cyberspace cooperation for containment of outbound flow of foreign fighters into Iraq and Syria; developing a legal framework for fighting terrorism at national and international level (including early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism); tracking of financial flows; and humanitarian assistance. There were reports of a small number of Indian jihadi fighters in the Iraqi-Syrian war zones, but the Government took measures to control this through immigration controls, intelligence sharing and liaison with State Governments.

We remained engaged with Libya, diversifying our ties for leveraging our economic/ energy interests. 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

India shares deep-rooted historical, cultural and political bonds with the African countries, which have grown from strength to strength since their independence. India's economic stature and the political and cultural goodwill it commands in the region have contributed to the continuously widening horizon of India – Africa relations.

India and Africa have comprehensive diplomatic mechanisms and channels to discuss issues of bilateral, multilateral and

global importance. Through these mechanisms, development assistance, defence cooperation, infrastructure and capacity building initiatives are being taken forward. These include the India – Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), India – Regional Economic Communities (RECs) meetings, annual India – Africa Trade Ministers meeting, interactions through other multilateral forums like IOR – ARC, regular meetings of Joint Working Groups, Foreign Office Consultations, and Inter-Governmental Joint Commissions on an array of subjects.

In the remarkable rise in bilateral trade and investment stands testimony to the government's efforts in these areas. India has MoUs and agreements with the African partners on agriculture, labour, science and technology, coal, mineral resources, oil & gas, and important social sectors like health, education and rural development.

Both India and Africa have the potential to benefit from a demographic dividend over the next several decades. It is with this in mind that India has been supporting Africa in capacity building initiatives. India's own unique expertise in this field has been shared through ITEC, scholarships and fellowship programmes, pan-African e-Network project, etc. Thousands of African nationals are trained every year in a gamut of subjects including information technology, telecommunication, banking and finance, management, micro, small and medium enterprises, rural development, environment, renewable energy, electoral practices, etc.

The partnership has been further strengthened with concessional Lines of Credit for agriculture and irrigation, power generation, infrastructure development, healthcare, transportation, etc.

The Government of India is also working closely with the African nations, including the littoral states of the Indian Ocean in the fields of defence and security, especially maritime security. The Indian Navy undertakes anti-piracy missions in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and has also helped in training and operations of the several naval organisations of the IOR nations in Africa. It has also undertaken hydrographic surveys and provided humanitarian assistance to these countries.

## Europe

### West Europe

India and the European Union (EU) celebrated the 10th Anniversary of their Strategic Partnership in 2014. The European Union is a valued strategic partner for India and

India's relations with the EU and its precursors go back over half a century. As the grouping of European countries has grown from a common market to a common currency and from a Community to a Union, India's engagement with the EU has grown commensurately, complementing and supplementing India's relations with individual EU member-states.

Enhancing educational, cultural and people-to-people contacts has been an important ongoing priority. The relationship, which is intrinsically dynamic, has reached a significant level of maturity. We marked the Golden Jubilee of our bilateral relations in 2013.

The elections to the European Parliament were held from 22-25 May 2014. The European People's Party (EPP) emerged as the largest party in the elections. The new European Parliament elected Mr Jean Claude Juncker, former Prime Minister of Luxembourg, as the President of the European Commission. Ms. Federica Mogherini, former Foreign Minister of Italy was elected as the new EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The new Commission assumed charge on 01 November 2014 for a period of five years.

The European Council elected Mr Donald Tusk, former Prime Minister of Poland, as the new President of the European Council. Following elections to the European Parliament, a new Delegation for Relations with India has been constituted consisting of 43 members drawn from various political groups in accordance with their numerical strength in the Parliament. The chairperson of the new delegation is Mr Geoffrey Van Orden.

The meeting of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the President of the European Council Mr Herman Van Rompuy on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Brisbane on 14 November 2014 was an important step towards rejuvenating bilateral ties.

The EU as a bloc of 28 countries is India's largest regional trading partner while India was EU's 10th largest trading partner in 2013. India's overall bilateral trade (in both goods and services) with the EU28 during 2013 (January-December 2014) was €96.6 billion (bilateral trade in goods €72.7 billion and bilateral trade in services €23.9 billion). Trade in Services valued at €23.9 billion grew by 6.22 % in 2013 as compared to 2012 when it was €22.5 billion. India's export of goods to the EU in 2013 stood at €36.8 billion while India's imports from the EU were valued at €35.9 billion.

The EU continued to be one of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for India with FDI inflows from the EU to India valued at €3.2 billion in 2013. Indian investments in the EU28 were €0.4 billion in 2013.

The 9th round of Joint Working Group on ICT took place on 14-15 January 2015 in New Delhi. A team of the Delegation for Relations of the European Parliament is scheduled to visit India on 22-26 February 2015.

## Central Europe

India continued its policy of engaging and cooperating constructively with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and in the process deepened and strengthened its engagement. India's strategic partnership with the Central European region featured high-level exchanges and bilateral cooperative endeavours in important areas. Official visits, growing bilateral trade, business exchanges, educational exchanges and cultural events took forward our ties with this region. For Central Europe, India is also an important friend and partner in its growth and development. On political issues, there was good mutual understanding, both at bilateral and multilateral forums. The year saw a number of high level visits from both sides. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, paid an official State visit to Norway, the first Head of State visit ever from India, from 12-14 October 2014 and to Finland from 14 -16 October 2014. India's foreign policy also has a strong multilateral dimension with the countries of this Central Europe region and works closely with most of them in international bodies and fora.

## The Americas

**Canada:** The India-Canada bilateral relations have seen significant transformation in recent years. The present bilateral relations are underpinned by high level interactions covering political, security, trade and economic spheres. Prime Minister Mr Stephen Harper visited India twice in a short span of time in 2009 and 2012; the Governor General Mr David Johnston visited India in February-March 2014; and Prime Minister Mr Stephen Harper extended an invitation to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to visit Canada.

In the Joint Statement issued during the visit of Canadian Prime Minister to India in 2012, the two sides agreed on the imperative to forge a forward-looking relationship by deepening the bilateral engagement at a strategic level and better leveraging significant complementarities existing between the two countries in key areas of mutual interest such

as: energy security; agriculture and food security; mineral resources; education; infrastructure development; and advanced civilian, defence and space technologies. Towards achieving this objective, they agreed to intensify their interaction through regular meetings, and to institute an annual strategic dialogue between the two Foreign Ministers. The bilateral energy dialogue was also upgraded to Ministerial level. The first Ministerial Level Energy Dialogue was held in October 2013.

## United States

There was a qualitative reinvigoration in India's Strategic Partnership with the United States (US) in 2014, ever since the General elections in May 2014 of India and the United States, including visits by US Secretary of State Mr John Kerry and Secretary of Commerce Ms. Penny Pritzker in July 2014 for the Fifth round of India-US Strategic Dialogue, and by the US Secretary of Defence Mr Chuck Hagel in August 2014. This culminated in Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the US from 26-30 September 2014 combining his bilateral visit to Washington D.C. at the invitation of US President Mr Barack Obama for the first bilateral Summit between the two leaders, with a visit to New York for the United Nations General Assembly. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj visited the US from 24 September to 02 October 2014, to take part in the UN General Assembly and as a member of Prime Minister's delegation to the US.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, US President Mr Barack Obama visited India to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2015. US President Mr Barack Obama was the first US President to be the Guest of Honour at India's Republic Day celebrations. He was also the first US President to visit India twice while in office. This will be the first time in history that two Summit-level meetings will be taking place between our two countries within a span of four months.

## Latin America and Caribbean

The past year has been a very active period for India's interaction with Latin America and the Caribbean region. During the year, enhanced level of interactions through landmark high level visits, conclusion of bilateral agreements, multilateral and bilateral engagements, development projects and cultural events helped in further strengthening bilateral relations between India and the region.

The landmark meeting of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with South American leaders and his bilateral meeting

with President of Brazil in Brasilia during BRICS Summit in July 2014 set the tone for our engagement with the entire region. This was the first time that an Indian Prime Minister interacted with such a large number of South American leaders.

External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj met with Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Quartet on the sidelines of UNGA in New York in September 2014. Foreign Ministers of Costa Rica, Ecuador and Antigua & Barbuda and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba attended the meeting. Also a number of CELAC Coordinators were present. India proposed that India-CELAC Business Council and CEO's Forum, Energy Forum and S&T Forum should meet in 2015.

A 7 member parliamentary delegation led by MoS (Independent Charge) Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar visited Argentina, Chile and Mexico from 26 October – 05 November 2014 on a goodwill visit.

Guyanese President Mr Donald Rabindranauth Ramotar was in India on a bilateral visit from 07 to 12 January 2015. He was also the Chief Guest of the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations held from 07-09 January 2015 in Gujarat in which he was awarded the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Samman'. He held discussions with the Prime Minister of India, the Minister of External Affairs and the Governor of Maharashtra. He also visited a sugar factory in Valsad and interacted with sugar industry representatives in Mumbai.

India-LAC Investment Conclave organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) was held in New Delhi from 15-16 October 2014. Argentina, as the "partner country" was represented by a 70 member business delegation led by Mr Carlos Bianco, Deputy Foreign Minister of Argentina. Peru was the "focus country" at the Conclave.

Bilateral trade with Latin American Region (LAC) in 2014 (April-October) was US\$ 25.4 billion and our cumulative investments in the region are estimated to be over US\$ 20 billion. The region has vast potential in terms of our energy and food security. Latin American Region is becoming a major supplier of crude oil to India, as the import of crude oil from this region is increasing consistently in real terms as well as in percentage terms. Within LAC, Venezuela is the top-supplier with Columbia emerging as second in 2013-14, with Mexico and Brazil at 3rd and 4th spot respectively. It is also an important source of raw materials for our growing industry.

Prime Minister in his interaction with the leaders of Latin American and Caribbean region in Brasilia in July 2014 had offered to share India's experience in the information technology sector by setting up Centres of Excellence in their respective countries. Setting up such Centres in Caracas, Buenos Aires, Paraguay, Uruguay, Georgetown, Paramaribo and Santiago are under process.

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

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the official Indian delegation to the General Debate of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly from 24 September - 30 September 2014. In his statement during the General Debate on 27 September 2014, Prime Minister strongly advocated for an early reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council to reflect current political realities. He called for reforms to be completed by the 70th anniversary of the UN in 2015. He cautioned that UN would face the risk of irrelevance, if it fails to make itself more democratic and participative and the world will face the risk of continuing turbulence with no one capable of addressing it.

He stressed that eradication of poverty must remain the core of the Post-2015 Development Agenda which commands everyone's fullest attention. Prime Minister also called for concerted international efforts to combat terrorism and extremism. He urged the world community to adopt the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. He denounced States allowing terrorist sanctuaries on their territory or use of terrorism as instruments of their policy. He also called upon the international community to declare 21 June as the International Day of Yoga, in view of its benefits and global appeal. He also had a bilateral meeting with Mr Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj visited New York for the UNGA session from 23 September to 02 October 2014. During her visit EAM participated in ministerial meetings with leaders of Regional Groups. She also held bilateral meetings with her counterparts from the UK, China, Sudan, Maldives, Kyrgyz Republic, Nigeria, Norway, Greece and Israel. EAM became the first-ever dignitary to place a wreath in memory of the valiant UN Peacekeepers at the United Nations Memorial to UN Peacekeepers in New York on 02 October 2014.

Prior to Prime Minister's address, G4 Foreign Ministers from India, Brazil, Germany and Japan met in New York on 25 September 2014, on the sidelines of 69th UNGA. Underscoring their continuous commitment to a Security Council reform reflective of the geopolitical realities of the 21st century, they also reaffirmed their view of representing developing countries in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of an enlarged Security Council.

The United Nations observed the 8th International Day of Non-Violence on 02 October 2014 at a Special Event organized by the Permanent Mission of India at Trusteeship Council of the UN Headquarters in New York. EAM presided over the event, which was attended by prominent personalities.

India continued to be among the top Troop Contributing Countries for UN peace keeping operations. Indian troops are participating in 10 out of 16 ongoing peacekeeping operations. India has also been contributing since February 2007 a Female Formed Police Unit-a first in the history of UN Peacekeeping-for UN Mission in Liberia. This female police unit has proved to be an inspiration to the women of Liberia.

Pursuant to Prime Minister's call for an International Day of Yoga (IDY), India moved a resolution in the UN General Assembly to declare June 21 as IDY. The Resolution was adopted on 11 December 2014 by a record number of 177 co-sponsoring countries, the highest ever for a Resolution of this nature.

India participated actively in the Plenary Meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and reiterated its concerns regarding High Risk Area and regulation of Private Maritime Security Companies and Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel on board ships. The 16th Plenary Meeting of CGPCS was held on 14 May 2014 in New York and the 17th Plenary Meeting of the CGPCS was held on 28 October 2014 in Dubai. With the release of 7 Indian seafarers from captivity of pirates, there are no more Indians being held hostage.

India remained the fourth largest contributor to the Commonwealth budget and the fifth largest contributor to the Commonwealth fund for Technical Cooperation. India is a member of the reconfigured Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) for the term 2013-15. The Commonwealth Secretary General, Shri Kamlesh Sharma visited New Delhi between 01-02 December 2014 and called on Prime Minister, EAM and Finance Minister.

The Fourth Biennial Review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Review Strategy (GCTS) was held during 12-13 June 2014. India contributed in the finalization of the resolution on GCTS. On 24 September 2014, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2178 (2014) on the growing menace of Foreign Terrorist Fighters which has affected almost every country in the world.

India participated actively in the mid-term NAM Ministerial Conference held in Algiers, Algeria from 26-29 May 2014. The next NAM Summit is scheduled to be held in Venezuela in September 2015.

Maintaining its support for Democracy-related initiatives, India participated in the High Level segment meeting of the Community of Democracies Governing Council on the sidelines of UNGA in New York held on 24 September 2014 and the 7th Bali Democracy Forum (BDF VII) held on 10-11 October 2014 in Bali, Indonesia. India has contributed a cumulative amount of US\$ 31.56 million till November 2014 to UN Democracy Fund considering the Fund to be an effective instrument for the promotion of democratic values and processes.

### **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu (26-27 November 2014). He reiterated India's commitment to the SAARC process and announced several unilateral initiatives. Preceding the Summit, External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh respectively participated in the 36th Session of the Council of Ministers and the 41st Session of Standing Committee from 23-25 November 2014.

India has been supporting and sustaining several regional and sub-regional projects focused on economic integration, connectivity and energy. India's proactive, asymmetrical and non-reciprocal approach has been a transformative factor in enhancing the effectiveness of SAARC

### **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**

Global economic resilience and sustainable economic development, evolving strategies for creation of employment opportunities and reducing income inequality, multilateral trading system, reform of the International Financial Institutions, energy and climate change occupied the centre stage in the agenda of Multilateral groupings such as BRICS, G20, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) etc. Ebola outbreak and geopolitical developments around Ukraine also cast their shadow over the agendas of some multilateral groupings. India continued to remain closely engaged with these multilateral meetings to further her own national interests as well as to contribute constructively to the efforts to address the contemporary challenges on the agenda.

The 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza and Brasilia on 15-16 July 2014 ushered in the second cycle of BRICS Summits. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, led the Indian

delegation to the Summit. The key outcomes of the BRICS Summit included signing of an Agreement for setting up a New Development Bank – with its headquarters located in Shanghai and the first President from India - and signing of a Treaty setting up the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) with initial size of US\$ 100 billion which will work as a multilateral currency swap arrangement amongst BRICS countries.

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the Brisbane G20 Summit on 15-16 November 2014 underscoring the continued importance attached by India to her engagement with G20. Infrastructure investment, employment and job creation, skill development, reducing the gap in employment participation rates between men and women in G20 countries, reducing costs of remittances, access to affordable energy, energy efficiency, inclusive development, fighting corruption, financial stability, reform of International Financial Architecture and enhancing multilateral trade were among the important issues for India at the 9th G20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia.

India's engagement with the countries in the Indian Ocean Region continued to deepen and expand including through engagement with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) – a pan-Indian Ocean group which is gradually positioning itself as an apex organization in the Indian Ocean region. India participated in the 14th meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association which was hosted by Australia in Perth in October 2014. India's initiatives including the appointment of Chair in Indian Ocean Studies at the University of Mauritius, an IORA Poetry Festival and Women Empowerment Workshop were widely appreciated.

## **Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

There is a renewed emphasis on the ASEAN-India relationship with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi asserting that India's 'Look East Policy' has been transformed into 'Act East' Policy. At the 12th ASEAN-India Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12 November 2014, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and ASEAN leaders reviewed the current status of the India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership. He placed ASEAN at the core of India's Act East Policy and called for strengthening of relations in all sectors, and announced establishment of a special facility to facilitate project financing and quick implementation of ASEAN-India connectivity projects. External Affairs Minister attended the 12th ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 09 August 2014 at Nay Pyi Taw.

Prime Minister participated in the 9th East Asia Summit on 13 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw and exchanged views on regional and global issues of significance with other world leaders. This was preceded by the External Affairs Minister attending the 4th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 10 August 2014 at Nay Pyi Taw.

India is also involved in negotiations on a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) among ASEAN and its six FTA partners, viz. India, Japan, China, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Carrying forward the momentum gained during the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers' Meeting hosted by India in November 2013, for a shift in the focus of ASEM from 'dialogue' to 'deliverables', India hosted an ASEM Round Table on "Energy Efficiency in Green Buildings" as part of the Green Building Congress 2014 in Hyderabad on 05 September 2014.

## **Development Cooperation**

Development Cooperation is an important constituent of India's foreign policy. India's external development assistance programmes in developing countries have increased significantly in their scope and coverage in the past few years. These include Lines of Credit, grant assistance, technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a wide range of capacity-building programmes including short-term civilian and military training courses.

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

Various development projects in infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, education, health, Industry and other sectors, as prioritized by the host governments, are under implementation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Projects initiated for development and strengthening cross-border connectivity with India's neighbours are in various stages of implementation. Beyond India's neighbourhood in South East Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America, bilateral projects in Information and Computer Technology (ICT), Small & Medium enterprises and archaeological conservation have been undertaken.

Extension of Lines of Credit (LoC) on concessional terms to other developing countries has been an important instrument of India's external development assistance. During the period under review, LoCs of about US\$ 881.17 million were allocated to countries in Africa and US\$ 1392.44 million were sanctioned to countries in Asia and Latin America.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2014. The celebrations event held on 21 October 2014 was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister and was well attended by representatives of ITEC partner countries, institutions and the participants undergoing training courses in India.

During 2014-15, over 8300 Civilian training slots were offered to 161 partner developing countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP). In addition, 500 civilian training slots were provided separately under the Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) of Colombo Plan. About 1600 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 India's expertise and capacity building competence.

## 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 the concerned Ministries, Chambers of Commerce and Export Promotion Councils and provides policy inputs to the Ministries dealing with economic and commercial issues.

In 2014-15, the Division disbursed ₹5 crore to our Missions and Posts, to support their efforts of increasing exports and investments. In 2014, ITP division represented MEA in the bilateral Air Services talks held with Egypt, Seychelles, Republic of Korea and New Zealand. ITP Division also participated in International Civil Aviation Negotiations (ICAN) conference held in Bali, Indonesia during November 2014. ITP Division provided budgetary support to Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to organize 4th India-Arab Partnership Conference on 26-27 November 2014 in New Delhi. PHD chamber of Commerce in collaboration with ITP division hosted 'Conference on Africa – A Land of Opportunities' on 04-05 December 2014.

## 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 concerned line Ministries and also contributed to the deliberations of International Organisations on energy and food security related issues.

The Energy Security division participated in various meetings with International energy organizations. The Division participated in Clean Energy Ministerial meeting held in Seoul, meeting of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Council held in Abu Dhabi, Meeting of Policy Committee of International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) in Mexico and Executive Committee meeting in Paris, G-20 Energy Sustainability Working Group meeting in Australia, High Level Group, Energy Club meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO) in Astana, Kazakhstan and Expert Group Meeting of Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Division participated in the 11th India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 24-25 April 2014 and 2nd India – Saudi Energy consultations on 28 October 2014 in Riyadh on matters of mutual cooperation in oil and gas sectors.

## Consular, Passport and Visa Services

With passport and related services applications crossing 1 crore in 2014, this has emerged as the most noticeable statutory and citizen-centric service rendered by Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry has made many quantitative and qualitative improvements in the delivery of passport services under its flagship initiative – Passport Seva Project. The Project received the National Award for e-Governance (Gold) 2014-15 for outstanding performance in citizen-centric service delivery.

Over the last few years, there has been considerable expansion in both the scope and volume of passport related services. In order to address 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 setting up and operationalisation of 77 Passport Seva Kendras across the country. The project has completed two and half years of its successful operation. As on 31 December 2014, over 2.24 crore passport service related applications have been processed and over 2.09 crore services have been rendered through the new system.

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, updating of Passport Portal on regular basis, mPassport Seva mobile app to provide passport related information, integration of MOIA eMigrate system with PSP system, organizing of Passport Seva Camps, Passport Melas, Adalats, online filing of passport related services applications through the vast network of one lakh Common Service Centres, high priority to Haj applicants, timely disposal of appeals 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.

Thanks to the implementation of the Passport Seva Project, there has been noticeable improvement in passport service delivery in the country. Countrywide, 21% passports are issued within 3 days; 47% of normal passports are issued within 7 days and 64% are issued within 14 days (excluding the time taken for police verification). In the case of Tatkaal passports, 28% are issued on the same day, 60% within one day and 84% 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. Top 5 States in terms of number of passport applications were Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh, accounting for more than 51% of total applications. Outside India, two countries, namely UAE and Saudi Arabia contributed to 33.60% of total services abroad (Location-wise, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Kuwait, Muscat, Doha accounted for 48.33% services).

During January-December 2014, the 37 Passport Offices in India, Headquarters and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration issued 85.07 lakh passports (inclusive of 2648 Diplomatic passports, 17560 official passports, LOC, IC and surrender certificates) and passport related miscellaneous services including Police Clearance Certificates, compared to 71.33 lakh in 2013- an increase of over 19%. In addition, 13.73 lakhs passport related services have been processed by Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Thus, the Government of India, in total, issued 98.80 lakh passport services in 2014. This is an all time high and amounts to over threefold increase since 2000. As on 31 December 2014, 5,70,35,943 citizens held valid passports. The total revenue expected to be generated from all passport services in 2014-15 is ₹ 2100 crore. An amount of ₹ 560.33 crore was allocated to Central Passport Organization in the financial year 2014-15.

External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated a three day Passport Officers' Conference (23-25 June 2014) in New Delhi. Addressing the Conference, the Minister exhorted Passport Officers to perform their citizen-centric roles with a sense of seva(service) and not merely as work. In recognition of the outstanding services rendered to citizens, the Minister gave away Passport Seva Puraskars to the selected employees and Passport Offices.

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 on 31 December 2014, nearly 15 crore pages have been digitized.

The close interest of the Parliament in Passport services was affirmed by a large number of PQs, examination and inspection/study visits by several Parliamentary Committees including the visit of The First Subcommittee of the Committee of Parliament on Official language to PO, Bhubaneswar on 16 January 2014, to review the implementation of Official language in the Ministry of External Affairs and its offices and to PO, Goa. The Committee is scheduled to visit Passport Offices at Raipur and Dehradun in February 2015. The First meeting of 2014 of the Consultative Committee for Ministry of External Affairs, held on 05 December 2014, deliberated on the agenda item "Passport Services".

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 4.37 million visas in 2014. 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 64 Missions/Posts abroad. The IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking) project in Indian Missions/Posts abroad is expected to be completed by 2015. At present (as on 31 December 2014), IVFRT scheme (without biometrics) has been introduced in 155 Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

For the period from January to December 2014, Attestation Cell in the CPV Division attested 3,83,651 personal and 1,69,534 commercial documents and apostilled 3,57,864 documents for use in the Apostille member countries. In addition, 34,305 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, meetings of Joint Working Groups on Bilateral Consular issues took place with Iran at Tehran on 18-19 May 2014, Australia at Canberra on 25-29 August 2014, Brazil on 16 July 2014 during Prime Minister's visit and at New Delhi with USA on 10 September 2014, Russian Federation on 28 October 2014, Switzerland on 17 November 2014 and Indonesia on 15-16 December 2014. During the meetings, deliberations covered issues related to consular, visa and passport matters.

## Coordination

Interaction between the Ministry and other Government of India Ministries, State Governments/Union Territories, autonomous bodies and private institutions, including NGOs was coordinated by the Coordination Division. The Division handled political clearances for official/private visits of Ministers, elected representatives and Government officials. It processed clearances for organising Conferences/Seminars/workshops in India involving foreign participation, international sports tournaments in India and sports tournaments abroad with Indian participation, landing/overflying clearances of foreign military flights, visits of foreign naval ships, etc. The Division also handled a large number of references received from Ministry of Home Affairs regarding conversion of Student Visa into Research Visa and references received from Ministry of Finance regarding acquisition of immovable property by foreigners in India and various Trusts/NGOs seeking exemption u/s 11(i) (C) of Income Tax, 1961. In all, nearly 4316 clearances were issued during the period April 2014-November 2014.

Coordination Division also dealt with draft Cabinet Notes received from other Ministries and conveyed comments/views of the Ministry after collating information from various Divisions of the Ministry. The Division also undertook monitoring and updating of E-Samiksha website of the Cabinet Secretariat.

## Administration and Projects

**Administration:** During the year 2014-15, the Ministry made efforts to decentralize decision making and simplify and improve rules regulations and procedures in order to streamline the administrative machinery. Progress has been made in implementing the MEA Expansion Plan which was initiated in 2008 and the cadre review of the Indian Foreign Service 'B' branch approved towards the end of 2011. These initiatives have succeeded in addressing to a great extent the

growing manpower needs of the Ministry. In addition, a comprehensive exercise to review Recruitment Rules of the Ministry in consultation with DOPT and UPSC has been undertaken during the year. The year under review witnessed further expansion of India's global diplomatic presence with the Government of India opening a new mission to ASEAN in Jakarta. Implementation of Official Language Policy of the Government of India continues to be accorded a high priority by the Ministry.

**Projects:** During the period of the report, the Division continued to acquire and construct properties abroad for use as Chancery/Residences. Sale/Purchase Agreements have been signed for built-up properties in Helsinki, Kabul and Zagreb, a plot of land was acquired in Bangkok and a bigger size of plot was acquired in Male.

## 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 by the Ministry of External Affairs.

## Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

During the period April – November 2014, ICCR undertook a wide range of activities to promote better understanding abroad of India. As part of its academic and intellectual activities, ICCR had over 6200 foreign scholars under its various scholarship schemes in India pursuing post-school education in a variety of subjects in over 20 States and 120 institutions in India. Besides a number of welfare activities for foreign scholars, ICCR also organized a call by them on External Affairs Minister on the eve of the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. In many States Governors/Chief Ministers received ICCR scholars. ICCR had 77 Chairs covering languages and other aspects of India Studies in Universities abroad.

ICCR organized Indian participation in the “Celebrations of 180th Anniversary of Arrival of Indian Indentured Labour” in Mauritius from 31 October to 09 November 2014 and in the “2nd Indo-Arab Cultural Festival” in Algeria from 20-27 November 2014.

ICCR's 34 full-flagged Cultural Centres and one sub-Centre abroad actively promoted India's soft power abroad through a wide range of activities, including dance, music, yoga, Hindi, talks and exhibitions. ICCR sponsored 55 Indian cultural groups/artistes abroad which performed in about 80 countries. It sent 24 exhibitions from its own collection for display in various countries and organized the first India-China Women Artists' Residency called 'Maitri' in Jaipur. It also organized performances by 47 foreign groups in India, including at ICCR's various prestigious Festivals.

ICCR invited distinguished dignitaries and academicians from various countries to visit India for exchange of views. It also supported research of India by some foreign experts.

ICCR brought out journals in Hindi, English, Arabic, French and Spanish for distribution in various countries.

### **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)**

During 2014-15, ICWA continued with its mandated activities, according high priority to research and study of political, security and economic developments in Asia, EU, Africa, America and Latin America. Global geo-strategic and geo-political developments were analyzed. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of 6 Sapru House Papers, 19 Issue Briefs and 46 Viewpoints, which were placed on the ICWA website. In addition, 31 books were also published during the period, 85 conferences/lectures/seminars were organised/ participated in by ICWA faculty during the period in India and abroad. The continuing series of Sapru House Lectures saw eminent international personalities such as Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang, Hungarian PM Dr Viktor Orbán, former Nepalese Prime Ministers Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachand” and Mr Madhav Kumar Nepal, 68th UNGA President Ambassador Mr John W. Ashe, Seychelles FM and several Foreign Ministers, speakers etc. The important seminars organized included Delhi Dialogue VI, India-Australia-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue on Indian Ocean (TDIO) in Delhi, ICWA-MGIMO (Moscow State Institute of International Relations) Dialogue & Interaction with RIAC etc. in St. Petersburg, Second Annual India-Central Asia Dialogue in Almaty, AIIA-ICWA Dialogue in Australia (Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney), Fifth India-EUISS Forum, IAFS-II ICWA-Africa Academic Conferences

in Accra, Dakar, Manipal, Kolkata and Chandigarh, Fifth Annual Asian Relations Conference (ARC-V) and India-Indonesia Dialogue, Jakarta.

### **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**

The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specializes in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. The institute organised a number of important events during the period which include, among others: Seventh South Asia Economic Summit, Seminar on Issues before Brisbane G-20 Summit, Third Round Table on ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT), ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Lectures, Launch of the report 'Transforming Connectivity Corridors between India and Myanmar into Development Corridors', International Conference on Cross-Border Connectivity, Round Table on ASEAN-India Transit Transport Agreement, Round Table on Governance of Regenerative Medicine and Patients' Needs in India, Brainstorming Session on India-China Economic Engagement, Consultative Meeting on Developing Guidelines and Methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment of LMOs, Seminar on Climate Change and the Premises for a New Society, Special Lecture on G. Parthasarathi and RIS, Round Table on India-ASEAN Connectivity, and Panel Discussion on ASEAN-led Integration Process, RCEP, TPP and Possibility for an FTAAP. Apart from the FIDC Seminar Series, RIS has launched a Breakfast Seminar Series. RIS also launched a new capacity building programme “Learning South-South Cooperation” under the ITEC/SCAAP Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, apart from organising the capacity building programmes on Trade Policy and Analysis.

### **External Publicity and Public Diplomacy**

In order to better address the challenges of effective out-reach in the 21st century, in January 2014, the Ministry decided to merge XP and PD Divisions into a single division- (XPD). In the year 2014, the External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division (XPD) of the Ministry of External Affairs continued its mandated task of effectively articulating the position of the Government of India on various foreign policy issues to the 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. Over the past few years, alongside an active engagement with the electronic and print media, the Ministry has simultaneously increased its public diplomacy initiatives, especially of the digital variety, resulting in a magnified impact in shaping public opinion and reaching out to a wider audience.

## Foreign Service Institute (FSI)

The year reported upon marked the beginning of implementation of the new Training Framework of the Ministry of External Affairs that was adopted in July 2013. Flowing out of the recommendations of the National Training Policy of 2012, the Training Framework aims to make training directly relevant to functional requirements by developing competencies and skills for effective discharge of duties and functions with the ultimate objective of improving service delivery. Training at different stages of a career is to be made mandatory.

With the above mandate, the Foreign Service Institute reviewed and revised both content and methodology of training programmes for Officer Trainees of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and introduced new levels of mid-career training for MEA officers. Training for Branch B of IFS was also revamped and intensified by introducing new elements in the training as also by including categories hitherto not covered such as Private Secretaries/PPSs/SPPSs, MTS/Chauffeurs, locally recruited staff in Missions abroad etc. Orientation training was also imparted to Deputationists in the Ministry for the first time.

Training capsules incorporated in their content recent directives from the Government including on State Specialization, Make In India campaign, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, simplification of forms and procedures etc. Further, the training content was taken to the reaches of officers/officials posted in Missions/Posts abroad through online platform of Webinar wherein remote participants could not only hear and see computer presentations but also contribute to the discussions by speaking over their microphones and showing their presentations over computer. Another innovation in training method was the rendering of training content in very flexible two-day per week capsules to ensure minimum disruption in the regular duties of officers. The introduction of Session Coordination by trainees wherein an officer or group of officers prepared detailed papers on a particular Session ensured maximum participation and involvement by the trainees. FSI on the whole adopted a

participant-centric approach, consulting the target group of trainees and seeking their inputs/ feedback to make the training more relevant to their functional requirements.

## Legal and Treaties

The Legal and Treaties Division participated actively during the current year's discussions in the United Nations General Assembly (Sixth Committee) and its various Sub-Committees, 25th Meeting of Legal Advisers of member states of United Nations, the International Institute for Unification of Law (UNIDROIT), the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HcCH), 2nd Legal review/vetting of India EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (Text); the United Nations Commission on International Trade (UNCITRAL); the AEAN Regional Forum Second Seminar on United Nations Convention on the Sea (UNCLOS), Ad hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to Study Issues Relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction New York, XXXVII-CEP XVII Meeting of the Antarctic Consultative Committee (ATCM), negotiations with the Europe Free Trade Association and Canada, meetings of the Contact Group on Piracy, disarmament, water resources, Humanitarian law and Human Rights issues. During the main part of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, the L&T Division prepared briefs on issues under consideration of the Special Committee for use by the Indian delegation in the Sixth Committee discussions.

This 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, civil nuclear cooperation, social security and extradition, mutual legal assistance and audio visual co-production. Further, this Division also provided its views on the issues relating to the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 by actively taking part in the Annual meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC).

This Division has launched a dedicated web module on the MEA website under the link Indian Treaties Database and the Treaties/Agreements/MoUs and other important matters entered into by the Government of the Republic of India with Foreign countries and they are now available in the public domain.

This Division has actively involved in arbitration on delimitation of maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal under Article 287 and Article 1 of Annex VII of United Nations Convention on the Law of

the Sea. The Arbitral Tribunal rendered its Award on 07 July 2014 at The Hague. Through this Award, maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh in the territorial sea, Exclusive Economic Zone, Continental Shelf and Continental shelf beyond 200 NM is concluded. Arbitral Award is legally binding and final on the Parties.

## **Electronic Governance and Information Technology**

E-Office was launched in the Ministry on 03 July 2014 with an objective to move towards less paper and more efficient office. The Ministry is in the process of developing web-based version of Integrated Mission Accounting Software (IMAS) which will lead to better financial planning and expenditure management. In view of the growing cyber security threats, Ministry continued to provide special emphasis on cyber security training to its officers and staff at Headquarters and officers going on posting abroad.

## **States**

In keeping with the Prime Minister's instructions and emphasis on coordination with States for further facilitation of their efforts to promote exports and tourism and attract more overseas investment and expertise, a separate Division – States Division, headed by a Joint Secretary - has been set up in the Ministry. It will coordinate facilitation of efforts in the aforementioned areas among Missions/ Posts abroad, Governments of States and Union Territories as well as foreign diplomatic and trade missions in India.

States and Union Territories will be assisted also by sharing with them, where required, experience and expertise in forming and fostering external linkages in the aforementioned areas.

Initial interaction of the States Division has elicited enthusiastic response from State governments for developing such cooperation. Valuable feedback received is being factored into action points in five key areas: commerce, culture, connectivity, community and capacity building.

## **Nalanda**

A major milestone was reached in the establishment of Nalanda University as an international institution of academic excellence during the year. Teaching in the School of Historical Studies and School of Ecology and Environment Studies commenced from leased premises in Rajgir on 01 September 2014 with 14 students and 8 faculty members. The External

Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the commencement of classes at the University on 19 September 2014 at a function, in Rajgir, attended by the Chief Minister of Bihar, political leaders, educationists, diplomats from East Asia Summit (EAS) countries and others.

The University plans to have five more Schools of Linguistics and Literature; Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions; Economics and Management; International Relations and Peace Studies; and Information Sciences and Technology. Teaching in all the schools is planned to commence by the academic year 2017-18. The University plans to have about 500 faculty/staff and offer post graduate and research degrees to around 2450 students. The Government allocated ₹2727 crores for its capital and recurring expenses till 2021-22.

The Ministry has been working closely with EAS and other partners to strengthen the international nature of the University. Government's offer of six scholarships to students from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam was recognized at the EAS Ministerial Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in August 2014. In October 2014, Vietnam became the 11th EAS country to sign the MoU on the Establishment of Nalanda University. Two non-EAS participating countries, Bangladesh and Bhutan, became signatories to the MoU in September and November 2014 respectively.

Australia provided a grant of AS\$ 1 million to establish a Chair in the School of Ecology and Environment Studies. Japan committed ODA loans for the improvement of the main approach roads to the University. Singapore has committed to the establishment of the Nalanda University Library. Earlier China, Thailand and Laos made contributions to the University. Japan, China and Republic of Korea have also proposed academic collaboration with the University.

M/s Vastu Shilpa Consultants were appointed as architects for the first phase of construction of University's main campus located in the vicinity of the ancient Nalanda University in May 2014. Preliminary work on the site is expected to commence in the last quarter of 2014-15. Several new Statutes were notified.

## **Initiatives of the New Government**

### **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**

Several activities were undertaken in the Ministry as well as in our Missions and Posts abroad in pursuance of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' aimed at highlighting the need for officials to

pay due attention to cleanliness as well as to be personally involved in fostering clean surroundings. These included weeding out of obsolete files/ papers/ furniture etc., and keeping the work place and toilets at the offices neat, tidy and clean. On 02 October 2014 the 'Swachh Bharat' pledge was administered to the Ministry officials. It was followed by shramdaan. Another shramdaan was undertaken by the Ministry officials on 06 December 2014. All Indian Missions/Posts abroad have also taken similar measures to ensure that their premises are maintained at enhanced levels of cleanliness befitting representational nature of our Missions/Posts abroad.

### **Adoption of International Day of Yoga by the 69th UNGA**

The 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted draft Resolution A/69/L.17 proposed by India under Agenda item 124: Global Health and Foreign Policy, with a record number of 177 countries co-sponsoring it on 11 December 2014. The Resolution establishes the International Day of Yoga for observance by the United Nations on 21 June each year. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had first made this proposal during his maiden address during the High Level Segment of the 69th UN General Assembly on 27 September 2014. Within 75 days of Prime Minister making the proposal, India was able to have the resolution passed. This is for the first time that such an initiative has been proposed and implemented by any country in the UN General Assembly in such a short period of time.





*President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and the Chief Guest US President Mr Barack Obama witnessing the 66th Republic Day Parade 2015, in New Delhi on 26 January 2015.*



*Prime Minister with ASEAN leaders during the 12th ASEAN-India Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12 November 2014.*



*President with King of Bhutan during a Signing of Memorandum of Understanding Between The Royal Government of Bhutan and The Government of The Republic of India on The Establishment of Nalanda University at Tashichhodzong, at Thimpu, Bhutan on 07 November 2014.*



*Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of State Summit 2014 takes place in Dushanbe.*



*Minister of State for External Affairs meeting with Foreign Minister Arnold J. Nicholson of Jamaica in Kingston. High Commissioner of India to Jamaica, Pratap Singh is also seen in the picture on 19 February 2015.*



*Minister of State for External Affairs meeting with Foreign Minister of Dominican Republic, Andres Navarro Garcia, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on February 16 2015.*

## Afghanistan

India has a close strategic partnership with Afghanistan, underpinned 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 and 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 attempted to help 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 involves pledges of over US \$ 2 billion. India's assistance programme is spread across Afghanistan and spans almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities. Despite daunting logistical and security challenges, two major Government of India 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 Chimtala. 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 and their completion is expected shortly.

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

- President Mr Hamid Karzai visited India on 26 May 2014 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister (PM) Shri Narendra Modi.
- Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh visited Herat and Kabul on 30-31 May 2014. During this visit, she held discussions with Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Ershad Ahmadi and called on President Mr Hamid Karzai, Governor of Herat province and Afghan NSA.
- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Kabul on 10 September 2014. EAM called on Afghan President Mr Hamid Karzai and met Afghan Foreign Minister Mr Zarar Ahmed Osmani during this visit, apart from inaugurating the new chancery building of the Indian Embassy in Kabul.
- Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari led an Indian delegation to Kabul on 29 September 2014 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Afghan President Dr Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.
- National Security Advisor (NSA) Shri Ajit Doval visited Kabul on 22 October 2014 as PM's Special Envoy and during this visit, NSA called on Afghan President Dr Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdullah Abdullah besides holding delegation level talks with Afghan NSA Mr Hanif Atmar.
- Prime Minister met Afghan President Dr Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit in Kathmandu on 26 November 2014.
- Minister of State for External Affairs, MoS (VKS) Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.) attended the International Conference on Afghanistan that was held in London on 03-04 December 2014.

India is actively participating in Heart of Asia- Istanbul process for regional cooperation on Afghanistan. MoS (VKS) represented India at the 4th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia process in Beijing on 30-31 October 2014. Under this process, India is leading the 'Trade, Commerce & Investment Opportunities' Confidence Building Measure.

Major trade promotion activities during this period were:

- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in association with Indian Embassy in Kabul, Taskforce for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO), USA and Global Network, a private consulting firm, organized a 'Road Show on Investment Opportunities in Afghanistan' on 15 April 2014 at

Ahmedabad. This event was organized under the aegis of the Trade, Commerce and Investment Opportunities (TCI) Confidence Building Measure envisaged under the Heart of Asia Process for regional cooperation on Afghanistan.

- The Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA) signed two MoUs with Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and India's Importers Association (IIA) at New Delhi on 18-19 June 2014.
- An Afghan delegation led by Mr Jamil Hares, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and representatives of Afghan mining companies attended the 7th "India Mining Summit – Technology Infusion & Sustainability Issues" organized by ASSOCHAM on 08 August 2014 in New Delhi. The Afghan delegation presented the investment opportunities in the mining sector of Afghanistan.
- The Indian Embassy in Kabul on 25 September 2014 organized a 'Make in India' campaign which was attended by more than 80 top ranking Afghan businessmen and members from the Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The event started with welcome remarks by Ambassador Shri Amar Sinha followed by presentation on FDI opportunities in India and the live telecast of Prime Minister's address.
- An 'Afghanistan Investment Forum' was organized in Mumbai on 01-02 October 2014 by the Global Network, a private consulting firm based in Ahmedabad with the support of Navi Mumbai Chamber of Commerce and TFBSO, USA. The event was followed by B2B meetings.
- FICCI and Afghan Chamber of Commerce & Industries (ACCI) in collaboration with the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Indian Embassy in Kabul organized India Product Show on 02-04 November 2014 at Intercontinental Hotel, Kabul. The exhibition comprised of 43 stalls from both countries (28 Indian and 15 Afghan exhibitors). Indian exhibitors showcased pharmaceutical equipment, irrigation machinery, plastic, IT products, cosmetic products, electronic equipment and machinery, automobile (engine, spare parts), industrials products, education and hospitality segments.
- 24 Afghan companies attended the 34th India International Trade Fair (IITF 2014) and showcased their products such as saffron, dried fruits, carpet, jewellery and

handicrafts from 14 – 27 November 2014 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

## Bangladesh

The period under report was characterized by the landmark visit of the President of Bangladesh Mr Mohammad Abdul Hamid to India from 18-23 December 2014, which was the first visit by Bangladesh's ceremonial Head of State after a gap of 42 years, as the last such visit took place in December 1972. While in India, the Bangladesh President met with President, Vice President, Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha. He visited places of historical and cultural importance like Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Ajmer, Jaipur and Kolkata. The visit of the Bangladesh President contributed to further strengthening and expanding the close bilateral relations between our two countries.

During the year, relations between India and Bangladesh were further strengthened through the broadening of cooperation in a wide range of fields and implementation of the decisions taken in subsequent Joint Consultative Commission Meeting of February 2013. The India-Bangladesh relationship has become truly multifaceted, encompassing a wide range of areas including trade and investment, security, connectivity, border management, water, power, shipping, renewable energy, development cooperation, art and culture, people to people exchanges, human resource development, amongst others. The significant developments during the year included the visit of President of Bangladesh to India in December 2014, visit of External Affairs Minister on her first foreign visit to Dhaka in June 2014, upgradation of Bangladesh Visa Office in Agartala to Assistant High Commission.

High level visits from both sides characterized the bilateral relations between the two countries. After the general elections in India in May 2014, Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury of Bangladesh, on behalf of Prime Minister Ms. Sheikh Hasina, participated in the oath taking ceremony of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Following this, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Bangladesh on her first stand-alone overseas visit as the External Affairs Minister from 25-27 June 2014. Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (Independent Charge), External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd.) accompanied by Chief Minister of Meghalaya Dr Mukul Sangma and Commerce and Industry Minister of Tripura Shri Tapan Chakraborty visited Bangladesh on 24 August 2014 to attend the India-Bangladesh Business Conclave. Shri Anil Goswami, Union Home Secretary (HS)



*Prime Minister meets President Dr Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan on the sidelines of 18th SAARC Summit at Kathmandu on 26 November 2014.*



*External Affairs Minister calls on President Mr Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan in Kabul*



*Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meets President Mr Abdul Hamid of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in New Delhi on 19 December 2014.*



*Prime Minister meets Prime Minister Ms Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh on the sidelines of 18th SAARC Summit at Kathmandu on 26 November 2014.*

along with a twelve member inter ministerial delegation including Shri D. K. Pathak DG, BSF visited Bangladesh from 02-04 September 2014. Shri Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Health & Family Welfare visited Bangladesh from 08-12 September 2014 to participate in the 32nd meeting of the Ministers of Health of WHO South-East Asia Region and 67th Session of WHO Regional Conference for South-East Asia Region. Two Indian Parliamentary delegations, one in September and another in November 2014 visited Bangladesh to attend International Conferences organized by Bangladesh Parliament with IPU, Geneva and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and IMF respectively.

Important visits from Bangladesh to India included a Parliamentary delegation visit in November 2014, State Minister for Health & Family Welfare Mr Zahid Maleque visit to New Delhi to attend the 6th World Ayurveda Congress from 07-09 November 2014, Dr Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Adviser to Prime Minister of Bangladesh visit to New Delhi to attend the 7th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) from 05-07 November 2014, Mr Nurul Islam Nahid, Education Minister of Bangladesh visit to India to attend the 2nd SAARC Education Ministers Meeting in New Delhi from 30-31 October 2014, Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker, Jatiya Sangsad visit to India to attend the CPA Workshop on Parliamentary Agriculture Committees in Chandigarh from 29-31 October 2014 and to attend a conclave titled "Vision 2034" being organized by Delhi Policy Group from 16-17 October 2014, Mr Hasanul Haq Inu, MP, Information Minister visit to India to attend the Holy Yellow Robes Offering Ceremony at Bangladesh Buddhist Monastery, Bodhgaya, Bihar from 30 October 2014 – 02 November 2014, State Minister for Power, Energy & Mineral Resources visit to New Delhi to attend the 5th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Energy Ministers Meeting from 16-17 October 2014, Mr Asaduzzaman Noor, Minister of Cultural Affairs visit to New Delhi to participate in the Third Meeting of SAARC Cultural Ministers from 24-26 September 2014, Air Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari, Chief of the Air Staff, Bangladesh Air force Headquarters from 17-20 September 2014, Mr Mikail Shipar, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment from 02-04 September 2014. Maj. Gen Aziz Ahmed, DG, Border Guard Bangladesh from 20-24 August 2014. Minister for Posts and Telecommunications & Information Technology Mr Abdul Latif Siddique from 07-08 August 2014.

The institutional mechanisms in place for enhancing the bilateral cooperation between India and Bangladesh were held

periodically. The third meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) was held in New Delhi on 20 September 2014, wherein, the entire gamut of bilateral relations between the two countries was reviewed. During the JCC, Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on co-operation on Nalanda University with India. The 14th round of Home Secretary level talks were held in Dhaka from 02-04 September 2014 covering wide ranging issues related to security, cooperation, border management, IIGs, trafficking, implementation of various bilateral treaties and repatriation of wanted persons etc. The meeting made significant headway in pushing forward bilateral cooperation in several areas of concern. The 39th Border Co-ordination Conference between the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh was held in New Delhi from 20-25 August 2014.

The Arbitration Tribunal for Delimitation of Maritime Boundary between Bangladesh and India, established under Annex VII of the UN Convention of Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), rendered its award on 07 July 2014. The settlement of the maritime boundary will further enhance mutual understanding and goodwill between India and Bangladesh by bringing to closure a long pending issue. This paves the way for the economic development of this part of the Bay of Bengal, which will be beneficial to both countries.

The Institutional Framework for facilitating Trade and Economic Cooperation was further strengthened this year. An MoU on Cooperation between Indian Footwear Components Manufacturers Association (IFCOMA) and Leather goods and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB) was signed in Dhaka which provides for frequent interactions, exchange of information and development of healthy business relationship between the two Associations. The MoU is expected to foster strategic alliances (joint ventures) and also explore possibilities of direct investments in the Footwear and Component sector with an aim of providing impetus to bilateral growth.

Indian exports to Bangladesh rose sharply from \$ 4.7 billion in 2012-13 to \$ 6.03 billion in 2013-14, an increase of 26.35% over the previous year. Bangladesh currently is India's largest trading partner among SAARC countries. The India-Bangladesh Inter-Governmental Railway Meeting (IGRM) took place in Dhaka on 21-23 April 2014 which undertook a complete review of railway cooperation between the two countries and ways and means to improve connectivity and services. These, inter alia, included measures to make the travel by Maitree Express more convenient and comfortable, reopening of old rail connectivity points between the two

countries such as Birol (Bangladesh) – Radhikapur (India), Chilahati (Bangladesh) – Haldibari (India) and construction of new connectivity points such as Akhaura-Agartala. The two delegations also discussed freight train operations and the feasibility of introducing container train services between India and Bangladesh.

The fourth tranche of USD 25 million out of the USD 200 million grant committed by the Government of India to Bangladesh in 2012 was paid to the Bangladesh side. With this, India has completed the disbursement of USD 175 million grant assistance to Bangladesh. Steady progress has been achieved in the utilization of the USD 800 million Line of Credit extended to Bangladesh, which is the largest single line of credit given by India to any country. The 15 ongoing projects are in advanced stages of implementation.

As a part of India's initiatives to engage with our neighbouring countries to develop Science & Technology partnerships, Government of India has launched India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF) Programme for researchers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka to work in Indian universities and research Institutions. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed towards implementation of the Fellowship scheme for Bangladesh researchers from 2015 onwards. This would provide opportunity for up to 10 Bangladesh scientists to undertake research in Indian R & D institutions up to 6 months.

India celebrated the Golden Jubilee of India's flagship international development cooperation programme, the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), where the President of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest. Almost 800 ITEC scholars have received training in India since 2007. The number of ITEC scholarships has been doubled from 100 every year in 2007 to 215 in 2014. Last year, a record 185 scholars went to India. In addition, about 200 scholars under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan have gone for training since 2007.

BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat was officially inaugurated in Dhaka in September 2014. India assured Bangladesh of its commitment to BIMSTEC and would continue to extend all cooperation to the process and to the Secretariat. It provides a substantive orientation to the development of the North Eastern region of India and links South Asia to South East Asia.

The 40th Border Co-ordination Conference co-chaired by DG Border Security Force of India and DG Border Guards

Bangladesh of Bangladesh was held in Dhaka from 26-29 December 2014.

The trade between our two countries has further got a fillip by opening of border haats. Bangladesh approved opening of two Border Haats at Srinagar and Kamalasagar in Tripura. Work was in progress at Srinagar (in Feni district) and was inaugurated on 13 January 2015. In principle approval has been given by Bangladesh side for two more Border Haats in Tripura – Palbasti and Kamalpur. 22 Border Haats have been proposed along Meghalaya border in May 2013 of which 4 have been approved by Bangladesh and work is likely to begin soon. The movement of 10,000 MT of rice to Tripura from Kolkata through the Protocol Routes by barges up to Ashuganj and subsequently by road to Agartala was undertaken in two phases of 5000 MT each and was completed in November 2014.

A Joint Technical Committee had been formed to firm up the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Coastal Shipping and the standard of vessels to be permitted, which met in Dhaka for the second time in June 2014. Bangladesh side agreed to classification and insurance cover conforming to the notification of River Sea Vessels (RSV)-IV classification norms of DG, Shipping India Order 18 of 2013. Bangladesh agreed to examine 18 Bangladesh ships for preliminary compliance with the RSV-III/IV norms after which the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) would complete the certification process. WAPCOS consultant appointed to prepare the Detailed Project Report for Ashuganj Inland Container River Port made a presentation on 16 June 2014 to members of Ministry of Shipping and Bangladesh Inland Waterways Transport Authority (BIWTA) in Dhaka. Based on the comments and feedback, a revised final DPR was prepared and submitted on 16 November 2014.

In the last Inter-Railway meeting between India and Bangladesh Railway delegations held in Kolkata on 26-27 October 2014, it was decided to increase the frequency of Maitree Express from two days to three days in a week. The same has been implemented from January 2015. The issue of passenger train service between Kolkata-Khulna and better immigration facilities was also discussed in the meeting. The joint route survey for Guwahati-Dhaka Bus service through Shillong-Dawki-Sylhet was held from 11-13 December 2014. The joint team expressed the feasibility of the route for the bus service.

India and Bangladesh had signed an MoU for implementation of Small Developmental Projects in Bangladesh on 11 April 2013. ₹ 45.44 crores [Tk. 58.24 crores – July ORE] have been

sanctioned for FY 2014-15 for implementation of Small Development Projects. Projects worth Tk. 60 crore have been identified in Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet and are under process of implementation. During the period under report, following projects have been completed:

Supply of 400 Deep Tube-Wells to Niamatpur, Porsha & Sapahar Upazila, Naogaon District was completed and the inauguration ceremony was held on 05 May 2014. Construction of Manipuri Cultural Complex at Kamalganj, Maulvibazar and the inauguration ceremony was held on 03 January 2015. Construction of Hindi Department at University of Dhaka completed. Construction of (only ground floor) of three-storied dormitory building (Sadhu Bhaban) at Durgabari Mondir, Mymensingh with inauguration in January 2015.

Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) signed a contract with Bangladesh Power Development Board to construct a 225 MW combined cycle (dual-fuel) power plant at Sikalbaha in Patiya of Chittagong on 24 August 2014. The estimated cost of this project is US \$ 202.22 million. This is the first Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract procured by L&T in Bangladesh. L&T is already working on 360 MW Bheramara with Marubeni Corporation and the negotiations are going on with Marubeni Corporation for another 400 MW project at Bibiyana.

An MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy was signed on 09 September 2014 during the visit of Health Minister to Bangladesh. Cooperation in this area needs to be intensified in the coming years.

Defence Cooperation between India and Bangladesh surged ahead with India offering 123 courses to Bangladesh Defence personnel and availing 14 courses offered by the Bangladesh side. Joint exercises of Army and International Sailing Regatta were also conducted during the period under report. National Defence College Study Tours were performed by both sides. 2nd Navy to Navy Staff Talks and 5th Army to Army Staff Talks were held in New Delhi in April and September 2014 respectively.

The Joint Study Group (JSG) Meeting of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) was held in Cox's Bazaar on 17-18 December 2014.

India celebrated the Golden Jubilee of India's flagship international development cooperation programme, the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme

(ITEC), where the President of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest. Almost 800 ITEC scholars have received training in India since 2007. The number of ITEC scholarships has been doubled from 100 every year in 2007 to 215 in 2014, out of which 160 have been utilized till 31 December 2014. Last year, a record 185 scholars went to India. In addition, about 200 scholars under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan have gone for training since 2007.

With effect from 04 January 2015, the Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata 'Maitree Express' has started running one additional round trip each week. With this, the 'Maitree Express' now runs thrice a week. This arrangement will be in force till 04 July 2015 after which a new schedule will come into effect from 05 July 2015.

Inauguration Ceremony of the construction of Manipuri Cultural Complex at Kamalganj, Maulvibazar, funded by the Government of India, was held on 03 January 2015.

Several other projects funded by the Government of India are expected to be completed in the last quarter of the current financial year / next financial year.

An invitation for the Head of Bangladesh NCC (BNCC) to witness NCC Republic Day Camp from 25-30 January 2015 and one officer and 12 cadets (six boys and six girls) to participate in Republic Day Camp from 15-29 January 2015 has been extended to BNCC. Indian Naval Band scheduled to visit Bangladesh from 24-29 January 2015 as part of Republic Day Celebration. Transportation of Dakota ac gifted to Bangladesh as memorabilia is scheduled in the first week of January 2015. A 16 member delegation will also accompany to reassemble and installation of the ac at BAF museum. Proposal to hold the Inaugural IAF-BAF Air Force to Air Force Staff Talks in New Delhi is likely to take place in month of February 2015.

An invitation has been extended to the Bangladesh Air Force to participate in the International Aerospace, Defence & Civil Aviation Exposition 2015 to be held from 18-22 February 2015 at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru

## Bhutan

India- Bhutan relations are characterised by mutual trust and close understanding.

Bhutanese PM Mr Tshering Tobgay, accompanied by FM Mr Rinzin Dorje, visited India from 25-28 May 2014 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Both Prime Ministers also held bilateral discussions on 27 May 2014.

Prime Minister, accompanied by External Affairs Minister, paid his first visit abroad to Bhutan on 15-16 June 2014. Coming soon after the visit by SAARC leaders to India for Prime Minister's swearing-in ceremony in May 2014, Prime Minister's visit to one of our closest and friendliest South Asian neighbours was symbolic, reflecting the high priority accorded to our immediate neighbourhood. Prime Minister was warmly greeted by the Bhutanese public all along the 50km route from Paro to Thimphu on arrival and departure. During the visit, Prime Minister met the King of Bhutan, the Fourth King, Prime Minister Mr Tshering Tobgay and Leader of the Opposition Dr Pema Gyamtsho. Prime Minister addressed the Joint sitting of the Parliament, laid the Foundation stone of the 600 MW Kholongchu hydroelectric project, and inaugurated the Supreme Court building, a ₹ 79 crore GOI-assistance project. The King of Bhutan and PM Mr Tshering Tobgay hosted banquets for Prime Minister. Prime Minister's interactions covered the monarchy, the elected government, the legislature and the judiciary. During the visit, both sides recalled the unique and special nature of their relations. Prime Minister reassured Bhutan that Government of India will fulfil its commitment towards the 11th five year plan of Bhutan from 2013-18, comprising ₹ 4500 crore Plan assistance and ₹ 500 crore towards the Economic Stimulus Plan. Prime Minister conveyed our decisions to exempt Bhutan from quantitative restrictions on certain essential food items and to double the Nehru-Wangchuck scholarship to ₹ 2 crore per year; and announced the gifting of an e-library to each of the 20 districts of Bhutan.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State visit to Bhutan on 07-08 November 2014 at the invitation of the King of Bhutan His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. During the visit, the President held wide ranging discussions on bilateral and regional issues with the King, the Fourth King and Prime Minister of Bhutan. He delivered an address on 'India- Bhutan relations' at Convention Centre, Thimphu. During the visit, the President announced the doubling of Ambassador's scholarship to ₹ 2 crores per annum. He launched three GOI assisted projects in Bhutan, viz., i) the School Reform Programme (₹ 348.72 crores), ii) the double laning of the East-West Highway (₹ 463.657 crores) and iii) the Jigme Wangchuck Power Training Institute (₹ 33.7crores). During the visit, Bhutan signed the MoU on the establishment of the Nalanda University, becoming only the second country after Bangladesh, outside the East Asia Summit to do so. In addition, 3 MoUs in the field of education were also signed between the: i) Royal University of Bhutan and the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, ii) Royal

University of Bhutan and the National Innovation Foundation of India and iii) the Royal Civil Services Commission and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Prime Minister met Bhutanese PM Mr Tshering Tobgay on the sidelines of 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu on 26 November 2014 and discussed issues of bilateral importance. Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr Tshering Tobgay paid an official visit to India from 10-18 January 2015. He was accompanied by the Foreign Minister, Economic Affairs Minister and senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan. PM Mr Tshering Tobgay visited Ahmedabad to participate in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015, where he met with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He called on President of India and met several Cabinet Ministers in New Delhi. PM Mr Tshering Tobgay also visited Varanasi and Bodhgaya.

Prime Minister met Bhutanese PM Mr Tshering Tobgay on the sidelines of 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu on 26 November 2014 and discussed issues of bilateral importance. During the meeting, Prime Minister invited the Bhutanese PM to visit India to participate in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015 to be held in Ahmedabad in January 2015.

The 9th India- Bhutan Border Management and Security meeting, headed by Bhutanese Home Secretary and Secretary Border Management, MHA was held in New Delhi in June 2014.

India continues to be the largest trade and development partner of Bhutan. Releases under GOI's commitment of ₹ 4500 crore towards the 11th Five Year Plan (2013-18) of Bhutan, were disbursed in a timely manner, for which PM Mr Tshering Tobgay thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during their meeting in November 2014. 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), which are expected to be commissioned in 2017-18. Earlier, on 22 April 2014, India signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement on four Joint Venture Hydroelectric Projects with Bhutan and implementation of the 600 MW Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan.

The 13th Empowered Joint Group (EJG), which monitors the implementation of HEPs in Bhutan, met in September 2014 in New Delhi. Bhutanese Economic Affairs Minister Mr Norbu Wangchuk chaired the 13th EJG meeting.

The 3rd India- Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks for the 11th Five Year Plan (2013-18) were held in September

2014. 48 new projects in diverse areas such as agriculture and livestock development, roads and bridges, health, urban development, conservation of culture, Information and communication technology and human resource development etc. were agreed upon.

The 5th edition of Mountain Echoes Literary Festival, an initiative of India- Bhutan Foundation in association with Siyahi, a literary consultancy, was held in Thimphu from 21-24 May 2014. Literary and the political personalities of both the countries participated in the event.

A 12-member all-party delegation representing the five political parties of Bhutan visited India from 13-20 December 2014. During the visit, the delegation met with leaders of major political parties in India, interacted with the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies (BPST) and the Election Commission of India, and visited Gujarat to witness implementation of development programmes relating to irrigation, industry, health and communications.

Close cooperation in educational and cultural field continued. GOI is committed to extending ₹ 55 crores as undergraduate scholarship to Bhutanese students in the 11th Five Year Plan. In 2014, the Nehru- Wangchuck and Ambassador's Scholarships were each doubled to ₹ 2 crore per annum.

## China

The Chinese leadership exhibited a willingness to reach out to the newly-formed government in India. Premier Mr Li Keqiang initiated a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 29 May 2014 and expressed his government's desire to establish a 'robust partnership' with India. Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi also conveyed a congratulatory message to EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj upon her assuming office. Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi, travelled to New Delhi on 08-09 June 2014 in the capacity of Special Envoy of the President of China. The objective of the visit was to establish contact with the new Government of India and to provide further momentum to the India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. EAM held extensive talks with FM Mr Wang Yi on 08 June 2014. FM Mr Wang Yi also called on the President and the Prime Minister and met with the NSA. EAM had a meeting with the Chinese FM Mr Wang Yi on the sidelines of ARF in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 09 August 2014. They reviewed the movement on bilateral relations since their earlier meeting in New Delhi in June 2014. They also met on the sidelines of UNGA meeting in New York in September 2014.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping on 14 July 2014 in Fortaleza, Brazil on the sidelines of the 6th BRICS Summit. The discussion centered on all aspects of the bilateral agenda as well as on regional and global issues. Prime Minister also met Premier Mr Li Keqiang on 13 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw on the sidelines of East Asia Summit meeting.

Mr Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China paid a State visit to India (Ahmedabad-New Delhi) from 17-19 September 2014. During the visit, President Mr Xi Jinping met with President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and held talks with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. During the visit of Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping, a total of 16 agreements were signed, which are: 1. MoU on Opening a New Route for Indian Pilgrimage (Kailash Mansarovar Yatra) to the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, 2. MoU on strengthening cooperation in Railways, 3. Action Plan on strengthening cooperation in Railways, 4. Five year Trade and Economic Development Plan, 5. Agreed Minutes of the Tenth Session of India-China Joint Economic Group, 6. Agreement on Audio-Visual Co-production, 7. Agreement on mutual administrative assistance and co-operation in Customs matters, 8. MoU on Cooperation in the Peaceful use of Space, 9. MoU on Strengthening the Exchange and Cooperation between Cultural Institutions, 10. MoU on Cooperation between National Book Trust of the Republic of India and the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of The People's Republic of China, 11. Work Plan on Drug Administration and Cooperation, 12. Agreement on establishing Sister City relationship between Mumbai and Shanghai, 13. Agreement on establishing Sister City relationship between Ahmedabad and Guangzhou, 14. Agreement on establishing Sister Province/State relationship between Gujarat and Guangdong, 15. MoU on supporting the setting up of industrial parks in Maharashtra and 16. MoU on supporting the setting up of industrial parks in Gujarat.

At the invitation of the Vice President of China, the Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari, paid an official visit to China from 26-30 June 2014. The Vice President held bilateral discussions at Beijing on 30 June 2014 with his counterpart, Vice President Mr Li Yuanchao of China and called on President Mr Xi Jinping. He attended events to mark the 60th anniversary of 'Panchsheel' at Beijing on 28-29 June 2014. MoU on Cooperation on Industrial Parks in India, Implementation Plan for Provision of Hydrological Information of the Yarlung Zangbu/ Brahmaputra River in Flood Season by China to India and MoU concerning

communication and cooperation of training in the area of Capacity Building of Public Officials were signed during the visit. 'Encyclopaedia of India-China Cultural Contacts' was released in the presence of the two Vice Presidents.

The two sides have established a Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) Mechanism. The 3rd SED was convened in Beijing on 18 March 2014. Both delegations had discussions on bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation and on the regional and global economic situation with a view to enhancing macro-economic policy coordination and to join hands to address issues and challenges. Bilateral cooperation in sectors like railways infrastructure, information technology, energy, and finance was emphasized. The 10th Meeting of JEG was held in Beijing on 02 September 2014. The Indian delegation was led by Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, MoS (Independent Charge) Commerce and Industries. The two sides discussed reduction of duties on Indian cotton and cotton yarn and the Five-Year Trade and Economic Development Plan was finalized for signing during President Mr Xi Jinping's visit. Agreed Minutes of the 10th JEG Meeting were also signed during the visit.

India and China have appointed Special Representatives (SRs) to explore from the political perspective the framework for a boundary settlement. There have been 17 rounds of talks between the Special Representatives (SRs) of India and China on the Boundary Question so far. Mr Yang Jiechi, Chinese State Councillor and SR visited New Delhi for 17th round of SR Talks with Shri Shivshankar Menon, the then National Security Advisor 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. An Agreement on the Establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was signed during the 15th Round of SR talks in New Delhi in January 2012. A meeting of WMCC was held on 17-18 October 2014 in New Delhi.

Chief of Army Staff Gen. Bikram Singh visited China from 02-05 July 2014 in his capacity as Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee. Fourth joint military exercise on counter-terrorism 'Hand-in-Hand' was held near Pune, India from 17-25 November 2014. Foreign Secretary visited China on 13-14 April 2014 to hold 6th India- China Strategic Dialogue with Vice Foreign Minister Mr Liu Zhenmin on 14 April 2014. She called on Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi and also attended a Round-table interaction on India- China relations at China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) on the same day. In

2006, the two countries established an Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-border Rivers (ELM). The 8th Meeting of the India-China ELM was held in New Delhi in June 2014. The first meeting of India-China Joint Working Group on Information Communication Technology was held in New Delhi from 14-18 December 2014. 7th India-China Financial Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 19 December 2014.

India and China have a Youth Delegation Exchange programme. A 100 member Chinese youth delegation visited India in September 2014. A 100 member Indian youth delegation visited China from 25 November 2014 to 02 December 2014 under annual youth exchange programme. The two countries also have an Exchange Programme between MEA and International Department of Communist Party of China. Mr Qiang Wei, Party Secretary, CPC Jiangxi Provincial Committee visited India under this Programme in November 2014.

External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj visited China during 01-02 February 2015 to attend the bilateral meetings with Chinese Foreign Minister and trilateral meeting between Russia, India and China.

## **Maldives**

President Mr Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom visited India on 26-27 May 2014 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. President Mr Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom met President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and held bilateral discussions with Prime Minister during the visit. Prime Minister conveyed to President Mr Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom the high importance attached by India to its relations with the Maldives, and pledged to work towards further enhancing bilateral cooperation. Prime Minister noted that the two countries had a shared recognition that the security interests of both countries were interlinked and agreed that each side would continue to be sensitive to the concerns of the other. It was agreed to take measures to cooperate in the petroleum, tourism and health sectors.

Prime Minister also met President Mr Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom on the sidelines of the 18th SAARC Summit on 26 November 2014 in Kathmandu. Prime Minister announced special oil arrangements for Maldives during the SAARC Summit.

External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj (EAM) met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives, Ms. Dunya Maumoon on 03 November 2014 during her transit halt at Male. EAM also met her in New York on the sidelines of the

69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 2014.

National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Doval visited Maldives on 02-03 December 2014. He called on President Mr Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom and met Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Dunya Maumoon, Defence and National Security Minister, Mr Mohamed Nazim, former President Mr Abdul Gayoom, former President Mr Mohamed Nasheed and leader of Jumhoorie Party Mr Gasim Ibrahim.

Minister of Defence and National Security, Mr Mohamed Nazim visited India from 20-22 October 2014. He met EAM, the then Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, the then Health and Family Welfare Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary, Smt Sujatha Singh.

Deputy National Security Advisor, Dr Arvind Gupta, led the Indian delegation for the 4th Deputy NSA level meeting of Trilateral Initiative on cooperation in maritime security between India, Maldives and Sri Lanka held on 23 September 2014 in Male'.

A 4-member delegation from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) visited Maldives from 14-20 August 2014 on a request made by the Government of Maldives to conduct a study for restoration of ancient mosques in Maldives. The ASI delegation held discussions with the officials from Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Department of Heritage of the Government of Maldives.

The then Chief of the Army Staff General Bikram Singh visited Maldives from 08-10 May 2014. He called on President and held meetings with Minister of Defence and National Security, Mr Mohamed Nazim and Chief of Defence Force, Major General Ahmed Shiyam.

Minister for Islamic Affairs, Dr Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed, visited India from 10-18 April 2014. During the visit, Dr Shaheem called on the Vice President, Shri M. Hamid Ansari and met the then Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Dr K. Rahman Khan. The Delegation also visited various Institutes of Islamic learning in India.

In response to a request received from the Government of Maldives on the night of 04 December 2014 to provide drinking water to Male', Government of India airlifted drinking water to Male' on an urgent basis. The first air force plane landed in Male' with bottled drinking water on the afternoon of 05 December 2014. The air effort was

supplemented by INS Sukanya and INS Deepak both of which have desalination plants on board. The timely assistance provided by Government of India averted a major humanitarian crisis in Male'.

The Embassy of India in Kiev evacuated 18 Maldivian students from Lugansk in the eastern part of Ukraine on 04-05 June 2014 on a request received from the Government of Maldives.

The Government of India funded project for renovation of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) in Male' started on 18 May 2014. The project involves renovation of wards, ICU, operation theatres, labour room, emergency rooms and complete replacement of roofing, ceiling, fire systems and wiring of the building.

Construction of the first phase of the Composite Training Centre for Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) commenced in August 2014. Government of India has agreed to extend financial assistance of US\$ 9.08 million for Phase-I of the project, which is expected to be completed by April 2015.

The Indian Coast Guard conducted the twelfth edition of the joint exercise named "DOSTI-XII" with the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) and the Sri Lankan Coast Guard in Maldives from 28-31 October 2014. Two Indian ships, ICGS Samar and ICGS Rajdoot along with a Dornier aircraft, took part in the exercise.

Indian Army and MNDF Marine Corps conducted 'Ekuverin', a joint training exercise from 17-30 November 2014 in Maldives. A 45 member team of Indian Army undertook the exercise with MNDF Marines.

EEZ surveillance by Indian Navy ships and aircraft were conducted on a monthly basis. Indian Naval Ships Koswari, Trikanth, Sukanya, Sumedha, Kabra and Dornier aircrafts visited Maldives during the period and undertook surveillance with MDNF.

Specialist doctors from the Indian Defence Forces conducted two medical camps in Maldives in June 2014 and November 2014. More than 3000 Maldivians attended and benefited from these free camps, which were conducted in various atolls of the country.

## Myanmar

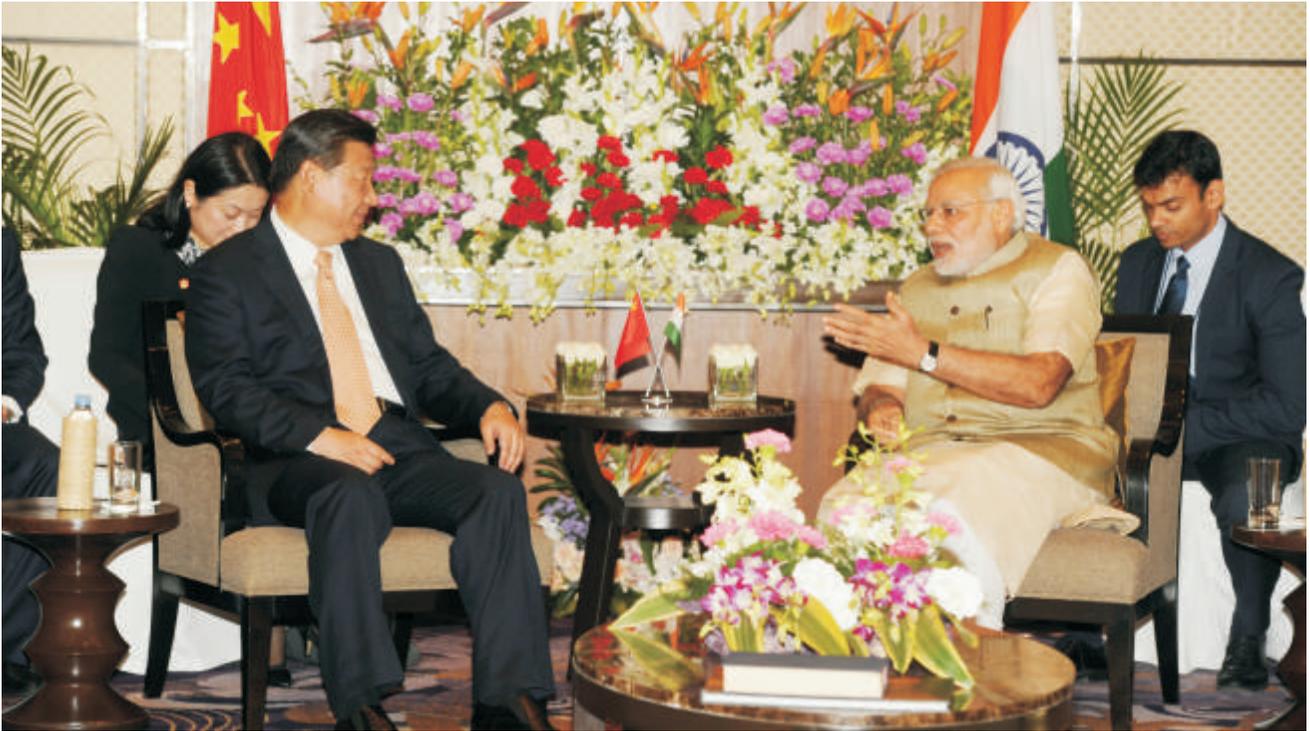
There were two Prime Ministerial visits to Myanmar in 2014. Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh visited



*Bhutan PM Mr Tshering Tobgay's visit to India in May 2014 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Government led by PM Shri Narendra Modi*



*Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi of China with External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi on 08 June 2014.*



*President of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping with Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in Ahmedabad on 17 September 2014.*



*Prime Minister meets President Mr Abdulla Yameen of Maldives on the sidelines of 18th SAARC Summit at Kathmandu (26 November 2014).*

Myanmar in March 2014 to attend the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit and had discussions with President Mr U Thein Sein and Chairperson of National League of Democracy (NLD) and Opposition Leader Ms. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Myanmar from 11-13 November 2014 to attend the ASEAN-India Summit and the 9th East Asia Summit. During the visit, he met President Mr U Thein Sein and Ms. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Myanmar from 08-11 August 2014 to attend the 4th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the 21st ASEAN Regional Forum which was followed by official bilateral visit. EAM discussed entire gamut of bilateral relations with Foreign Minister Mr U Wunna Maung Lwin and called on President Mr U Thein Sein and Speaker of the Union Parliament of Myanmar Mr Thura U Shwe Mann.

Interaction was held amongst the political leadership of bordering states of India and Myanmar. The Chin State Chief Minister Mr Hong Ngai accompanied by a 38 member trade and cultural delegation visited Manipur from 20-23 November 2014 to attend annual Sangai festival of Manipur. The Sagaing Region Chief Minister Mr U Thar Aye and the Kachin State Chief Minister Mr U Lajon Ngan Sai led 10 member delegation to attend the annual Hornbill festival of Nagaland. The Delegation also visited Assam and Meghalaya where they had interaction with Chief Minister of Assam and Meghalaya besides civil society, educational institutions and businessmen.

Vice President (1) Dr Sai Mauk Kham led a 35 member delegation on an official visit to India from 19-23 January 2015. The Vice President (1) accompanied by Union Minister of Construction Mr U Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Culture Ms. Daw Sandar Khin, Minister of Transport Chin State Mr U Ngun San Aung and Minister for Social Affairs Sagaing Region Dr Myint Thein besides other high ranking officials. During his visit, he called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and held bilateral discussions with Vice-President Shri M. Hamid Ansari.

## **Interaction at Institutionalised Mechanisms**

14th Foreign Office Consultations at the level of Foreign Secretary were held on 23 July 2014 in New Delhi. 19th

National Level Meeting at the level of Home Secretary was held from 17-19 November 2014 in Yangon. 5th Regional Border Committee Meeting at the level of Army Commander was held on 25 July 2014 at Leimakhong, Manipur.

3rd meeting of the India-Myanmar Border Trade committee at the level of Joint Secretary and Director General was held in New Delhi on 03 December 2014. Besides this, regular meetings were held at the level of District Administrators on the both sides of the border and between border guarding agencies.

India and Myanmar signed an MoU on Border Cooperation that provides a framework for security cooperation and exchange of information between the security agencies of two countries.

## **Defence Cooperation**

The defence cooperation between the two countries is witnessing an upswing in tune with overall bilateral relations. India provides training to Myanmar defence personnel from army, air force and navy under MEA's ITEC programme.

The 3rd annual staff talk between the two navies was held in September 2014 in New Delhi where further cooperation in the field of operational sea training and maritime security were discussed. Contract between Myanmar Army and Tata Motors was signed for supply of 400 more TATA Xenon vehicles in addition to 600 Xenon vehicles which Myanmar army had purchased in February 2014.

## **Development assistance**

India scaled up its development cooperation assistance to approximately US\$ 1.8 billion. Out of which, US\$ 750 million is in the form of concessional loan (LoC) to be utilized for projects relating to upgradation of refineries and roads; setting up a truck assembly plant; power transmission lines; agriculture, telecommunication and railway projects. The remaining amount is in the form of grant-in-aid for projects on connectivity; construction of roads; port; setting up of centres of excellence (MIIT, ACARE, Rice Bio Park); upgrading the public health services; restoration and conservation of shared cultural heritage (Ananda Temple).

Government of India (GOI) is committed to providing US\$ 5 million each year for 5 years for the border area development cooperation projects in Chin State and Naga Self Administration Zone (SAZ). Under this, first year projects are

nearing completion where 90% of the project cost has been transferred to Ministry of Border Affairs, Myanmar.

GOI has also provided US\$ 1 million for construction of 10 schools in Rakhine State to help the Government of Myanmar towards rehabilitation and reconciliation of the communities living in this relatively backward area.

India continues to provide trainings and scholarships under various programmes such as ITEC, TCS of Colombo Plan and GCSS of ICCR. Utilization of these slots has been encouraging and has seen an upward trend over the years. Of the total 500 slots, 370 have been utilized by November 2014.

## Economic and commercial

In the first half of year 2014-15, bilateral trade grew significantly and stood at US \$ 1.184 billion. Out of total foreign investment of US\$ 46.718 billion in Myanmar, India's investment stood at US\$ 382.4 million.

During the second round of onshore oil and gas block bidding, ONGC Videsh won two onshore oil and gas blocks (B2 and EP3). In the second round of off shore blocks, Reliance won two blocks (M17 & M18) and Oil India Limited won two blocks (YEB & M4).

Other significant developments include grant of permission to State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank to open representative offices; direct shipping service launched by Shipping Corporation of India between India and Myanmar; commencement of direct air connectivity between Yangon and Delhi by Air India; and conclusion of India-ASEAN free trade in services and Investment agreement in August 2014.

Embassy of India organized 'Make in India' at Tatmadaw Hall in Yangon on 25 September 2014 coinciding with the "India-Myanmar Trade and Investment Exhibition" where more than 100 Indian companies showcased their products and also held B2B meetings. Chief Minister of Yangon Mr U Myint Swe and Union Deputy Minister of Commerce Dr Pwint San were respective Chief Guest and Guest of Honour for the event. "India Investrade 2014" and Exhibition along with Buyer-Seller Meet was organized by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Kolkata, in Yangon on 23-24 July 2014 where 55 Indian companies participated. CII organized the 3rd Enterprise India show in Mandalay from 12-15 October 2014. Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC), Mumbai organized Indian Textile Exhibition (INTEXPO) in Yangon on 15-16 October 2014.

## Nepal

Significant internal political developments, unprecedented high-level bilateral interaction and enhanced economic, trade and security cooperation characterized the year 2014-15. The two Prime Ministerial visits re-energized the bilateral relations. Prime Minister's official visit to Nepal on 03-04 August 2014 was well received by the political leadership and people of Nepal. Prime Minister met President Mr Ram Baran Yadav and Prime Minister Mr Sushil Koirala and addressed the Constituent Assembly-cum- Parliament of Nepal, the first-ever foreign dignitary to do so. Prime Minister again visited Nepal from 25-27 November 2014 for bilateral engagements and attending the 18th SAARC Summit. During the visit, Prime Minister handed over one Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter and inaugurated the Emergency Trauma Centre at Kathmandu. The first Kathmandu-Delhi bus service was flagged off. Prime Minister also announced the gifting of sapling of Bodhi Tree to be planted at the Maya Devi Temple complex at Lumbini. Both sides concluded important Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) and Agreements in the field of security, trade, border infrastructure, connectivity, tourism and cultures during the two Prime Ministerial visits, which are as follows:

### 03-04 August 2014:

- Exchange of Letters regarding Terms of Reference of Pancheshwar Development Authority
- MoU on Cooperation in the Goitre Control
- MoU on Cooperation between Doordarshan and Nepal Television

### 25-27 November 2014:

- MoU on establishment of National Police Academy at Panauti
- Motor Vehicles Agreement for the "Regulation of Passenger Traffic"
- MoU on Cooperation in Tourism
- Agreement on USD 1 Billion Line of Credit to Government of Nepal
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine
- MoU on Cooperation on Youth Affairs
- Project Development Agreement for 900 MW Arun-III Hydropower Project

- Twin City Arrangement between Ayodhya-Janakpur
- Twin City Arrangement between Kathmandu-Varanasi
- Twin City Arrangement between Lumbini-Bodh Gaya

The third meeting of India–Nepal Joint Commission co-chaired by respective Foreign Ministers held on 25-27 July 2014 after a gap of 23 years reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The Joint Commission inter alia agreed upon the need to review, adjust and update the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950, for which the Nepalese side will provide a specific proposal. The Terms of Reference for establishment of an Eminent Persons Group on Nepal–India Relations (EPG-NIR) were finalized. The MoU on Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of The Nepal- Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project to install 2700 shallow tube wells in 9 districts of Nepal was signed.

Pursuant to the agreed minutes of Joint Commission, the 1st meeting of India–Nepal Boundary Working Group (BWG) led by respective Survey Departments was held in Kathmandu from 17–19 September 2014. The BWG has the mandate to undertake maintenance/construction of damaged/missing boundary pillars as per initialled Strip Maps. Subsequently, the first India-Nepal Boundary Survey Officials Committee (SOC) Meeting was held at Dehradun on 30-31 December 2014. The Field Work Program for the year 2014-2015 was agreed to be commenced in February 2015.

The period saw significant progress in bilateral cooperation in power sector. The Agreement on Electric Power Trade, Cross-Border Transmission Interconnection and Grid Connectivity referred to as Power Trade Agreement (PTA) was signed in Kathmandu on 21 October 2014. Project Development Agreement for 900 MW Upper Karnali by GMR was signed on 19 September 2014 and 900 MW Arun-III by SJVN on 25 November 2014. In the run up to the 18th SAARC Summit, at the request of Government of Nepal, India made available additional 70 MW of power. Work on upgradation of transmission lines is ongoing.

The Pancheshwar Development Authority for 5600 MW Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project was set up and held two meetings on 22-23 September 2014 in Kathmandu and 18-19 November 2014 in New Delhi.

The two countries continued to engage closely for flood management and control. GOI provided assistance of ₹22.92 crores in 2014 for construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamala rivers. The total grant assistance disbursed till date stands at ₹ 205 crores. The timely cooperation between the two countries helped avert floods in

Bihar in early August 2014 following the landslide in the upper reaches of Sun Koshi River in Sindhupal Chowk district of Nepal.

The close ties between the Armies of the two countries continued apace. The 11th Meeting of the India–Nepal Bilateral Consultative Group (BCG) on Security Issues was held from 05–07 July 2014. The reciprocal visits of Chief of Army Staffs further cemented the military ties. In accordance with hallowed traditions, Nepal was one of the first countries to be visited by the Chief of Army Staff Gen. Dalbir Singh Suhag, from 12-15 November 2014 and was conferred the rank of ‘Honorary General’ of the Nepalese Army. The 2nd India-Nepal Coordination meeting between Director General, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and Inspector General, Armed Police Force of Nepal was held in Kathmandu on 06 December 2014.

GOI offers around 3000 scholarships annually to Nepalese students for pursuing studies in Nepal and India. These have been further augmented by operationalization of ‘Bharat Nepal Shiksha Karyakram’, for short duration courses in prestigious Indian universities for graduate/post-graduate Nepalese students, announced during Prime Minister’s visit to Nepal in August 2014.

## Pakistan

India is committed to discussing all outstanding issues with Pakistan through a peaceful bilateral dialogue on the basis of the Simla Agreement and Lahore Declaration. A meaningful dialogue requires an environment free from the threat of violence and terror.

In keeping with India’s long-standing policy of strengthening relations with Pakistan based on peace and cooperation, Pakistani PM Mr Nawaz Sharif was invited along with other SAARC leaders to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Indian Government on 26 May 2014. During the bilateral talks that followed on 27 May 2014, the Prime Minister reiterated to PM Mr Nawaz Sharif India’s concerns relating to terrorism. It was underlined that Pakistan must abide by its commitment to prevent its territory and areas under its control from being used for terrorism directed against India. Prime Minister conveyed expectation that necessary steps will be taken in the Mumbai terror attack trial underway in Pakistan to ensure speedy progress of the case and the conviction of all those responsible. It was agreed that the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan will remain in touch and explore ways to move forward.

As a follow up to the decision taken in the meeting between the two Prime Ministers on 27 May 2014, a meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan was scheduled for 25 August 2014 in Islamabad. The talks, however, had to be cancelled following Pakistan High Commissioner's meeting with the so-called Hurriyat leaders on 18 August 2014, thereby interfering in India's internal affairs and raising questions on Pakistan's sincerity to take the relations forward.

In his address to the UN General Assembly on 27 September 2014, the Prime Minister once again reiterated India's willingness to engage with Pakistan in a serious bilateral dialogue which requires a peaceful environment without the shadow of terrorism. On the occasion, Prime Minister also underlined Pakistan's own responsibility in creating an appropriate environment for a constructive and sustainable bilateral engagement.

The trade normalization measures agreed to as part of the September 2012 Roadmap remained unimplemented as Pakistan has not yet taken the first step of notifying removal of all restrictions on trade through Wagah-Attari road route.

Matters related to the civil prisoners and Indian fishermen in Pakistan custody continue to be dealt with in a regular manner. A delegation comprising officials and fishing boat owners from Gujarat visited Pakistan from 18-19 July 2014 to discuss the issue of release of 57 boats in Pakistani custody; the modalities for release of these boats are being worked out. A meeting between Director General, Coast Guard and Director General, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency was held on 18-20 December 2014 in New Delhi. In the meeting, matters related to fishermen, boats and exchange of information between the two sides were discussed. Due to Government's efforts 6 Indian civil prisoners 185 Indian fishermen have been released by Pakistan this year till 30 November 2014.

## Sri Lanka

President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa visited India on 26-27 May 2014. President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa met President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and held bilateral discussions with Prime Minister. Prime Minister conveyed that India valued its relations with Sri Lanka and requested the government of Sri Lanka to expedite the process of national reconciliation.

Prime Minister also met President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa on the sidelines of the 69th United Nations General Assembly Session in New York on 27 September 2014 and the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu on 26 November 2014.

Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister, Prof. G. L. Peiris visited India on 09-11 July 2014 and met External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj. Both sides discussed matters relating to the political reconciliation and economic reconstruction process in Sri Lanka and issues of regional and international importance. The discussions also covered trade and investment, the fishermen's issue, developmental assistance and cooperation in the fields of education and culture with a view to further strengthening of bilateral cooperation in these areas.

National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Doval visited Sri Lanka from 30 November –02 December 2014 and delivered the keynote address at the Annual International Maritime Conference 'Galle Dialogue'. He called on President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, met External Affairs Minister Professor Mr G.L. Peiris, Defence Secretary Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa and leaders of various political parties.

Defence Secretary, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa visited India from 19-21 October 2014. He called on the then Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and met National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Doval.

Defence Secretary, Shri R. K. Mathur visited Sri Lanka from 09-11 October 2014 to lead the Indian Delegation for the second round of Annual Defence Dialogue (ADD).

A six-member delegation of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), led by its Parliamentary Group leader Shri R. Sampanthan, visited New Delhi on 21-24 August 2014. The delegation called on Prime Minister, EAM, National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh. Prime Minister urged all stakeholders in Sri Lanka to engage constructively, in a spirit of partnership and mutual accommodation, towards finding a political solution that builds upon the 13 Amendment.

India has consistently advocated the need for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) resulting from the conflict to be resettled in their original habitations as early as possible. To help rebuild homes of those affected by the conflict as also to contribute to their livelihood opportunities, the Government of India is executing various projects in Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka.

Since 2008, the Government of India has committed ₹ 2,000 crores as grant assistance and ₹ 7000 crores under Lines of Credit to Sri Lanka. India's development projects encompass virtually all major sectors of the economy, including housing, infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, fisheries,

industry, handicrafts, culture and sports. Government of India is also engaged in concerted efforts to create opportunities for trade and investment in the conflict-affected areas, apart from enhancing regional connectivity.

Some of the important ongoing 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 Duraippah Stadium in Jaffna, construction of a Cultural Centre in Jaffna, and restoration of the arterial railway tracks in the Northern Province.

During the year, the Government of India completed several important projects including reconstruction of railway track and signal system of Northern Railway line in Sri Lanka-Kilinochchi-Pallai segment in March 2014 and Pallai-Jaffna segment in October 2014 enabling the commencement of operations of the Jaffna-Colombo train service 'Yal Devi' after a gap of 24 years; Atchchuvely Industrial Estate in Jaffna (Northern Province) in August 2014; and opening of Language labs in Gampaha (Western Province), Kandy (Central Province) and Wayamba (North Western Province).

India also provided relief goods worth ₹25 Lakhs as emergency humanitarian assistance to the victims of landslide that occurred in Badulla district of Uva Province in Sri Lanka in October 2014.

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 India's second largest trade partner in South Asia, while India is Sri Lanka's largest trade partner globally. Trade

between the two countries has grown rapidly to rise to US \$ 5.2 billion in 2013-14.

India continues to be the largest source of tourist arrivals into Sri Lanka. India is also one of the major investors in Sri Lanka, with cumulative investments of over US\$ 800 million since 2003.

The ongoing Programme of Cultural Cooperation (PCC) seeks to enhance the level of cooperation in a wide variety of fields such as performing arts, visual arts, libraries, museums, archives and cultural documentation, archaeology, handicrafts, sports and youth affairs, publications and professional exchanges and mass media. The Indian Cultural Centre in Colombo actively promotes awareness of Indian culture by offering classes in Indian music, dance, Hindi and Yoga. Every year, cultural troupes from both countries exchange visits.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee released a commemorative postage stamp on Anagarika Dharmapala, one of the great Buddhist revivalist and social reformer from Sri Lanka, at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 25 October 2014.

Education is another important area of cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. India now offers about 790 scholarship slots annually to deserving Sri Lankan students, benefiting not only regular undergraduate studies but also providing opportunities for higher research. 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.





*Prime Minister meeting with President of Myanmar Mr Thein Sein on 11 November 2014.*



*Prime Minister meets Ms Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson and General Secretary of the National League for Democracy of Myanmar on the sidelines of 12th ASEAN-India Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12 November 2014.*



*PM and Prime Minister of Nepal Shri Sushil Koirala jointly inaugurate Emergency Trauma Centre built with Indian assistance*



*PM hands over Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter to Government of Nepal*



*Prime Minister with Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan at the concluding session of 18th SAARC Summit on 27 November 2014.*



*External Affairs Minister calls on President Maithripala Sirisena of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in New Delhi on 16 February 2015.”*

### Australia

India's relations with Australia reached a new high with the exchange of visits at the level of Prime Minister during the year. There is a growing interest on both sides to deepen political, economic and cultural ties by expanding cooperation through concrete projects. There is also recognition of the rapid growth in the Indian economy and the potential for closer cooperation with Australia in resources, technology, skills and other areas.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Australia from 14-18 November 2014 for the G20 Leaders' Summit in Brisbane and a bilateral visit. He held talks with Prime Minister Mr Tony Abbott, addressed a joint sitting of both houses of the Parliament (the first time an Indian Prime Minister has done so since Independence) and met the President of the Senate, the Speaker the House of Representatives and Leader of the Opposition. He also met political leaders, businessmen, scientists and academicians and members of the Indian community in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. A number of Agreements and MoUs were signed during this visit, including an Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, an Agreement on Social Security, and MoUs on Cooperation in the field of Arts and Culture, on Cooperation in the field of Tourism, and on Combating Narcotics Traffic. A Framework on Security Cooperation was concluded. Other important initiatives included the revitalization of CEO Forum, announcement of Make in India Show 2015 and opening of the Indian Cultural Centre in Sydney in 2015. The visit was a milestone in forging closer bilateral ties and for coordinating on regional issues.

Prime Minister Mr Tony Abbott visited India from 04-05 September 2014 as the first State guest of the new government. Prime Minister held talks with him which focussed on resources, energy, education, skills and science and technology which are key areas of our bilateral cooperation. The Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation, MoU on Cooperation in Sports, Renewal of MoU on Cooperation in

the field of Water Resources Management and MoU on Cooperation in Technical Vocational Education and Training were signed. He called on President and Vice President and visited Mumbai where he met Governor of Maharashtra. Important initiatives of the new Colombo Plan for visit of Australian students to India and the extension of the Strategic Research Fund were taken. The signing of the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement would enable the sale of Australian uranium to India to address our growing energy needs. Priority was attached to building a strong economic partnership.

Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, MoS for Commerce and Industry represented India at the G20 Trade Ministers' Conference in Cairns in September 2014. Australian Immigration Minister Mr Scott Morrison visited India in July 2014, Industry Minister Mr Ian MacFarlane visited India in November 2014 and Trade Minister Mr Andrew Robb visited Gandhinagar for Vibrant Gujarat 2015 followed by visits to Delhi, Jaipur and Mumbai from 10-16 January 2015. Australian Defence Minister Mr Kevin Andrews visited India in February 2015 for bilateral consultations and expansion of defence cooperation.

The India-Australia Senior Officials Talks led by Secretary (East), Shri Anil Wadhwa and Australian Foreign Secretary Mr Peter Varghese were held on 21 July 2014 in New Delhi. Several rounds of negotiations were held on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation in May, July and September 2014 leading to the signature of the Agreement in September 2014 and had further discussions in October 2014 to implement the Agreement for sale of Uranium to India. Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism met in Canberra on 04 August 2014. The 4th Meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group on Consular, Passports and Visas matters was held in Canberra in August 2014. The 6th round of negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Australia was held on 19 December 2014 in New Delhi.

Bilateral cooperation was expanded in functional areas, particularly, in education, skill development, science &

technology, tourism, water resources and agriculture through exchanges and technology cooperation.

India and Australia stepped up regional cooperation in the ambit of ASEAN, ARF, EAS and its related structures. Australia hosted the Ministerial meeting for IORA in Perth in October 2014. Australia also hosted the India-Australia-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue on the Indian Ocean.

Senator Ms. Lisa Singh and Ms. Mala Mehta were awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award at PBD 2015 in Gujarat.

## Brunei Darussalam

Bilateral relations with Brunei Darussalam continued to be very close and friendly and Brunei played a significant role as Country Coordinator for India in ASEAN during the year.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah in the margins of the East Asia Summit in Nay Pyi Taw in November 2014 and exchanged views on the strengthening of bilateral exchanges and regional cooperation.

Shri Ravi Shanker Prasad, Minister of Communications & IT and Law & Justice, accompanied by a high-level delegation, visited Brunei to attend the Asia Pacific Telecommunity ICT Ministerial Meeting held in Brunei on 10-11 September 2014.

The new High Commissioner presented the credentials to His Majesty, the Sultan on 25 February 2014. His Majesty appreciated the role being played by Indian professionals in every walk of life such as doctors, teachers etc. and their contribution to the development of the country.

Shri Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and ASEAN, visited Brunei on 23-24 June 2014 to co-chair the 16th ASEAN-INDIA Senior Officials (SOM) Meeting with Mr Dato Erywan of Brunei to prepare for the ASEAN Summit to be held in Nay Pi Taw in Myanmar. Commander Shashank Sharma visited Brunei on 28-30 October 2014 to attend the 9th ADMM Plus meeting on Expert Working Group on Maritime Security and Table Top Exercise on Maritime Security. Mr Dato Erywan, Permanent Secretary (ASEAN) at Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade visited India to represent Brunei at Delhi Dialogue VI held in New Delhi on 06-07 March 2014.

Indian Naval Supply Ship “INS Shakti” paid a good will visit to Brunei on 08-11 August 2014 and Vice Admiral Satish Soni, FOC Eastern Command also visited Brunei to coincide with this visit. Royal Brunei Navy’s Ship “KP 80 DARUTTAQWA” visited India (Mumbai) in August 2014.

Two journalists from Brunei visited India on 05-11 March 2014 to cover the Delhi Dialogue VI as part of Familiarization Visit by Editors/Senior Journalists from ASEAN countries under ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme 2012-14. 25 students from Brunei visited India under the ASEAN-India Student Exchange Programme on 09-18 November 2014 and covered the cities of Agra, Mumbai, Hyderabad and New Delhi.

A delegation from Indian PSU Company Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) visited Brunei on 24-25 May 2014 to sign a Sale of Oil Agreement with Brunei Shell Petroleum. A Senior Vice President of Apollo Hospital visited Brunei on 19 November 2014 to discuss possibility of training of doctors, nurses and other medical personnel from Brunei and development of an Organ Transplant Unit at RIPAS Hospital.

## Cambodia

Bilateral relations between Cambodia and India remained cordial, friendly and continued to grow stronger.

India continued its assistance to Cambodia in the field of water resources development, electric transmission line, restoration and conservation of temples and capacity building. Two new projects on Study of Ground Water Resources of Kampong Speu Province and Development of Master Plan for Siem Reap River Basin at a total cost of approximately US \$ 3 million were started in Cambodia in 2014 under grants from India. The redevelopment work of India-Cambodia Friendship School in Kampong Cham province is almost complete. The ongoing work of conservation and restoration of the Ta Prohm Temple by the Archeological Survey of India which began in 2003 received praise from international experts for the high quality of its work.

India – Cambodia Defence cooperation continued with the conduct of annual training capsule for Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in Peacekeeping and Demining modules by expert trainers on deputation from the Indian Army. Members of the Cambodian defence forces also continued to receive training in Indian defence establishments under scholarship.

India piloted the Resolution in the UNESCO Executive Board Meeting and then co-chaired the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Preah Vihear in December 2014. The ICC discussed issues related to management, conservation and restoration of Preah Vihear, an ancient Shiva temple listed as a World Heritage Site.

The soft launch of the MGC Asian Traditional Textile Museum in Siem Reap was presided over by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of Council of Ministers Mr Sok An and Secretary(East), Shri Anil Wadhwa on 07 April 2014. The 2nd governing body meeting of the museum was held in September 2014 in Siem Reap with the participation of representatives from all the MGC countries.

A highly successful Festival of India comprising of “Buddha Mahotsava” and Ramayana Festival was organised in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in February 2014. An Indian food festival, Indian cinema week and “Women by Women” painting exhibition held during the year in Phnom Penh were highly appreciated.

Bilateral trade between India and Cambodia continued to grow during the year. Trade delegations from Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council of India (TEXPROCIL), delegates from India for Cambodia International Machinery Industrial Fair, delegates from stone cutting industry, delegates from 70 Indian companies for CAMBUILD 2014 & CAMENERGY Exhibition visited Cambodia during the year. Events like Taxation Seminar, Make in India, ICT Seminar were organised by the Embassy.

## **Fiji**

India-Fiji bilateral relations saw a major upswing with the visit of Prime Minister to the region. Our bilateral relations remained strong with more extensive and diversified interaction, development partnership, technical and economic cooperation (ITEC), cooperation in education and health sectors, and cultural exchanges.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, visited Fiji on 19 November 2014. He held talks with Prime Minister Mr Voreque Bainimarama, addressed the newly elected Parliament and spoke at a Civic function at the Fiji National University. He was accorded a traditional welcome ceremony at Albert Park and was hosted a banquet at which he also met President Mr Ratu Epeli Nailatikau. The documents concluded during the visit included MoUs on a Line of Credit for a Co-Generation Plant, on Cooperation for Training of Diplomats and on the Earmarking of Land for their Diplomatic Missions in the respective Capitals. Other initiatives announced included support for construction of Fijian Parliament Library, Visa on arrival for Fiji nationals, US\$ 5 million fund for promoting small business and village enterprise, increase in ITEC (Civil & Defence) and scholarship slots to Fiji to 125, enhancing cooperation in the development of rice, coconut and dairy industry, support to

promote IT and ‘Digital Fiji’, enhancing collaboration in the area of space technology, including for its application in governance, economic development, conservation, climate change and natural disasters, and encouragement to Indian film industry to shoot in Fiji.

During the visit, Prime Minister hosted the first Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation, attended by the leaders and representatives of the 14 Pacific Islands. A number of initiatives were announced to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and India’s commitment to the development of the region.

Elections were conducted on 17 September 2014, with Fiji First party led by Mr Voreque Bainimarama winning majority of 32 out of 50 seats. India supported the election process by supplying indelible ink and gifting vehicles. India also participated in the Multilateral Observer Group (MOG) as one of the co-chairs along with Australia and Indonesia and the participation of other countries.

High Commissioner, Shri A. Gitesh Sarma presented his credentials to President of the Republic of Fiji, Mr Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, on 28 August 2014.

Attorney General and Minister for Trade, Mr Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, visited India in May 2014. Health Minister Dr Neil Sharma, visited India in June 2014 for discussions on setting up oncological and cardiac units in Fiji. Permanent Secretary of Agriculture Mr Ropate Ligairi visited India in August 2014.

A Property Team led by Shri Rajesh K. Sachdeva, Joint Secretary (Projects), MEA, visited Suva from 28-29 April 2014 and MEA officials visited Fiji to participate in the PIC-Development Partners’ Meeting in Nadi from 23-24 June 2014.

Seven youth of Indian origin from Fiji participated in the 28th Know India Programme (KIP). Two Fijian journalists Ms. Rosi Tamani Doviverata and Mr Avinesh Gopa visited India in July 2014 at the invitation of XP Division. India Tourism Office, Sydney participated in the Hibiscus festival in August 2014.

India provided grants for health and education programmes as well as community projects in Fiji. Besides, India extended a US\$ 50.4 million Line of Credit in July 2005 for up-gradation of sugar mills and an LoC of US\$ 5.38 mn for import of equipment from India.

Fiji National University (FNU) Vice Chancellor Dr Ganesh Chand signed, in April 2014, an MoU with IIT Kanpur for scientific ideas and technical manpower exchanges. Specialists

from the Sahyadri Group of Hospital India, in April, August and October 2014, visited Fiji and performed orthopaedic surgeries and renal treatment. Fiji National University (FNU) announced a 'Fiji-Health for All' medical symposium to be held on 27 July 2014 at FNU in partnership with the Apollo Hospitals Group of India, Suva Private Hospital and others.

## Indonesia

The bilateral relations in 2014 was marked with continuity and development. Parliamentary and Presidential elections were held in Indonesia in 2014 and a new Government led by Mr Joko Widodo took office in October 2014. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi sent congratulatory messages to Mr Joko Widodo.

Prime Minister met Indonesian President Mr Joko Widodo in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 13 November 2014, in the margins of the East Asia Summit, during which both leaders had substantive discussions on bilateral and international issues. Earlier, External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj met Foreign Minister Dr Marty Natalegawa of Indonesia on the sidelines of 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 09 August, 2014.

Deputy Speaker of Meghalaya Assembly, Shri Sanbor Shullai visited Indonesia on 08-09 August 2014 and met Vice Chairman of Dewan Perwakilan Daerah (DPD) [Regional House of Representatives of the Parliament], Mr La Ode Ida. A delegation led by Speaker of DPD Mr H. Irman Gusman visited India from 22-24 August 2014 and called on Lok Sabha Speaker Smt Sumitra Mahajan.

The bilateral defence and security cooperation continued to grow. Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, Chairman Chief of Staff Committee (COSC) & Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force visited Indonesia from 23-26 November 2014. Issues of common interest in the fields of operations, training and capacity building were discussed in the 3rd Army Staff Talks and participants from both the Armed Forces participated in important seminars like the JIDD 2014 in Jakarta and the HADR Seminar in Port Blair. Two Coordinated Naval Patrols were undertaken by the two navies in Indian Ocean and the 3rd Joint Army Exercise on Counter-Insurgency and Counter-Terrorism – 'Garuda Shakti' with the addition of a Special Forces component was held. Professional interaction between personnel continued through ship visits by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard and Indonesian Naval Ships to respective ports while high level delegations undertook reciprocal visits to enhance synergy of policy and shape a common perception.

The Indonesian Navy participated in MILAN 2014 and were represented by a ship and Senior Officer. The Indian Navy participated in the inaugural edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo in Indonesia.

An Indonesian delegation from Ministry of Defence visited Defence Expo at New Delhi, while 40 participants from Indian Defence Industry representing major Indian defence PSUs, DRDO and Brahmos showcased their products in the Indo Defence Expo 2014 at Jakarta.

Bilateral trade and investment continued to grow, spurred by growth in both economies. The Indian side organized various outreach activities to promote trade and commercial relations, facilitated interaction between the India Business Forum (IBF) and KADIN Indonesia (Indonesian Chamber of Commerce) in Jakarta on 22 April 2014. A special publication "The India-Indonesia Economic Engagement: Challenges and the Way Forward" was launched at the event.

A seminar on cooperation in Railway sector in Jakarta was organized on 11 September 2014 during which a delegation from RITES participated. The Prime Minister's 'Make in India' campaign was launched in Jakarta on 25 September 2014 simultaneously with its launch in India. In cooperation with the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works and WAPCOS a Workshop was organized on "Utilisation of Water Resources Infrastructure for Hydropower" on 01 October 2014. An IT delegation was organized for meetings in Yogyakarta on 27 October 2014. There were visits by business delegations from India, including from Indian Textile Accessories & Machinery Manufacturers Association (ITAMMA), which participated in the 12th Indonesia International Textile & Garment machinery & Accessories Exhibition (Indo Inter Tex 2014) on 23-26 April 2014. The Sugar Technologists' Association of India, in cooperation with the Mission, organised the India Sugar Expo in Surabaya on 21-22 May 2014. A 3-member team from NTPC visited Indonesia during 19-22 August 2014 to explore possibility of long term coal supply. At the invitation of Engineers India Limited, a high level team from Pertamina, the Indonesian state owned Oil and Gas Company, visited India during 26 – 28 August 2014. Indian PSUs participated in the Indodefence 2014 EXPO held in Jakarta on 05-08 November 2014.

Cultural cooperation expanded through the activities of the Indian Cultural Centres in Jakarta and Bali as also through organisations of the Indian diaspora. New initiatives particularly, in the shooting of films promoted closer people-to-people contacts.

## Lao PDR

India's relation with Lao PDR continued to see steady growth during the period. Our cooperation was focussed on development projects in the areas of water management and irrigation, power transmission, capacity building in human resources, cultural cooperation in restoration of heritage monuments and exchange of students and technical personnel under scholarships.

From the Indian side, a delegation of MPs including Shri Rajen Gohen and Shri Ganesh Singh participated in the 35th General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Vientiane from 14-20 September 2014. Lao Vice Minister of Industry of Commerce, Mr Somchith Inthamith, visited India for 2nd India-CLMV Business Conclave in New Delhi from 11-12 December 2014.

Lao Vice Minister of Finance, Ms. Thippakone visited Mumbai for 2nd Chief Negotiators Meeting on establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) from 15-16 January 2015.

The cultural component of the exchanges was facilitated by programmes following the Festival of India, particularly on Buddhism, Ramayana, Food Festival, Film Festival and Yoga.

## Malaysia

Bilateral relations with Malaysia, marked by traditional friendship and cordiality, have continued to progress and expand.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Malaysian Prime Minister Mr Najib Razak on 12 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit and discussed issues of mutual bilateral interest, focusing on deepening of the strategic partnership between the two countries. Their discussions centered around strengthening economic and trade relations and cooperation in administration, health, education and housing.

Mr Dato' Sri Idris Jala, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia, and CEO of Pemandu, visited India and called on Prime Minister on 01 August 2014. Mr Datuk Seri G. Palanivel, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and President of the Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) visited India on 07-09 September 2014 and called on Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Environment and Forests. Mr P. Kamalanathan, Deputy Minister of Education of Malaysia, visited India and met with Minister of Human Resource Development on 09 September 2014.

Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission-India, visited Malaysia from 11-15 August 2014 to participate in a seminar.

Shri Madhav Lal, Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, accompanied by Shri Ravindra Nath, CMD, and Shri Manoj Lal, General Manager of NSIC, visited Malaysia on 05-07 November 2014, to explore the opportunities of enhancing trade relationship between SMEs especially electronics, light engineering machineries, textiles and wood and wood products and chemical sectors.

Dr Krishna Gupta, Managing Director of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation visited Kuala Lumpur on 13-15 October 2014 in preparation for the Global Bengal Business Summit – Bengal Leads 2015 at which a strong Malaysian delegation participated in Kolkata on 06-08 January 2015.

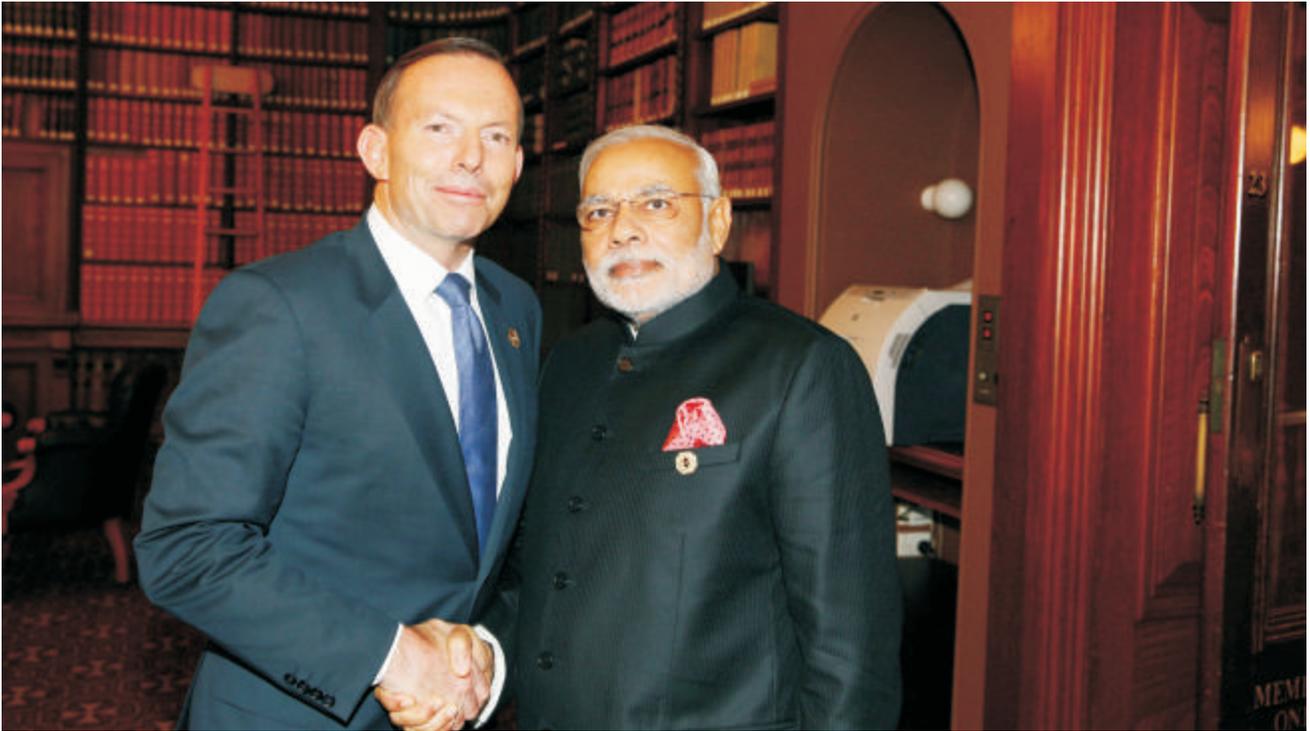
Defence cooperation is progressing with strengthening of defence cooperation activities. The Director General of Indian Coast Guard visited Malaysia in August 2014 and discussed institutional interaction between Indian and Malaysian Coast Guards. India sent a high level delegation during Defence Exhibition (DSA-14) in April 2014, led by the Chief of IDS. Two study groups (NDC-54 and HDMC-10) visited Malaysia on Strategic Management visits. The 5th Malaysia-India Army to Army Staff Talks was held in November 2014.

In May 2014, an Indian Navy Submarine Delegation visited Malaysian Submarine Base in Sepanggar. The Air Forces exchanged a number of delegations, including the Su-30 Fighter Aircrew Exchange, C-130 Transport Delegation Exchange and PC-7 Transport Delegation Exchange. INS Ranvijay made a port call to the Sepanggar Port of East Malaysia for the first time in August 2014.

The 2nd Joint Working Group on Public Administration and Governance was held in New Delhi on 26-27 August 2014 led by Shri N. Ravi Shanker, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, and Datuk Dr Sharifah Zarah Syed Ahmad, Deputy Director-General of Public Service Malaysia.

## New Zealand

Bilateral ties with New Zealand continued to experience steady momentum with cooperation in economic, scientific and cultural areas and coordination on regional issues.



*Australia's Prime Minister Mr Tony Abbott greets Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the G20 Leaders' Summit in Brisbane.*



*Prime Minister meeting with Prime Minister Mr Josiah V Bainimarama of Fiji in Suva during his visit to Fiji on 19 November 2014.*



*Prime Minister meeting with Pacific Island Leaders in Suva on 19 November 2014.*



*Prime Minister meets Prime Minister Mr Najib Razak of Malaysia on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12 November 2014.*

New Zealand held general elections in September 2014 which saw the return to power of the National government led by Prime Minister Mr John Key.

New Zealand Minister of Primary Industries & Agriculture Mr Nathan Guy and Minister for Immigration Mr Micheal Woodhouse led a business delegation to India from 04-07 November 2014 and met Agriculture Minister to discuss promotion of trade and enterprise and to give profile to New Zealand's co-hosting of the Cricket World Cup 2015. The delegation included cricketers and representatives of 15 companies across a range of sectors including food and beverage, agribusiness, technology, tourism and sports.

Principal Scientific Adviser Dr R. Chidambaram visited Auckland from 28-29 August 2014 to attend a conference on 'Science Advice to Governments' and met Sir Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the PM of New Zealand.

Speaker of Tripura Legislative Assembly Shri Ramendra Chandra Debnath visited Auckland from 15-18 October 2014 to attend a Global Conference for Leading Practitioners and held exchanges with Indian origin MPs of the New Zealand Parliament and members of the diaspora.

The Bilateral Technical Quarantine meeting between India and New Zealand was held in New Delhi on 28 May 2014. The 5th annual Bilateral Economic Dialogue between India and New Zealand was held in New Delhi on 13 June 2014.

The New Zealand Parliament held a function on 28 October 2014 for celebrating the festival of Diwali which was attended by Prime Minister Mr John Key.

The High Commission organised a major 'India Business Seminar' in New Zealand on 25 September 2014 to coincide with the 'Make in India' initiative. About 150 persons comprising entrepreneurs, business consultants, CEOs, lawyers, media personnel and other senior representatives of the New Zealand and India-New Zealand business communities attended the event, which also featured live webcast of the Prime Minister's address at the event in India.

New Zealand MP Mr Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award at PBD 2015 in Gandhinagar Gujarat for his contribution to diaspora affairs.

## Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Bilateral relations with Papua New Guinea continued to deepen and expand to new areas of cooperation.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Minister for Foreign Affairs & Immigration Mr Rimbink Pato at the first Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation on 19 November 2014 in

Suva, Fiji and discussed our priority for the Pacific region and economic and development engagement with Papua New Guinea and opportunities for Indian participation in health, education, information technology, health and infrastructure. He announced inter alia visa on arrival for fourteen Pacific Island Countries including Papua New Guinea, increase in annual grant-in-aid to Papua New Guinea to US\$ 200,000, training to diplomats, deputation of ITEC experts, cooperation in development projects.

India has been assisting PNG in her capacity-building efforts by way of training under ITEC and other programmes. During the year, PNG was offered 30 slots under Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, 6 slots under ITEC for training in Defence Institutions, 2 slots under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of Colombo Plan and 1 slot under Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for graduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes.

As part of India's Regional Assistance Initiative for Pacific Island Countries, Government of India provided grant-in-aid for construction of housing units for teachers in St. Charles Lwanga Secondary School, Port Moresby. The Barefoot College provided training to PNG women for solar electrification in several provinces.

Shri Madhava Chandra presented his credentials as India's new High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea.

PNG diplomat Dame Meg Taylor was unanimously appointed as Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum at the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Summit, Palau in July 2014.

## The Philippines

India-Philippines relations continued to develop on the basis of close friendly ties, mutual benefit and regional cooperation.

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi met the Philippines President Mr Benigno S. Aquino on 13 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India and East Asia Summit. They discussed broad areas of cooperation and ways to further strengthen our bilateral exchanges. Earlier, External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj met with Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Mr Albert F. Del Rosario on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 09 August 2014 and had detailed discussions on bilateral and regional issues.

Several other ministerial and official visits including that of Dr Shahshi Panja, Minister of State (Independent Charge),

Department of Women and Child Development, Government of West Bengal visited Manila from 03-05 December 2014 for an UNICEF Conference on Early Childhood Development; Smt Viplove Thakur, Member of Parliament visited Philippines on 06-07 September 2014 to participate in the 10th Regional Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference organized by Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population Development (AFPPD) and UNFPA.

Secretary (East) Shri Anil Wadhwa visited Manila for the 11th Foreign Office Consultations and 5th Security Dialogue from 05-06 March 2014.

Defence cooperation continued to strengthen with the visit of INS Sahyadri on a goodwill visit to Manila from 20-23 August 2014; and the visit of Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Samudra Paheredar from 19-23 September 2014. A 20-member delegation from the Army High Command Course visited Philippines from 09-15 November 2014 and a 5 member training delegation from Philippine Navy visited India from 10-14 November 2014.

India Co-Chaired the 12th ASEAN-India Tourism Working Group Meeting and 26th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and Pacific and South Asia held in Legazpi City, Philippines on 17-20 May 2014. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Girish Shankar, Additional Secretary, Tourism. Shri Yashovardhan Azad, Central Information Commissioner of India visited Manila on 01-02 December 2014 under the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Lecture Series for talks on India's Right to Information Act at the Asian Institute of Management and at the Ateneo School of Governance.

A delegation of 8 Indian journalists visited Philippines from 28-31 August 2014 under the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme; 25 students from the Philippines visited India from 09-18 November 2014 under the ASEAN-India Students' Exchange Programme.

Trade relations between India and the Philippines remained steady, despite global downturn. Major Indian IT and Pharma firms continued to do well in the IT enabled services and the generics sector respectively. An Indian company GMR Infrastructure Ltd won a joint consortium bid for the maintenance of Cebu-Mactan airport under the PPP flagship infrastructure program of the Philippine Government and the GMR-Megawide JV took over Mactan Cebu Airport Operations on 01 November 2014. Tata Motors also made a major foray into the automobile sector by launching seven vehicles in the Philippines. They signed a 120 vehicle deal with the City Government of Davao for supply of Disaster Relief

vehicles, with the initial batch of vehicles handed over to Mayor of Davao on 18 December 2014. FIEO led a delegation of 12 companies to participate in 'Manila Fame', a premier Design & Lifestyle exhibition from 16-19 October 2014.

## Singapore

Bilateral relations with Singapore remained cordial and were strengthened by the frequent exchange of visits between both the countries which resulted in further consolidation of our relations in all spheres. The year 2014-15 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of India-Singapore diplomatic relations.

External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Singapore on 15-16 August 2014 to jointly inaugurate with Singapore's Foreign Minister Mr K Shanmugam the series of commemorative events to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of India - Singapore diplomatic relations.

Minister of Housing, Poverty Alleviation and Urban Development, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, visited Singapore on 06-08 November 2014.

A number of State Governments established contacts with Singapore to further strengthen bilateral ties through concrete projects in infrastructure, skills, governance, waste management and other areas. West Bengal Chief Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee visited Singapore from 18-22 August 2014 and met political and business leaders and concluded a number of understandings for cooperation. Chief Minister of Telangana, Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao visited Singapore along with a delegation from 20-23 August 2014. Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ms. Vasundhara Raje led a high level delegation to Singapore from 12-16 October 2014 and concluded understandings on drinking water, urban development, waste management and training. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu led an official and business delegation to Singapore from 12-14 November 2014 and concluded understandings on the development of the new capital as well as smart cities. Closer interaction between State Governments and Singapore has added a new dimension in our bilateral relations.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Law, Mr K. Shanmugam, visited India (New Delhi, Hyderabad and Chennai) on 30 June - 05 July 2014 to establish contact with the new Government and met External Affairs Minister and Prime Minister. Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen visited India from 18-20 August 2014. Emeritus Senior Minister (ESM), Mr Goh Chok Tong visited New Delhi, Hyderabad and Bhopal from 07-11 September 2014 and met Prime



*Prime Minister meeting with President Mr Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino III of Philippines on the sidelines of 9th East Asia Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 13 November 2014.*



*Prime Minister meeting with Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore on the sidelines of 12th ASEAN-India Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12 November 2014.*

Minister and State leaders. Minister in PMO and Second Minister for Home Affairs and for Trade and Industry, Mr S Iswaran visited Hyderabad on 08 December 2014 when an MoU was signed for cooperation in the master plan of the new capital city of Andhra Pradesh. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam visited India on 10 December 2014 and delivered a key-note address at the Delhi Economics Conclave-2014.

India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue led by Defence Secretary on the Indian side took place in September 2014, where all issues related to defence cooperation were discussed. The year also saw visits from India of Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Air Staff and DG Indian Coast Guard. Singapore Navy and Air Force Chiefs visited India. In addition, there was regular exchange of visits between the defence forces of the two countries, as also for joint military training and exercises between the two Armed Forces. There were visits by seven IN/ICG ships to Singapore and by four Singapore Navy ships to India for exercises during the period.

There was a robust exchange of visits of economic and business delegations between the two countries, including that of CII Core Group, led by the President of CII, Shri Ajay Shriram, on 27-28 November 2014. The Strategic Dialogue, held between Aspen India and ISAS was held in Singapore, including, participation of officials.

Bilateral trade and investments continued to be strong though there was some seasonal decline in trade. The two way FDI flows, however, continued to grow with Singapore emerging as one of the highest sources for inward FDI. Outward FDI also showed growth with almost 6000 Indian economic entities registered in Singapore to leverage economic opportunities in the region.

Cultural and people-to-people exchanges continued to grow. The year long Festival of India in Singapore features a range of activities in the cultural, artistic, film, literary, theatre dimensions as well as academic seminars, business sessions and ship visits. The youth has been particularly attracted in the Festival to further strengthen the strong bonds between the two countries.

## Thailand

India and Thailand enjoy close and friendly relations reflecting the centuries old socio-cultural ties. After the military takeover in Thailand in May 2014, India expressed the hope that Thailand would resolve its political issues and restore normalcy as soon as possible in keeping with the spirit of democracy, rule of law and will of the people of the country. At

the same time, India continued sustained engagement with Thailand.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister General Mr Prayut Chan-o-cha held discussions on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN summit in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2014.

External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj met Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs on the sidelines of 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 10 August 2014.

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn led an 85-member delegation from Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy to Kolkata on 22 July 2014.

Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Minister of Women and Child Development led the Indian delegation to the Asian and Pacific Conference on "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review" on 19-20 November 2014 in Bangkok. Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.) called on Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan-o-cha in the margins of the 10th Summit of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Milan on 17 October 2014. Shri Kiren Rijju, MoS for Home Affairs led the Indian delegation to the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok from 22-26 June 2014. He also participated in the first Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on 27-28 November 2014 in Bangkok.

Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary, MoFA co-chaired the 3rd India-Thailand Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on 08 September 2014 and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

General Tanasak Patimapragorn, Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Forces led a Thai delegation on an official visit to India from 28-30 June 2014. General Tanasak called on Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Defence & Minister of Finance and met General Bikram Singh, Chairman Chief of Staff Committee and Chief of Army Staff.

The 3rd meeting of bilateral High Level Defence Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 09 May 2014. Thai Delegation was headed by Air Chief Marshal Songtam Chokkanapitag, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence and the Indian delegation was headed by Shri Shankar Aggarwal, Special Secretary, Ministry of Defence. The Indian Navy and the

Royal Thai Navy conducted the 18th and the 19th Cycles of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) in the Andaman Sea from 01-08 April and 18-26 November 2014, respectively, to counter piracy, poaching and arms smuggling. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Gharial, INS Sujata, INS Sudarshini and ICGS Varuna of the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy visited Phuket Port from 21-24 April 2014. Air Marshal Suttipong Inseepong, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff for Operations of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) led the Thai delegation for the 5th bilateral Air Staff Talks in New Delhi from 09-11 September 2014.

The 2nd meeting of India-Thailand Joint Working Group on Infrastructure and Connectivity and 7th Task Force Meeting on the Trilateral Transport Linkage Project were held in Bangkok on 29-30 September 2014. The 4th meeting of bilateral Ad Hoc working Group on Visa and Consular Matters was held in Bangkok on 02 September 2014. The 9th meeting of Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation was scheduled to be held in Chiang Mai on 11-12 December 2014.

At the invitation of the Government of India, a 10 member Thai language media delegation visited India from 31 May to 07 June 2014. A 9 member delegation of Indian Journalists visited Bangkok under the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme from 05-08 August 2014.

India's bilateral trade with Thailand continued to remain steady. Discussions on expanding the scope of FTA were undertaken at the 2nd meeting of India-Thailand Joint Implementation Committee on trade issues on 09 December 2014. The Embassy organized a business event to coincide with the launch of "Make in India" campaign on 25 September 2014.

Strong cultural contacts were maintained through exchange of cultural troupes sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), namely Odissi Dance group led by Ms. Raminder Tarasingh Khurana; Fusion Band group led by Shri Girish Pradhan and Rhythmosaic Dance Company led by Mr Shambik Ghose, performed in Thailand during April–November 2014.

## Vietnam

India-Vietnam relations marked an exceptionally friendly and cordial period with exchange of high level visits and further deepening of the Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State visit to Vietnam from 14-17 September 2014 during which, he met with the

President, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Prime Minister and visited Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Major agreements were concluded and the close ties between the two countries and people was emphasised. Earlier, External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj, visited Vietnam from 25-26 August 2014 during which, she held bilateral talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr Pham Bin Minh and called on the President and Prime Minister. During her visit, she co-inaugurated the 3rd Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) with Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Mr Pham Binh Minh. She also chaired the Regional Heads of Missions' Conference and met 16 Indian Heads of Missions from the region.

Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung paid a State visit to India from 27-28 October 2014 accompanied by a large business delegation including several CEOs of major State-Owned Enterprises. Prime Minister held discussions with PM Mr Nguyen Tan Dung who also called on President and Vice President. A major business event was held in coordination with CII. During the high level visits, in the course of the year, 14 Agreements/MoUs were signed in the areas of energy, culture, youth affairs, animal health, defence, capacity building, information and broadcasting, etc.

Smt Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker, Lok Sabha will visit Hanoi, Vietnam from 28 March to 01 April 2015 for the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Mr Pham Quang Vinh led a delegation to India to participate in the 6th FOCs and 3rd Strategic Dialogue between Vietnam and India in New Delhi from 16-17 April 2014. Vietnamese delegation led by Party Secretary of Phu Tho province of Vietnam, Mr Hoang Van Mac will visit India from 23-31 January 2014 under the Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP).

General Dalbir Singh Suhag, Chief of Army Staff of India visited Vietnam from 17-20 December 2014 as part of the high level defence engagement. Vietnam Vice Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chi Binh visited Delhi for the Security Dialogue with Defence Secretary on 16 January 2015. Bilateral defence relation is broadening and deepening into several areas, including defence hardware. The \$100 million Line of Credit signed between the two sides will be used for sale of naval vessels. Several defence related seminars were organised by both sides in addition to couple of port calls by Indian Naval warships INS Shivalik (August 2014) and coast guard ships Samudra Paheredar (October 2014) to Vietnam. The relation was further strengthened by many high level defence visits from both sides.

Smt Smita Nagaraj, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence led the Indian delegation to the first meeting of the Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Humanitarian Mine Action held in Hanoi on 18 June 2014 under the cooperative framework of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM+) Plus.

Indian delegation led by Shri Rajeev Kher, Commerce Secretary, Government of India will visit Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam from 19-20 January 2015 for 2nd meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Sub-Commission on Trade and related issues.

Prof. Nguyen Xuan Thang, President of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) visited India from 11-14 August 2014 under the ASEAN-India Eminent Person Lecture Series. Prof. Ta Ngoc Tan, President of the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and Public Administration was on a visit to India from 19-23 October 2014. An MoU with the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi was signed during this visit.

Bilateral trade between India and Vietnam has shown significant growth during the period, surpassing the target set for 2015. Both sides have agreed on a new trade target of US\$ 15 billion by 2020. In investment, India has almost 100 projects in Vietnam with an estimated total investment of about US\$ 1 billion, apart from major projects on highways and power plant. The Embassy of India in Hanoi and the Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City organised several trade promotion events, seminars on doing business with India, including the Make in India campaign in various parts of the country. India has offered several Lines of Credit to Vietnam over the years on concessional terms and conditions.

Vietnam has, over the years, been a large recipient of training programmes under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and other scholarship programme. People-to-people exchanges and cultural cooperation got a boost with Jet Airways starting code-share flights between Delhi/Mumbai-Bangkok-Ho Chi Minh City from November 2014.

## Pacific Islands

India's relations with the Pacific Islands received a major boost with the holding of the first Summit Meeting with the leaders of the Pacific Islands in Suva, Fiji on 19 November 2014, during Prime Minister's visit to Fiji. The meeting with the Pacific leaders was a tremendous success not only because it was the first such meeting but also because it signalled closer engagement with India.

The 1st Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) elicited overwhelming response from the 14 Pacific Island countries. It was attended by the Presidents of Kiribati (Mr Anote Tong) and Nauru (Mr Baron Divavesi Waqa); Governor General of Tuvalu (Mr Italeli Iakoba); Prime Ministers of Fiji (Rear Admiral (Retd) Frank Bainimarama, Samoa (Mr Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi), Tonga (Mr Tu'ivakano), Niue (Mr Toke Talagi), Cook Islands (Mr Henry Puna); Foreign Ministers of PNG (Mr Rimbink Pato); Vanuatu (Mr Meltek Sato Kilman Livtivanu) and Marshall Islands (Mr Anton Tony Debrum); and Health Minister of Palau (Mr Gregorio Ngirmang). (HoS/HoG of Solomon Islands could not attend due to elections, while HoS/HoG of Federated States of Micronesia did not attend due to their prior engagements. The High Commissioner of Solomon Islands to Fiji (Mr Patterson Oti) and the Ambassador of Micronesia to Fiji (Mr Gerson Jackson) represented their leaders. Further, each HoS/ HoG/ Ministers was accompanied by a 4-member delegation.

FIPIC provided the opportunity for direct discussions on issues of interest to the Pacific Island countries. Prime Minister expressed consideration for their concerns on climate change and development and noted that our cooperation with the region is based on their own development priorities. He proposed closer cooperation on economic and regional issues and on people-to-people exchanges. Prime Minister conveyed India's desire to engage closely with the region and announced a \$1 million Special Adaptation Fund to provide technical assistance to Pacific Islands, a Pan Pacific Island Project for e-Connectivity, tele-medicine and tele-education, visa on arrival for tourists, increase in Grant-in-Aid to each Pacific Island country from \$125,000 to \$200,000 per annum, assistance to establish Trade Office in India, deputation of ITEC experts, training to Diplomats from PIC, Distinguished Visitors Programme, S&T and space cooperation and regular Summit meetings of Pacific leaders. The next meeting of FIPIC is expected to be held in 2015 in India.

Secretary (East), Shri Anil Wadhwa led the Indian delegation to 26th Pacific Island Forums' (PIF) Post Forum Dialogue held in Palau on 31 July – 01 August 2014. A three-member Indian delegation participated at the 3rd UNSIDS Conference held at Apia, Samoa from 01-04 September 2014.

A new chapter in our relations with the Pacific region has begun with the launch of the FIPIC initiative.





*Prime Minister meets Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand on the sidelines of ASEAN summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12 November 2014.*



*Prime Minister meeting with Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, in New Delhi on 28 October 2014.*



*External Affairs Minister meeting with Prime Minister of The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, in New Delhi on 28 October 2014.*



*Prime Minister meeting with Pacific Island Leaders in Suva.*

## Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) remained cordial. The two nations continued to cooperate in the United Nations and other international fora. DPRK supported India's candidature at UNHRC (2015-2017); Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage for term 2014-2018; and the post of Secretary General of Asia Pacific Telecommunity for term 2015-2018.

## Japan

India-Japan relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift in recent years propelled by the mechanism of 'Annual Summit' meetings between the Prime Ministers since the year 2006. Japan continues to convey a strong commitment to develop relations with India in the context of changed regional and international environment. The five pillars of India-Japan cooperation include political, defence and security cooperation; comprehensive economic partnership; science and technology initiative; people to people exchanges; and cooperation in regional and multi-lateral issues.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Japan from 30 August to 03 September 2014 for the annual summit meeting. It was his first major bilateral visit outside India's immediate neighbourhood. In Tokyo, the two Prime Ministers had a restricted meeting followed by delegation level talks. Prime Minister called on the Emperor of Japan. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr Taro Aso, Foreign Minister Mr Fumio Kishida, Defence Minister Mr Itsunori Onodera, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Toshimitsu Motegi and Minister for Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Mr Akihiro Ota called on Prime Minister. Leaders of Democratic Party of Japan, main opposition party, and New Komeito Party, coalition partner of PM Mr Shinzo Abe, also called on Prime Minister.

'Tokyo Declaration for India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership' was signed by the two Prime Ministers and 'Factsheet: India and Japan- Partners for Common Development' was issued. The visit resulted in substantive outcomes. On the economic side, a new India- Japan Investment Promotion Partnership was launched, under which Japan conveyed its intention to invest 3.5 trillion yen of public-private investment in India over five year period as well as to double the number of Japanese companies operating in India. Defence equipment and technology was identified as a new major area of cooperation. During the visit, the Japanese side also agreed to removal of six Indian entities from the Japanese foreign-end user list. The two sides agreed to strengthen their cooperation and collaboration in several areas including in energy, LNG, railways, infrastructure, smart cities, science and technology and in promoting people to people exchanges.

The following agreements were signed during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan: (a) Memorandum on Defence Co-operation and Exchanges between Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Defence of Japan; (b) Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan in the Field of Healthcare; (c) Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Women and Child Development between the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; (d) Framework of Cooperation between Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Government of India and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism of Japan in the Roads and Road Transportation Sector. (e) Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and Japan Bank of International Cooperation; and (f) Confirmation of the intention regarding the Partner City Affiliation between City of Varanasi (India) and City of Kyoto (Japan).

India and Japan have joint mechanisms at political and administrative levels to review progress in bilateral relations, including the status of implementation of various bilateral agreements. Bilateral consultations at Foreign Secretary/Vice Foreign Minister level were held in Tokyo on 25 April 2014. Besides bilateral issues, these dialogues cover issues of regional and global interest.

On 09 October 2014 Government has set up a special management team called "Japan Plus" to facilitate and fast track investment proposals from Japan. Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Samudra Paharedar', indigenously built Pollution Control Vessel(PCV) visited Yokohama, Japan during the 10th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Meeting and held a joint exercise with Japan Coast Guard at Yokohama from 29 September to 01 October 2014. Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) issued a notification on 17 September 2014 removing 6 Indian Space and Defence entities from Japan's Foreign End User List. Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha visited Japan during 21-24 October 2014 to participate in the 60th Anniversary celebrations of the Japanese Air Self-Defence Force. Shri Sripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State for Culture visited Japan from 27-30 October 2014 for inauguration ceremony of Festival of India in Japan. The 2nd India-Japan Joint Working Group on IT and Electronics was held on 28 October 2014 in Tokyo, which discussed the progress on identifying suitable locations for setting up Japanese Industrial Townships/Japanese Electronics Industrial Townships. The 8th India-Japan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Urban Development was held on 29 October 2014 in New Delhi. Exchange of notes for a loan of 15.62 billion yen extended by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the purpose of implementing the Guwahati Sewerage Project was signed on 21 November 2014. The 4th India Japan Dialogue on Africa was held in New Delhi on 24 November 2014. The 2nd India Japan Joint Working Group under India-Japan ICT Comprehensive Cooperation Framework was held in New Delhi on 03 December 2014.

The 2nd India Japan Joint Working Group under India-Japan ICT Comprehensive Cooperation Framework was held in New Delhi on 03 December 2014. The 7th India-Japan Strategic Dialogue on Economic Issues was held on 18 December 2014 between the visiting Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister and Finance Secretary. The 6th India-US-Japan Trilateral Dialogue at Director General/Joint Secretary level was held on 20 December 2014. The 4th India-Japan consultation on UN Affairs was held on 20 December 2014. The sub-committee meeting of the Joint Working Group on US-2 Aircraft was held on 22 December 2014. The preliminary meeting for launching the working level

consultation on defence equipment and technology cooperation was held on 23 December 2014. The first meeting of the Steering Committee set up by Ministry of Urban Development under the chairmanship of Secretary (UD) to operationalize the partnership agreement between the city of Varanasi and the city of Kyoto was held on 13 January 2015. Exchange of notes for an ODA loan of 50 billion yen (₹ 2620 crores approximately) extended by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the PPP Infrastructure Financing Project of India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) was signed on 16 January 2015. The 8th India-Japan Strategic Dialogue between External Affairs Minister of India and visiting Japanese Foreign Minister was held on 17 January 2015.

## **Mongolia**

India and Mongolia enjoy unique civilizational bonds as well as cultural and spiritual linkages. Friendship and trust have marked the India-Mongolia relationship, which was elevated to a 'Comprehensive Partnership'. The two nations took stock of their overall relationship during the 1st Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) held on 27 November 2014. Brigadier General Lhachinjav Sh, head of General Authority for Border Protection (GABP), Mongolia led the delegation to India to attend the 4th DG Level Talks between Border Security Force (India) and General Authority for Border Protection (Mongolia) held at New Delhi from 15-20 December 2014. The two countries regularly participate 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 undergraduate and post-graduate courses. The Government of India commenced work to upgrade and modernize the Rajiv Gandhi Polytechnic College of Production and Art in Ulaanbaatar to implement new trades. The first phase of the project was successfully completed and second phase of the project has begun and expected to be completed by next year. Mongolia also agreed to the early utilization of the soft Line of Credit of US \$20 million extended by India to Mongolia to set up an "India-Mongolia Joint Information Technology Education and Outsourcing Centre" in Ulaanbaatar. The LOC agreement was made effective in August 2012. The two nations continued to support each other in the United Nations and other international fora.

## **Republic of Korea (RoK)**

India and South Korea steadily expanded their strategic partnership by further increasing political cooperation,

economic engagement and cultural exchanges. In order to boost people-to-people relations and travel between the two countries, India extended visa-on-arrival (VOA) facility for Korean tourists from 15 April 2014. The sapling of the sacred Bodhi Tree gifted by India to Korea during the State visit to India of President Ms. Park Geun-hye in January 2014, arrived in Seoul and is likely to be opened to public viewing in a prominent temple by the middle of 2015. Director General, ICCR on a visit to Korea unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi, the first in Korea, at the Hongbeop-sa temple in Busan on 21 July 2014. President Ms. Park Geun-hye spoke to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 22 July 2014 to congratulate him on his victory in the general election and invited him to visit South Korea. Both leaders welcomed greater bilateral economic engagement and hoped to achieve all-round progress in the partnership in the years ahead. EAM met with Korean Foreign Minister on 10 August 2014 on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers' meeting in Nay Pyi Taw when it was inter alia agreed that she would visit Seoul for holding the next Joint Commission meeting (JCM). The fourth India-ROK Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue (FPSD), led by Secretary (East) and Korean 1st Vice Minister was held in Seoul on 29 August 2014 when ways and means were discussed to further expand bilateral ties. This was followed up by Foreign Office Consultations between Joint Secretary (EA) and his Korean counterpart in Seoul, preparatory to JCM.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Ms. Park Geun-hye met in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2014, on the margins of the EAS and ASEAN summit and held a detailed exchange of views on further deepening bilateral relations.

The defence and security relationship between the two countries was boosted with the conclusion of agreements on regular exchanges between the national security structures and protection of classified military information (in January 2014), institution of Defence Policy Dialogue (Seoul in December 2013), exchange of high level visits, military education and training. A productive Joint Committee Meeting between the two ministries of defence at Secretary level was held in Seoul in November 2014. Partnership between the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Defence Acquisition and Program Administration (DAPA) is also deepening.

The 13th Korea-India Dialogue under a broad theme - Towards a Renewed Relationship: New Opportunities and Challenges - co-organized by the Seoul Forum for International Affairs (SFIA) and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), was held on 07-08 November 2014 at Seoul. The dialogue brought

together leading policymakers, academics, defence and security analysts and corporate leaders. A number of concrete recommendations were made by the Forum to enhance cooperation in areas like defence production; civil nuclear energy; ICT and space research; and between SME's from India and Korea.

To give a qualitative fillip to bilateral economic ties and to apprise Korean industry about Prime Minister's 'Make in India' initiative, the Indian Embassy organised the biggest ever business symposium - 'India: New future in infrastructure & manufacturing' - on 29 August 2014. Secretary (East) made a keynote address. Other prominent speakers included CEO of DMIC and a representative of the state of Gujarat.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, visited South Korea during 17-20 October 2014 to encourage Korean electronics industry to set up manufacturing facilities in India, especially in areas like mobile phones, consumer electronics, smart cards, medical electronics, among others. He met CEOs of leading Korean industrial houses.

Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) is in the process of setting up the first ever Korean Industrial Park in the State of Rajasthan. POSCO's cold rolled steel mill with a capacity of 1.8 million tons and investment of over \$700 million, near Pune, Maharashtra is nearing completion.

Bilateral trade amounted to 17.57 billion in 2013. India is the 15th largest trade partner of Korea. Korean majors such as Hyundai Motors, Samsung Electronics, LG, etc., which have invested over \$3.49 billion till June 2014 in India, plan to expand further. India's FDI in Korea led by Mahindra & Mahindra (Ssangyong Motors), Aditya Birla Group (Novelis Ltd.) and TATA (Tata Daewoo commercial vehicles) is close to \$3 billion.

External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Seoul from 28-30 December 2014 to co-chair the 8th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) on 29 December 2014 with her counterpart Foreign Minister of ROK. During the visit, External Affairs Minister called on President Madame Park Geun-hye and held meetings with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Minister of National Defence and the National Security Advisor. The meeting afforded opportunity for the two ministers to hold in-depth consultations on all aspects of bilateral relations with a view to chart out a road map for further strengthening and deepening of bilateral Strategic Partnership. In order to take forward issues related to bilateral economic, defence and S&T cooperation, it has been proposed that Ministers of Commerce and Industry, Defence and S&T may visit ROK during the first quarter of 2015. ■ ■



*Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe of Japan during the Joint Press Interaction in Tokyo on 01 September 2014.*



*Prime Minister meets President Ms. Park Geun-hye of Republic of Korea on the sidelines of 12th ASEAN-India Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12 November 2014.*



*External Affairs Minister's visit to Republic of Korea- External Affairs Minister meeting with Mr Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Korea in Seoul on 29 December 2014.*

## Russian Federation

India and Russia share a long-standing friendship based on mutual trust and confidence spanning over six decades. The two countries maintained an active dialogue at various levels during the year. The system of Annual Summit meetings between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Russia has been institutionalized under the Declaration of Strategic Partnership signed in 2000. President Mr Vladimir Putin visited India for the 15th Annual Summit on 10-11 December 2014. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had earlier met the Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit at Fortaleza in Brazil on 16 July 2014 and during the G20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia on 15-16 November 2014.

The 15th Annual Summit was highly successful. Both countries emphasised the 'special and privileged' character of their strategic partnership. The Summit produced excellent outcomes in the strategic and economic sectors and as many as 20 bilateral documents and commercial contracts were signed. These included agreements on nuclear, defence, energy, Science and Technology and investment sectors. The two leaders laid out an ambitious vision of our bilateral cooperation over the next decade. A joint document was issued called 'Druzhba-Dosti' which speaks of 'broad-basing' bilateral cooperation and carrying the relationship to a qualitatively new level.

The Summit also set up ambitious goals for cooperation in energy, defence, as also in the economic sector, where it targets a trade level of US\$ 30 billion and investments each way of US\$ 15 billion by 2025.

In the political sphere, Russia once again extended its support for India's permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council and the two countries have pledged to jointly fight terrorism in their common region.

A separate vision on strategic nuclear cooperation was spelt out which speaks of building at least 12 nuclear reactors in the next

two decades, with increasing transfer of technology and localisation of content.

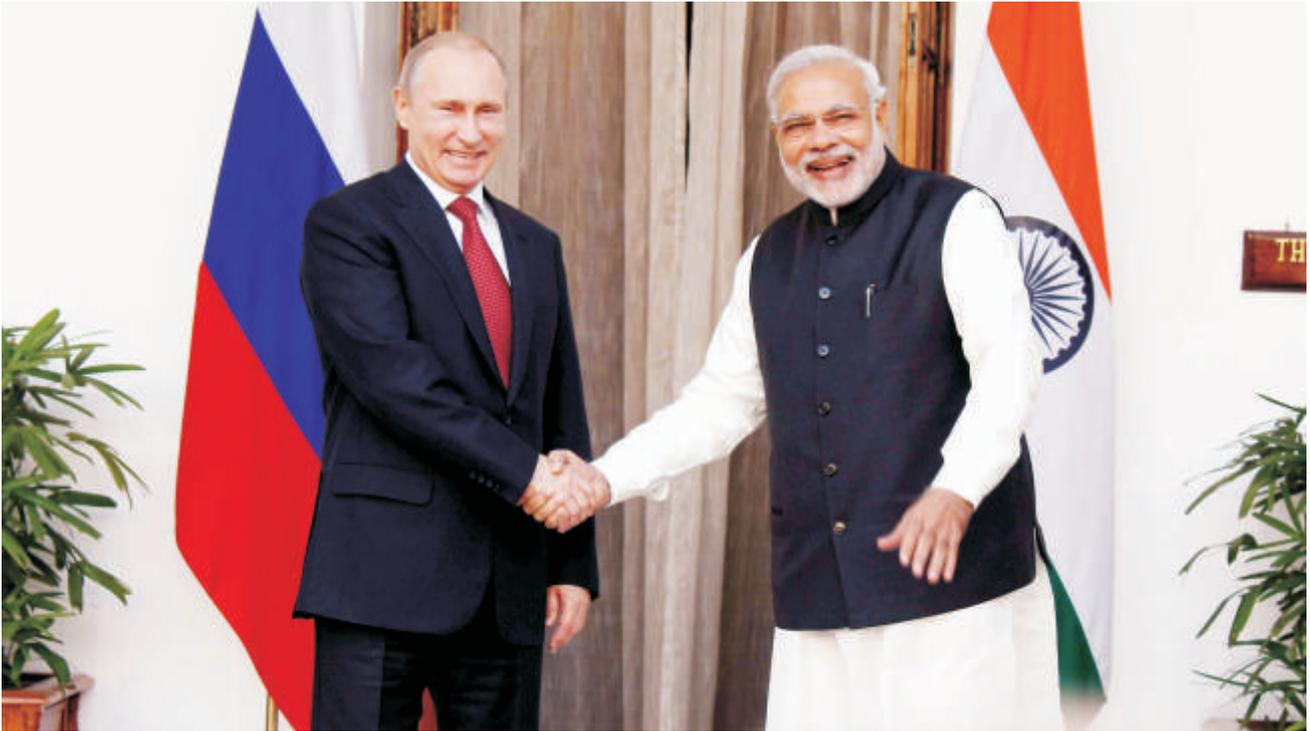
Russia remains India's most important defence partner, even though India has diversified its defence sourcing. The leaders explored ways to synchronise our defence projects under the 'Make in India' programme.

In April 2014 Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) signed the General Framework Agreement (GFA) and Integrity Pact with Russian company Atomstroyexport for Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant units 3 & 4. Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh visited Moscow in April 2014 to hold Foreign Office Consultations with First Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Vladimir Titov and Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Igor Morgulov. Foreign Office Consultations between the two Ministries took place on disarmament, non-proliferation and export control (Moscow, April 2014); on Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) (Moscow, September 2014); and Russia-India-China (RIC) (Moscow, September 2014).

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Shri Anuj Kumar Bishnoi participated in the 3rd Moscow Conference on International Security in May 2014; then Deputy National Security Advisor, Shri Nehchal Sandhu participated in the 5th International High Ranking Officials meeting on security matters in Kazan from 18-21 June 2014. Deputy Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau, Shri R. P. Singh attended the anti-drugs meeting of BRICS member states in Moscow in May 2014.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Dmitry Rogozin visited India on 18 June 2014 and met External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj. He met the then Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Doval. He also called on the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Former Chief Justice of India Shri R. M. Lodha participated in the 4th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum on 18-21 June 2014; Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), Shri



*Official Visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India (10-11 December 2014) -Prime Minister meeting with President of Russian Federation, H.E. Mr Vladimir Putin in New Delhi on 11 December 2014.*



*External Affairs Minister meeting with H.E. Mr Dmitry O. Rogozin, Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation in New Delhi on 18 June 2014.*

Shashi Kant Sharma visited Russia for a meeting of Asian and Eurasian Auditors Meeting in September 2014. Energy cooperation continued to develop actively between the two countries. Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited Russia from 18-21 June 2014 to participate in the 21st World Petroleum Congress (WPC) and inaugurated the Indian pavilion at the Congress. He also met the Russian Minister of Energy Mr Alexander Novak to discuss bilateral cooperation in the field of oil and natural gas. Earlier in May 2014, ONGC and Russia's Rosneft signed an MoU for cooperation in the field of oil and gas exploration in the Arctic Shelf. Air India resumed flights to Moscow on 18 July 2014 after a gap of about 15 years.

Defence Cooperation continued to make progress and dialogue and cooperation in specific projects moved ahead during the year. The 7th Indo-Russian High Level Monitoring (HLMC) meeting was held in New Delhi in June 2014; 14th meeting of the Military Technical Cooperation (MTC) Working Group was held in New Delhi in September 2014; 14th meeting of the SALS Working Group took place in New Delhi in October 2014. Prime Minister dedicated to the nation the Russian built aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya in June 2014. The Navy, Air Force and Army of the two countries held joint military exercises in Russia- Indra Navy 2014 (July), Avia Indra 2014 (August) and Indra army to army exercise 2014 (September). An NCC delegation visited Russia in August 2014 to participate in the annual 'Youth Exchange Programme.'

Commerce Secretary participated in the inaugural ceremony of the 'India Show' Exhibition in Moscow held from 24-26 September 2014, which was organized with the participation of about 100 Indian companies, mainly from pharmaceuticals, leather, textiles and apparel sectors. A delegation from Gujarat visited Moscow and St. Petersburg in September 2014 to promote the biennial 'Vibrant Gujarat – 2015'. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) led an Indian delegation to the World Food Expo in Moscow in September 2014. Tourism sector representatives from 18 companies, including the Goa Tourism and India Tourism participated in an International Tourism Fair in Moscow in September 2014.

Cultural exchanges, tourism, academic exchange and people-to-people contacts continued to witness an upward trend. An ICCR-sponsored Punjab Folk Dance and Music Group visited the cities of Moscow, Kaluga, Kursk and Tarusa in October 2014.

On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Dushanbe in September 2014, External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj met with Russian Foreign Minister Mr Sergei Lavrov. India submitted its request for SCO membership before the SCO Summit meeting.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Mr Dmitry Rogozin and External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj co-chaired the 20th session of the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) in New Delhi on 05 November 2014. DPM Mr Dmitry Rogozin also called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Working Groups on trade and economic cooperation; investment; modernization and industrial cooperation; science and technology; culture and tourism; sub-groups on mining, civil aviation, banking, fertilizers met in advance of the Commission meeting to assess cooperation and opportunities in respective sectors.

Embassy of India, Moscow reached out to various regions of Russia to promote cooperation in the field of economy, culture, education, etc. through visits to regions and holding interactive sessions with regions for the Indian Community in Russia. The Embassy also organized various events to highlight the 'Make in India' programme in Moscow.

Bilateral trade ties between India and Russia are modest when compared to the size and potential of the two economies. Bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 10 billion in 2013. [Imports from Russia: US\$ 8 billion; Exports to Russia: US\$ 2 billion.]

## Belarus

India-Belarus bilateral relations are traditionally warm and cordial. Belarus extended its support to India's candidature for election to the "Inter-governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" for the term 2014-18. A memorandum of Understanding involving exchange of information related to money laundering and financing of terrorism was signed during a plenary session of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism of which India and Belarus are members along with seven other states.

India, under assistance to Belarus for Clearance of Explosives Remnants of War (ERWs), supplied 90 radio sets and 30 GPS navigators and sanctioned 25 mine detectors to Belarus.

Bilateral trade in 2013 was US\$ 351.312 million as against US\$ 498.575 million in 2012. The dip was due to decreased sale of fertilisers to India and fall in imports from India.

The Indian Embassy in Belarus organised several cultural events including an ICCR sponsored 5 member music group "GHATAM" led by Shri Somnath Roy.

## Ukraine

The internal crisis in Ukraine, which began in end 2013, continued into 2014. The interim government sworn in at the beginning of this year was soon recognised by all major world powers and subsequently the election of the new President Mr Petro Poroshenko in May 2014, helped in stabilising the political situation. Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi sent a congratulatory message to President Mr Petro Poroshenko.

The deteriorating security situation in the eastern part of the country was further complicated by the downing of a Malaysian plane in the strife torn areas bordering Russia in July 2014 and killing all 298 passengers. India condemned the downing of the jet and expressed deep condolences for the victims.

Amidst the rapidly deteriorating situation in eastern Ukraine, the Embassy of India in Kyiv, with the active support of the Ukrainian Government, arranged for two trains in June 2014 to successfully evacuate nearly 1000 Indian students (and some from SAARC countries) from Lugansk to Kyiv. The Embassy made arrangements for their accommodation in Kyiv and onward travel to India.

The Embassy supported the facilities for teaching Hindi in some institutions in Kyiv. The Embassy also signed an agreement with the National Television Company of Ukraine for screening of Indian films.

## South Caucasus

India continued to step up its relations with Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan in the South Caucasus. These countries lie at the crossroads between Europe and Asia and form an important part of surface connectivity and energy transport/transit lines to the region and beyond to Europe. Activities were held on both sides to promote business, tourism, education and culture.

## Armenia

India signed a Memorandum of Understanding for establishing a telemedicine network in Armenia on 24 June 2014 in Yerevan. On 29 August 2014 in the presence of the Prime Minister of Armenia Mr Hovik Abrahamyan, a Memorandum of Understanding on setting up of computer

labs in 50 schools in Vayots Dzor region was signed. This would be the second region in Armenia to get this facility from India.

14 Armenian companies participated in the Pharmaceutical exhibition IPHEX 2014 in Mumbai in May 2014.

Hindi continues to be taught at the Yerevan State Linguistic University and Vishwa Hindi Day – 2014 was celebrated at the University on 30 May 2014. The Mission also promoted various cultural activities in Yerevan and launched the "Make in India" presentation.

In 2013 bilateral trade rose to US \$ 67 million out of which India's imports from Armenia were US \$ 1.45 mn. Frozen bovine meat is a major item of India's exports to Armenia.

## Azerbaijan

The groundbreaking ceremony of the "Southern Gas Corridor" project to deliver Azeri gas via Georgia and Turkey to Europe was held in Baku on 30 September 2014. The project is being implemented by an international consortium led by BP with ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) as one of the partners.

The Mission organised a business week to coincide with the launch of the "Make in India" project on 25 September 2014. A 20-member group from Sangeet Natak Academy presented a concert of Indian music and dance at "Silk Way" International Music Festival in Sheki City.

In 2013, India's bilateral trade with Azerbaijan was US\$ 1.148 billion with Azeri exports at US\$ 1.098 billion and India's exports at US\$ 49.7 million.

## Georgia

The first session of the India-Georgia Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation was held on 29 April 2014 in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs and the Georgian delegation by Mr Davit Jalagania, Deputy Foreign Minister. The discussion focussed on cooperation in trade and investment, energy, industry, information technology, tourism, science and technology, consular issues, culture, education, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, and agriculture between the two countries. The Georgian side noted the investments made by Indian companies in Georgia's agriculture, energy, steel and oil exploration sectors. The session discussed a number of

concrete proposals to take trade and economic cooperation to the next level. Both sides particularly noted the potential to step up cooperation in pharmaceuticals, information technology, agriculture and tourism.

The IGC Session was followed by a Business Forum at FICCI at which presentations were made on trade and investment opportunities that exist in each country. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was signed with the aim to promote mutually advantageous commercial and industrial interests.

## Central Asia

In pursuit of the objectives spelt out in the Connect Central Asia Policy, India continued to step up its engagements with the Central Asian Republics. There were interactions at high level, visits by business delegations, cultural programmes and defence exchanges. The Third Track-II India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in Dushanbe on 10 October 2014. This dialogue witnessed participants around 75 countries, which includes participation from otherwise neutral Turkmenistan. About 420 scholarships under the Ministry's Indian Technical and Economic (ITEC) Scheme and 100 under ICCR programme were allotted to Central Asia for the year 2014-15. These scholarships are very much appreciated by these countries and assist them in human resource development and capacity building.

Under the bilateral institutional mechanism of a Central Asian dialogue with major groups in the Central Asian region, the Ministry held dialogues with the US in May and June 2014 in New Delhi.

## Kazakhstan

The 11th meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Cultural between India and Kazakhstan was held in Astana on 29-30 April 2014. The Indian side was led by Shri Saurabh Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Oil and Gas and the Kazakhstan side was led by Mr Magzum Mirzaliyev Maratovich, Vice-Minister of Oil and Gas. The IGC Meeting made a comprehensive review of the bilateral relations and discussed further areas of cooperation in such spheres as trade, commerce, energy, Science and Technology, consular matters, connectivity, civil aviation, tourism, health-care, mining, textiles, educational, cultural spheres etc.

Shri P. Chidambaram, the then Minister of Finance led an official delegation to Astana to participate in the 47th Annual Board of Governors Meeting from 02-05 May 2014.

A 45 member delegation from ASSOCHAM and a 6 member delegation from Tea Board of India participated in the "World Food Expo" held in Almaty on 05-08 November 2014.

MoS (VKS) held bilateral meeting with Kazakh Prime Minister on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of Governments Meeting in Astana on 15 December 2014.

## Kyrgyz Republic

The agreement between India and Kyrgyz Republic on establishing visa-free regime for diplomatic and official passports came into force from 23 April 2014.

A 16 member team led by Maj. Gen. Anurag Gupta from National Defence College, New Delhi, visited Kyrgyz Republic from 11-16 May 2014. They called on Deputy Defence Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister.

External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj held a bilateral meeting with Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Mr Erlan Abdyldaev on the sidelines of the 69th Session of UNGA, New York on 24 September 2014.

A 10-member Bhangra Dance group "Bhola Panchi", sponsored by ICCR, performed in Bishkek on 18 October 2014 and in Kara-Balta on 19 October 2014. The Mission also organised other cultural events in Bishkek.

A five-member DRDO delegation led by Dr Avinash Chander, SA to Defence Minister and Secretary (Defence R&D), visited Kyrgyz Republic from 25-28 October 2014 to discuss India-Kyrgyz bilateral cooperation and monitor the High Altitude Research Centre at Bishkek and Tuya Ashu.

## Tajikistan

India and Tajikistan share a common history which has forged strong bilateral relations. There are a number of consultative mechanisms on foreign office consultation, counter-terrorism, trade and defence.

Smt Sujatha Singh, Foreign Secretary visited Dushanbe from 07-09 May 2014 for the 2nd Foreign Office Consultations. She called on President Mr Emomaliy Rahmon during her visit.

Smt Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister led a delegation to attend the Council of Heads of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, held in Dushanbe from 10-12 September 2014.

Around 75 scholars from India, Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries attended the Third Track-II India-Central Asia Dialogue, held in Dushanbe on 10 October 2014. Recommendations and suggestions were made by the scholars to enhance cooperation between India and the Central Asian countries. The Conference was organised by the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan.

## Turkmenistan

The 26th Technical Working Group of TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project) was held in Ashgabat from 06-07 July 2014 followed by the Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) on 08 July 2014. Shri Saurabh Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas led the Indian delegation to the SCM.

External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj held a bilateral meeting with Turkmen President Mr Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on 12 September 2014 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on the sidelines of the 14th Heads of State Summit of the SCO.

A 30-member Turkmen cultural troupe visited India (New Delhi and Jaipur) from 12-18 October 2014 to participate in the First International Festival of Folk Songs and Dance and 'Days of Turkmen Culture in India'.

The 19th Steering Committee Meeting of TAPI was held in Ashgabat on 19-20 November 2014. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas led the Indian delegation to the meeting.

Some 849 Indian nationals live in Turkmenistan, most are semi-skilled workers in the oil and gas sector as well as in the construction sector. There are also a few engineers, junior engineers and technicians working in the oil and gas sector. These Indians are working either with foreign companies or directly employed by an Indian company (Pamposh Construction Pvt. Ltd.,) providing construction labour for a French company in Turkmenistan.

## Uzbekistan

Official delegations from India visited Tashkent and the Ministry of Tourism was represented at the 99th Session of the Executive Council of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) at Samarkand.

The Uzbek Parliamentary Elections were held on 21 December 2014 and results were declared on 31 December 2014. Ten prominent Indians from the fields of Diplomacy, Politics, Academia and Media were invited by Uzbek Election Commission to Act as observers in the Elections. The Uzbek Presidential elections have been finalized for 29 March 2015.

Bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 259.6 million in 2013. Delegations from Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) visited Tashkent during the year.





*External Affairs Minister calls on President Mr Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan in Dushanbe.*



*Prime Minister's Bilateral Meeting with Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.*

## Gulf

Our traditionally close ties with the countries of the Gulf region are based on civilization linkages and vibrant people to people contacts. These friendly ties were further cemented by regular exchanges of visits at political, trade and commerce level. The Gulf region has been India's largest regional trading partner with bilateral trade reaching US\$ 171.8 billion in 2013-14. The Gulf region continues to be 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

Our friendly and multifaceted ties with Kingdom of Bahrain, which remains as a favorite destination for Indian expatriates, were further strengthened by regular high-level political visits. Minister of External Affairs & Overseas Indian Affairs of India Smt Sushma Swaraj paid a visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain on 06-07 September 2014. She participated in the inaugural Indian Diaspora Engagement meet organized by the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) and had bilateral interaction with the top Bahraini leadership. She also participated in the Onam celebrations organized by the Indian expatriate community. During the visit, the OIFC signed two agreements with the Bahrain Economic Development Board and the Bahrain India Society.

Sheikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, Foreign Minister of Kingdom of Bahrain is visiting India for the first meeting of the India-Bahrain High Joint Commission being held on 22 February 2015 in New Delhi.

The third round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Bahrain was held on 20 October 2014 in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (Gulf

and the Bahraini side was led by Dr Ranabint Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa, Assistant Under Secretary for Arab & Afro-Asian Affairs and Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Lt Gen Anil Bhalla, Director General (Defence Intelligence Agency) paid an official visit to Bahrain from 17-19 November 2014 and met with the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahraini Armed Forces, Field Marshal Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

## Iran

Iran is an important country in India's immediate 'economic and security space'. With India as a large and growing buyer of energy resources, and Iran being a major supplier there is a good basis to construct a close energy cooperation relationship in the future.

Our bilateral commercial relations with Iran have continued to expand. India-Iran trade stood at US\$ 7.35 billion for the period April-September 2014 showing an increase of 15% over the bilateral trade over the same period last year. The Chambers of Commerce from India (FICCI, ASSOCHAM, CII) continued to maintain exchanges with Iran.

India made considerable progress in India's discussions with Iran on our participation in the development of Chahbahar Port. In October 2014, Cabinet accorded clearance to participate in the port project and further discussions to finalize the MoU with Iran are underway.

India conducted a successful trial run along International North South Transit Corridor (INSTC) from 08-14 August 2014 which included Bandar Abbas-Astara and Bandar Abbas-Amirabad routes.

Our participation in both Chahbahar and INSTC is aimed to enhance connectivity with Afghanistan and other land locked countries of the Central Asia Region.

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

- Shri Satish Mehta, Director General, ICCR visited Tehran on 24 July 2014 and met Mr Masoud Soltanifar, Head of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organisation (ICHHTO). A Memorandum of Understanding for strengthening cultural cooperation between India and Iran was signed between ICCR and ICHHTO. Shri Satish Mehta also met Mr Ebrahim Rahimpour, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran.
- Dr Abbas Akhoundi, Minister for Road and Development of the Islamic Republic of Iran visited India in November 2014 on the margins of 18th session of the SAARC Summit. Mr Akhoundi held meetings with Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways on 25 November 2014 and with Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways on 28 November 2014.

## Iraq

Relations with Iraq are historical, close and multifaceted. Iraq, being the second most important supplier of crude oil, plays crucial role in our energy security.

A number of Indian companies were awarded EPC contracts in Iraq including US\$235 million contract to M/s Mokul – Shriram JV to rebuild the sewerage system for Basrah; US\$246 million contract by BGR Energy EPC to build the Nassiriyah Power, US\$81 million contract by M/s Lanco Infratech to build the Akaaz power project and US\$ 85 Million by M/s Shapoorji Pollonji to rebuild a Hotel in Basrah.

In terms of capacity-building, India provided 80 slots to Iraq under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC); 55 slots under the 'Cultural Exchange Programme Scholarship Scheme' (CEP) and the 'General Cultural Scholarship Scheme' (GCSS) organized by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

The fragile security situation in Iraq, following the capture of several cities in Northern and Western Iraq through sudden attacks by Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham beginning June 2014, was of major concern and preoccupation for the Government of India. The safety and security of Indian nationals in Iraq was of great concern to the Government. All necessary steps were undertaken to facilitate safe return of Indian nationals, especially from the conflict zone to India. As of 01 December 2014, return of 7000 Indian nationals was facilitated, out of which 6,000 were provided air tickets.

## Israel

Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh visited Israel from 05-07 November 2014. He held several high level meetings with the

Israeli leadership, including Prime Minister Mr Benjamin Netanyahu. The Home Minister's visit was intended to further emerging cooperation in the area of homeland security. During his meetings, the Home Minister also invited Israeli industry to take advantage of the new industrial policy measures promoting 'Make In India'.

The inaugural meeting of the India-Israel Joint Steering Committee on Homeland Security was held in Israel from 21-23 September 2014. The Steering Committee was set up to coordinate cooperation in the area of Homeland Security as laid out in the Agreement on Cooperation in Homeland and Public Security issues signed between India and Israel in February 2014. Both sides agreed to set up four working groups in different areas. The five member Indian delegation was led by Shri Rajiv Gauba, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

India put up the largest country pavilion at MIXiii, the first Israeli innovation conference held in Tel Aviv from 20-22 May 2014. The India pavilion comprised more than 35 Indian exhibitors including private companies, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government Research and Development organizations, trade promotion departments and a venture capital firm. The pavilion received financial support from various departments of Government of India and the state governments of Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The Embassy in collaboration with the Indian Jewish community organised the Second Indian Jewish National Convention in Yeruham on 14 October 2014. The event which showcased the rich Indian Jewish heritage saw the enthusiastic participation of almost 3,500 people from all the four Indian Jewish communities: Bene Israel, Cochin, Baghdadi and Bene Menashe.

The 11th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation was held in Israel on 30 June 2014. The meetings were held in a cordial and frank atmosphere, and various topics of mutual interest were discussed. The Indian Delegation was led by Shri R.K. Mathur, Defence Secretary, and his counterpart was Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dan Harel, Director General, Israel's Ministry of Defence.

The Minister of Agriculture of Israel Mr Yair Shamir led a business delegation to India in January 2015 to participate in the 'Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015'. On the sidelines, Mr Yair Shamir met with Prime Minister, Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Radha Mohan Singh, and Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal in Gujarat. The two countries signed an agreement for implementing the third phase of Agricultural Cooperation Project for 2015-18.

## Jordan

An eight-member Indian delegation consisting of MPs and MLAs participated at the Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy held on 07-08 November 2014 at Dead Sea. The event jointly organized by the Climate Parliament and the United Nations Development Programme deliberated on energy policies of the respective countries.

After a gap of over eight years, Foreign Office Consultations between India and Jordan were held on 01 April 2014 in Amman. Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East) led the Indian delegation while the Jordanian delegation was headed by Mr Mohammad Tayseer Bani Yaseen, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Both sides held constructive discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations, especially in the fields of polity, defence, security, economy, energy and culture and also reviewed pending issues. Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East) again visited Amman on 22-23 July 2014. This time the purpose of the visit was at the backdrop of the developments in Iraq and its fallout on the region as well as on Indian nationals in Iraq.

In trade and commercial fields, our two-way trade has grown steadily despite various regional and global adversities and conflicts in the neighbourhood. Bilateral trade, as on August 2014 is to the tune of US\$ 1.09 billion remaining largely in India's favour. A 16-member business delegation led by Shri Chandranath Som, Joint Deputy Director, Federation of Indian Export Organisations [FIEO] visited Amman from 26-28 May 2014. During the visit, FEIO and ACC signed an MoU with a view to enhancing cooperation in the related fields. A 60-member Indian business delegation representing 36 Indian companies under the FEIO participated at the "Interbuild Fair -2014" held in Amman from 22-25 September 2014. Prime Minister Mr Abdullah Ensour inaugurated the "Indian Pavilion" along with Ambassador Shri Anil Trigunayat.

On 27 October 2014, our mission in New York, on behalf of Government of India, handed over a cheque of US\$ 0.5 million to the United Nations in New York for the Emergency Response Fund for Jordan out of the funds pledged at the Kuwait Conference in January 2014.

A 14-member delegation from the Royal Jordanian National Defence College led by Brig. Gen. Moh'd Alharahsheh visited India from 14-17 April 2014.

At the invitation of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations [ICCR] a 12-member cultural delegation from the Zaha

Cultural Centre, Greater Amman Municipality, participated at the "World Percussion Festival" from 21-23 November 2014 in New Delhi.

Jordan utilized all the 20 ITEC slots earmarked for 2014 for Jordanian candidates under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. Additionally, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is offering five annual scholarships to meritorious Jordanian students for higher education in India. Jordanian nationals have been making good use of the training opportunities offered by India.

## Kuwait

The close, multifaceted and friendly relations between India and Kuwait were further cemented during the year. Dr Abdulmohsen Medaj Al-Medaj, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Commerce and Industry, State of Kuwait, visited India to participate in the 4th India Arab Partnership Conference organized by FICCI in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 26 -27 November 2014.

Bilateral meetings under the existing framework of institutional mechanism including the 2nd round of Foreign Office Consultations (11 September 2014), 4th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development (16 June 2014), and the 3rd meeting of the Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbon (24-25 June 2014) were held in Kuwait.

A 6-member delegation led by Shri S. Vardarajan, CMD, BPCL visited Kuwait on 27 April 2014 to sign the annual crude oil purchase contract with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. Shri D.K. Sarraf, CMD, ONGC visited Kuwait on 17-18 July 2014 to explore the possibility of Kuwaiti investments in the Indian oil sector. The CII, with the support of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi organized an "India Pavilion" in Kuwait from 22-24 September 2014.

Some leading Indian companies, including Larsen & Turbo, Shapoorji Pallonji, Dodsal, Punj Lloyd, Simplex, Afcons, were awarded EPC contracts worth US\$ 3 billion during the year.

A delegation of scientists from CSIR and Ministry of Earth Sciences visited Kuwait from 14-16 April 2014. An MoU on bilateral cooperation between Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) and Earth Systems Science Organization, Ministry of Earth Sciences was signed on 16 October 2014.

INS Mysore made three visits to Kuwait during the year as part of contingency plans for safe evacuation of Indian nationals stranded in the war-torn Iraq.

An ICCR-sponsored Fusion Group (Sufi Gospel Project) led by Ms. Sonam Kalra visited Kuwait on 16-17 September 2014 for cultural performances.

## Lebanon

Due to political uncertainty, the Lebanese Government has been unable to act decisively on many important issues, including kick-starting the oil and gas exploration process pending since March 2013 and tackling social, economic and infrastructural problems created by the deteriorating security situation and the influx of refugees (including Palestinians) from Syria and Iraq, forming 25% of Lebanon's total population.

A Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) business delegation visited Lebanon in May 2014 and signed a cooperation agreement with the Saida Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Mission organized Indian handicrafts and tea promotional events at the Indian Embassy sponsored stalls in local exhibitions and in a standalone Indian bazaar, as also an Indian food festival and various cultural events spanning dance, music and exhibitions (of photographs of Islamic architecture in India and of sarees) not only in Beirut but also in Saida, Tyre and even in Tripoli despite the ongoing battle between the Lebanese army and ISIS / Al-Nusra Front militants in and around Tripoli in the Aarsal region.

The ICCR-sponsored Sufi Gospel Project was hosted in Lebanon under the Cultural Exchange Agreement Programme between India and Lebanon, which had been ratified in 2000. Lebanon-India relations in both trade and culture are expected to be further boosted by Lebanon's agreement to participate at the Surajkund Mela in 2015.

The Indian contingent in United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has continued to effectively handle tensions in its area of operation which includes the Golan Heights and Shebaa Farms. The Indian presence in UNIFIL has been enhanced by the appointment of Brig. Tarundeep Kumar as Deputy Force Commander.

## Oman

The traditionally strong economic and political relationship between India and Oman was further strengthened during the year. Shri E. Ahamed, the then Minister of State for External Affairs accompanied by Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East) visited Oman during 03-05 May 2014.

Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Mr Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah visited India on 03 June 2014 as a Special Envoy to congratulate the new Government in India. Oil & Gas Minister, Mr Mohammed Al-Rumhi was the Chief Guest at the function held in India to mark the Petronet Foundation Day on 01 April 2014.

Omani Minister of Commerce & Industry, Dr Ali bin Masoud bin Ali al Sunaidy headed high-level business and official delegation to India for the 7th round of the Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi on 29 October 2014 with Indian counterpart, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry. The 8th Joint Business Council (JBC) between FICCI and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) was held on the sidelines of the 7th JCM.

A delegation from the National Defence College visited Oman from 25-27 August 2014. Three ships of the Indian Navy's Training Squadron from the Southern Naval Command comprising INS Tir, INS Sujata and INS Tarangini made a goodwill visit to the Sultan Qaboos Port at Muscat from 06-09 October 2014. Secretary General of the National Security Council of Oman, Maj Gen Salman Khushoob visited India from 26-28 November 2014 for institutionalized consultations on bilateral security matters met with Deputy National Security Advisor of India. A delegation from National Defence College of Oman visited India from 17-24 January 2015.

Mr Ahmad Yusuf Al-Harthri, Under Secretary in the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Diplomatic Affairs visited New Delhi on 03 December 2014 for the 10th India-Oman Strategic Consultative Group Meeting held in New Delhi.

Secretary (Fertilizers) led a three-member delegation to Oman from 27-30 April 2014 and had discussions with the Omani Minister of Oil & Gas on bilateral issues. A number of Indian companies operating in the construction sector in Oman were awarded mega projects. Embassy of India organized an India Business Seminar focused on investment promotion in India on 12 November 2014 and a Sufi musical concert sponsored by ICCR on 14 September 2014.

## Palestine

Final status talks between Israel and Palestine, which began on 29 July 2013, collapsed on 29 April 2014, without any outcome. India had welcomed the resumption of talks.

On 02 June 2014, President Mr Mahmoud Abbas sworn-in, a Government of National Consensus, as a transitional arrangement to conduct national elections for a new president

and parliament. The Government has 17 Ministers. The government was formed following a Fatah-Hamas reconciliation agreement on 23 April 2014. India welcomed the formation of the unity government. This was in keeping with India's stance of supporting the reconciliation efforts between the West Bank and Gaza, key to a sustainable Palestinian State.

On 08 July 2014, Israel launched Operation Protective Edge against Gaza. The Operation lasted for 50 days and claimed more than 2,200 Palestinian lives. India expressed deep concern at the steep escalation of violence in Gaza, particularly large number of airstrikes and disproportionate use of force on ground, resulting in tragic loss of civilian lives, especially women and children and extensive destruction of houses and infrastructure. On 26 August 2014, Egypt mediated a ceasefire. India welcomed the ceasefire between Palestine and Israel and called upon all sides to exercise maximum restraint and avoid taking any action that may lead to violation of present ceasefire and work towards a comprehensive resolution of the Palestinian issue. India maintains that the blockade of Gaza should be fully lifted and humanitarian supplies and desperately-needed materials for reconstruction allowed in without restrictions.

On 12 October 2014, Egypt, Norway and Palestine jointly hosted the Cairo Conference on Palestine for the reconstruction of Gaza. International donors pledged US\$ 5.4 billion against the projected requirement of US\$ 4 billion. The Conference was attended by more than 75 countries and International Organisations. India participated in the Conference and pledged US\$ 4 million. Shri Sandeep Kumar, Joint Secretary (West Asia and North Africa Division), Ministry of External Affairs, led the Indian delegation to the Conference.

India, Brazil and South Africa, are jointly funding developmental projects in Palestine. One project (Sports Centre, Ramallah) was handed over to the people of Palestine. Two projects (Nablus Center for the Rehabilitation of People with Special Needs and rehabilitation of Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza) are nearing completion. In September 2014, IBSA approved reconstruction of Atta Habib Medical Centre in Gaza at a cost of US\$ 1 million.

On 19 May 2014, Representative of India presented a cheque of US\$ 7,00,000 of the total amount of US\$ 1.80 million to Mr Fawaz Mujahed, Director General for Buildings in the Ministry of Education, State of Palestine for the construction and equipping of two schools – Jawaharlal Nehru Secondary School for girls in Assera Al Shamaliah and Jawaharlal Nehru

Secondary School for boys in Abu Dees as per MoU signed between India and State of Palestine on 11 September 2012. The First meeting of the Project Steering Committee took place on 12-13 November 2014 in Ramallah.

## Saudi Arabia

The centuries old economic and socio-cultural ties between India and Saudi Arabia continued to grow further during the year. The two countries made steady progress in the identified areas of political, economic, defence and security cooperation.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with the Crown Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the sidelines of G20 Summit held in Brisbane, Australia on 15-16 November 2014.

Shri Sam Pitroda, Adviser to Prime Minister, visited Riyadh on 24-25 April 2014 to participate in the Conference entitled "Knowledge based Economy and its role in National Development." The then Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed visited Saudi Arabia from 27-29 April 2014 and met with Saudi Haj Minister and discussed issues pertaining to Indian Haj pilgrims. MoS (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited Saudi Arabia from 27-29 October 2014 for the 2nd Ministerial-level bilateral energy consultations.

Mr Tawfiq Fawzan Al Rabiah, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visited India to participate in the 4th India Arab Partnership Conference organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 26-27 November 2014.

A delegation led by Dr Abdullah A. Al-Obaid, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade of Saudi Arabia visited India for the review meeting of implementation of agreed outcome of the 10th session of India Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting held on 14-15 January 2015 in New Delhi.

25 Indian companies from power and engineering sectors, under EEPC INDIA participated in the 'Saudi Energy Show-2014' from 26-28 May 2014. 52 Indian companies under the aegis of ITPO, APEDA and Tea Board of India visited Riyadh from 07-10 September 2014 to participate in Saudi Agro Food Exhibition.

On a goodwill visit, two Indian Naval Ships INS Tir and INS Sujata visited Jubail port from 20-23 October 2014.

During Haj 2014, 135,914 Indians visited the Kingdom to perform Haj.



*External Affairs Minister meets Foreign Minister Mr Avigdor Lieberman of Israel on the sidelines of 69th session of UNGA in New York on 01 October 2014.*



*Prime Minister meets Sheikh Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia in Brisbane on the sidelines of G-20 Summit on 16 November 2014.*

## Qatar

The multi-faceted engagement between India and Qatar further intensified during the year. The second India-Qatar Foreign Office Consultations led by Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East) and Mr Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mutib Al Rumaihi, Assistant Foreign Minister of Qatar held in New Delhi on 05 June 2014, covered the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation as also regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of India held a meeting with Dr Ali bin Samikh Al Marri, Chairman, National Human Rights Committee of Qatar on the sidelines of the 19th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions in New Delhi from 03-05 September 2014 and discussed issues of mutual interest, with particular emphasis on the welfare of Indian workers in Qatar. The Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vijit' visited Doha from 20-23 December 2014. The 4th meeting of the India-Qatar Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) established under the Agreement on Defence Cooperation was held on 06 January 2015.

India Embassy in Doha organized three business and investment meetings on 25 September 2014 to mark the launch of 'Make in India' campaign by Prime Minister. A delegation from the State of Gujarat, visited Qatar from 03-05 September 2014 to promote the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Gandhinagar in January 2015. ASSOCHAM coordinated the participation of 45 Indian companies at Project Qatar, a major exhibition in infrastructural sectors in Doha in May 2014.

A photographic exhibition on Islamic Monuments in India by renowned photographer, art historian and film maker Benoy Behl, sent by ICCR, was organized by the Embassy in cooperation with the Cultural Village: KATARA from 21 September to 18 October 2014.

## Syria

India has consistently called upon all sides to the Syrian conflict to abjure violence so that conditions can be created for an inclusive political dialogue leading to a comprehensive political solution, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. India has maintained that there can be no military solution to this conflict and any external military intervention in Syria's affairs should be excluded. India supports the global efforts to resolve the ongoing Syrian crisis through political solution.

India's cooperation with Syria under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and ICCR Scholarships continued during the year.

## United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The traditionally close and friendly relations between India and United Arab Emirates were further strengthened by the visit of External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj to UAE from 10-12 November 2014. During the visit, she held bilateral meetings with UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Saif bin Zayed al Nahyan and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan.

The eleventh meeting of India -UAE Joint Commission, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj and UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan would be held in New Delhi on 17-18 March 2015.

The second Joint Committee meeting on Security Matters and the 7th meeting of Joint Defence Committee Cooperation were held in Delhi on 11 December and 16 December 2014 respectively.

A fleet of three Indian Naval training ships INS Tir, INS Tarangini & INS Sujata paid goodwill visit to Dubai from 11-14 October 2014. A 21 member delegation of Joint Command and Staff College of UAE Armed Forces visited India in May 2014 and Indian delegation participated in the Maritime Conference organized by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and DP World in Dubai in October 2014.

The Embassy of India organized first Conference of the State Governments of India titled "Working Together: Improving Service Delivery" on 13 September 2014. In order to establish better communication and coordination between the state-governments in India and the Indian community in the UAE. Delegations of six State governments, namely Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Goa, Rajasthan and West Bengal participated in the event along with the representatives of the Indian Associations and service providers. Guidelines for the Indian expatriates living in the UAE were released during the event.

The Embassy and Consulate General in Dubai organized "Make in India" campaign involving the leading businessmen from the Emirates, India and other Gulf countries. Agreements on Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA) and Customs Cooperation were ratified by both the countries.

ICCR's contemporary painting exhibition "Kerala Green" – a compilation of works by artists from SAARC countries and

exhibition of group of Indian artists was organized in September 2014.

## Yemen

Mr Saleh Sumai, Minister of Electricity of the Republic of Yemen led a 9-member delegation to India to have discussions on progress of BHEL's 400 MW solar powered electricity plant in Marib, Yemen on 20 April 2014. An MoU to build a 60 MW solar powered electricity plant in Yemen was also signed. Mr Atul Sobti, Director, BHEL led a delegation to Yemen regarding the implementation of 400 MW gas power project in Marib. An agreement between Gammon India Ltd and Ministry of electricity and Energy of the Yemen Republic was signed in April 2014 for laying of transmission lines erecting power station at a cost of US \$ 61.5 million.

A high-level delegation including Mr Abdulqader Ali Helal, Mayor of Sana'a visited India from 04-10 May 2014 to study the federal structure and aspects of decentralization in India. Mr Ahmed Nasser Ahmed, Deputy Minister of information of the Republic of Yemen participated in the Media Symposium in New Delhi from 20-24 August 2014 which was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs.

A two-member Yemeni delegation, including Mrs. Eman Abdullah Ali Al-hamami, Director General of the Department of Women, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation visited India from 16-19 September 2014 to participate in Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) workshop on Women Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation from 17-19 September 2014. A delegation represented by Mr Mohammed Mahmoud Abdo Al-Zandany visited India from 05-07 September 2014 to participate in the Track 1.5 Dialogue titled "Indian Ocean Dialogue".

A Yemeni delegation led by Mr Ameen Abduljabbar Sultan Al-Mohammadi, Deputy Minister for Budget sector in Ministry of Finance visited India from 13 -15 January 2015 to study PPP models. A 14-member delegation from the Yemeni Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption visited India from 19 -21 January 2015.

In collaboration with Yemeni Federation of Commerce and Industry, Indian Mission organized "Make in India" Event on 28 October 2014.

## Special Kuwait Cell (SKC)

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. The Cell continued to handle the ongoing court cases, VVIP/VIP references and queries from claimants. The cell also attended to RTI queries/appeals to Information Commissioners.

## Arab League

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) and Executive programme (EP) of the Arab-Indian Cooperation Forum between Arab League and India for 2014-15 in December 2013, a Media Symposium was held in New Delhi from 20-24 August 2014, which saw senior journalists from the Arab world interacting with their counterparts in India.

## Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

On the sidelines of 69th UNGA Session, the 8th India-Gulf Cooperation Council political dialogue was held on 26 September 2014 in New York. External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj met with the Foreign Ministers of Gulf Cooperation Council and also represented India in GCC Ministerial Troika meeting.

There was a large participation of Non-resident Indians from the Gulf countries in the 13th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas held in Gandhinagar, Gujrat from 07-09 January 2015. Mr Ashraf Palarakunnummal and Mr Shah Bharatkumar Jayanti Lal from UAE and Mr Rajmal M Parakh from Oman were among the 15 Non-resident Indians (NRIs) conferred with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.

Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Bin Mohammed Alqasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Ras Al-Khamah and Mr Abdullah Ahmed Al Saleh, Vice Minister & Undersecretary, Foreign Trade Sector of the Ministry of Economy of UAE participated in the 7th Vibrant Gujarat Summit held from 11-13 January 2015 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) held its flagship international investors meet- The Partnership Summit in association with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 15-17 January 2015. Mr Abdulmohsen Medaj Al Medaj, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce and Industry of Kuwait, Mr Abdullah Ahmed Al Saleh, Vice Minister & Undersecretary, Foreign Trade Sector of the Ministry of Economy of UAE, Mr Sultan bin Rashid Al-Khater, Undersecretary, Ministry of Economy and Commerce of Qatar, and Dr Salim Nasser Al Ismaily, Chairman of the

Public Authority for Investments and Export Development of Oman participated in the Partnership Summit.

## Haj

Haj is the largest overseas activity organized by India, with about 175,000 Haj pilgrims visiting Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage.

India-Saudi Arabia Bilateral Agreement on Haj 2014 was signed on 09 February 2014. This agreement specified Haj 2014 quota for India. In 2014, there was a 20% cut in the overall seats for India with total allocation of 1,36,020 seats. These were divided between Haj Committee of India (HCOI), with 100,020 seats and Private Tour Operators (PTOs) who were allotted 36,000 seats.

Government of India assisted Haj pilgrims in coordination with the Haj Committee of India through (i) provision of accommodation and other logistical support at Makkah, Madinah and Jeddah, (ii) deputation of Doctors, Paramedics, Coordinators, Assistant Haj Officers and Haj Assistants to assist Hajjis during Haj, (iii) training of trainers who in turn train the pilgrims before they proceed to Saudi Arabia for Haj, (iv) setting up temporary hospitals and dispensaries, providing ambulances, supply of medicines to Hajjis in the holy sites in Makkah, Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifa and Madinah, and (v) facilitating Air travel from 21 embarkation points in India to Jeddah and back.

A two member Indian Haj Goodwill Delegation led by Shri Arif Baig, Ex-Minister of State for Commerce visited Saudi Arabia from 29 September 2014 to 20 October 2014 to examine the facilities first-hand.

541 deputationists were sent to Saudi Arabia as Doctors, Paramedics, Coordinators, Assistant Haj Officers and Haj Assistants to assist pilgrims during Haj 2014.

Haj 2014 operation was performed successfully. The last batch of Indian pilgrims returned home on 12 November 2014. A total of 99,966 pilgrims participated through Haj Committee of India, while 36,000 pilgrims took part through Private Tour Operators in Haj 2014.

The Annual Haj Review Conference was held on 10 January 2015. Officers from MEA, Ambassador of India, Saudi Arabia, Consul General/Deputy Consul General, CGI, Jeddah, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Haj Committee of India and Air India attended the meeting to discuss suggestions/improvements to be made for Haj 2015.

From January 2015, the Action Plan for Haj 2015 will be implemented wherein proposals like purchase and dispatch of medicines, opening of temporary dispensary/hospitals at Jeddah Airport, pitching of Temporary Tents for Indian Haj pilgrims, hiring of accommodations for Haj pilgrims will be approved.

In February 2015, an Indian Delegation is expected to visit Saudi Arabia for meetings with Ministry of Haj, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to sign bilateral Haj Agreement for 2015.

The process of selecting 545 deputationists ( Coordinators, Assistant Haj Officers, Haj Assistants, Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics) will commence from January 2015 for which a Press Release will be issued requesting applications from the desirous candidates.

In February/March, 2015 applications will be invited by Haj Committee of India for registration of Indian Haj Pilgrims for Haj 2015. Similarly, Ministry would initiate action for registering Private Tour Operators for allotment of Haj quota for 2015.





*External Affairs Minister meeting with Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister of UAE at Abu Dhabi on 11 November 2014.*



*External Affairs Minister meets Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah to discuss bilateral, regional and other issues of mutual interest during her visit to Oman*

## Algeria

India donated one million doses of FMD (Foot-and-mouth disease) monovalent vaccine worth US\$ 480,000 to Algeria to help arrest the spread of FMD disease in the country. The vaccines were handed over to the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture on 13 November 2014.

Bilateral trade between Algeria and India touched US\$ 995 million during the first semester of 2014. The exports from India to Algeria were US\$ 635 million and imports from Algeria to India were US\$ 360 million.

The second India-Arab Cultural Festival was held in Algiers from 20-27 November 2014. The festival was jointly inaugurated by the Algerian Minister for Culture, Dy. Secretary General of Arab League, DG, ICCR and the Indian Ambassador. An Indian photograph exhibition and display of Indian artisanal skills and Devnagari calligraphy was inaugurated simultaneously. An Indian Food Festival was also held, which ran concurrently with the cultural festival. Four Bollywood movies were shown at national cinemathèque during this period. The festival was spread over seven other major cities and towns of Algeria. In addition to the host Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia participated in the festival.

## Angola

Relations between India and Angola continued to be friendly and promising. While Angola is an important source for ensuring India's energy security, relations are expanding in other sectors too. Angola's State Secretary for Higher Education, Mr António Miguel André, visited India on 27-28 October 2014. A delegation from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) visited Luanda during 26-27 May 2014. Setting up of an Industrial Park Project and a Textile Project in Angola, under two Lines of Credit for US\$ 30 and US\$ 15 million respectively extended through Exim Bank of India, is in progress. India's exports to

and investments in Angola are on the increase. Bilateral trade has expanded remarkably from only US\$ 446.60 million during 2006-07 to US\$ 6528.34 million in 2013-14, with Angola's exports to India amounting to US\$ 5992.31 million, primarily oil. Overall bilateral trade during April to August 2014 totalled US\$ 2270.93 million. Main items of exports from India are tractors and transport vehicles, agricultural machinery and implements, food and meat products, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, tea, rice (Basmati), spirits and beverages, finished leather, paper/wood products etc.

## Benin

A Business delegation from Benin attended the 10th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi from 09-11 March 2014.

Beninese President Mr Boni Yayi inaugurated the Tractor Assembly Plant at Ouidah on 19 December 2014 built by Indian Company M/s Angeliq International with GOI LoC worth US\$15 million. President Mr Boni Yayi described the plant as the "Best Christmas Gift to the Nation".

A 4-member Beninese delegation led by Mrs. Lamatou Nassirou, Judge at the High Court of Justice visited Lucknow to participate in the 15th International Conference of Heads of World Judicial Institutions from 08-18 December 2014.

## Botswana

India and Botswana share friendly relations, which were cemented closer this year through signing of bilateral agreements for mutual co-operation and exchange of visits. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutual cooperation and technical assistance between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) of Botswana was signed in May 2014. Another Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed for Secondment of Indian Armed Forces Personnel to Botswana Defence Forces for training its

personnel. A three member delegation from National Small Industries Corporation visited Botswana in September 2014 and had meetings with Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) for setting up of Incubator Centre in Botswana for the development of self entrepreneurship among the youths in the host country and to give effect to the same an MoU was also signed between the two.

Botswana has actively benefited from a number of capacity building and training programmes offered by Government of India. Close to 200 scholarships through the aegis of ICCR, CV Raman Fellowship, India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) have been offered by India, mostly fully funded by the Government of India, and a few have been partly/fully financed by Botswana itself.

## **Burundi**

India and Burundi enjoy a strong bond of friendship. In 2014, Government of India announced a cash assistance of USD 100,000 to the Government of Burundi as disaster relief for damages caused by the heavy rains of February 2014.

A Vocational Training Centre (VTC) committed under IAFS-I was completed, operationalized and handed over to the Burundian authorities after training them.

The pan-African institute of India-Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (IAIEPA) envisaged to be set-up under commitments at IAFS-I, is expected to be ready for inauguration in early 2015. Thirty slots have been allotted to Burundi under ITEC. The pan-Africa e-Network project continues to operate satisfactorily.

## **Cameroon**

A 6-member business delegation from Cameroon attended the 10th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi from 09-11 March 2014.

## **Cape Verde**

Cape Verde shows economic promise due to its political stability, strategic location and investment-friendly rules and institutions. Cape Verde was allotted 20 slots under the ITEC programme for the year 2014-2015. It has been supporting India in multilateral fora and voted in favour of India at the United Nations Human Rights Council elections for the term 2015-2017 in New York in October 2014. MFA of Cape Verde held a seminar on Training in International Business from 15-19 September 2014 conducted by the Indian Institute of

Foreign Trade which aimed to inform business persons on how to do business with foreign countries.

An Indian business and investment delegation comprising 13 Indian companies visited Abidjan from 07-09 December 2014 at the invitation of Ivorian PM, Mr Daniel Kablan Duncan. The delegation had interaction with several Ivorian Ministries and also met with PM Mr Daniel Duncan.

## **Central African Republic (CAR)**

Work on the GOI supported US\$ 24 million worth LoC project for the construction and commissioning of a 400 MT/day cement plant in Bangui was halted in 2014 as all the Indian workers returned to India due to continuous violence and fragile security situation in CAR. Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at US\$ 8.64 million in 2013-14.

## **Chad**

A 2-member business delegation from Chad attended the 10th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi from 09-11 March 2014.

## **Comoros**

With friendly ties between the two nations, and as part of our focus on the capacity building in African countries, Comoros continues to be the beneficiary of Indian capacity building training programmes under ITEC and IAFS scholarships. Thirty ITEC slots have been offered to Burundi in 2014-15. Comoros is also the beneficiary of the Pan African e-Network Project.

The process to utilize Government of India's concessional credit of US\$41.6 million to the Government of Comoros for setting up a power plant in Moroni has started. India had also offered a soft loan of US\$ 35 million to Comoros for projects to be selected by the Comorian side.

## **Côte d'Ivoire (CI)**

Prime Minister Mr Daniel Kablan Duncan, accompanied by Ministers of Trade and Industry and Mines of Côte d'Ivoire, visited New Delhi from 03-07 November 2014 to participate in the India Economic Summit. He met EAM besides business interactions with CII and FICCI. As peace and stability have returned to Côte d'Ivoire, Indian business delegations have started to pay visits for exploring not only trading opportunities but also investments in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, infrastructure, microfinance, etc.

## Democratic Republic of Congo

In July 2014, GOI extended an additional Line of Credit of US\$ 82 million for completion of 64 MW Katende Hydro-Electric Power Project located in the Kasai Occidental Province. The original LoC was for US\$ 168 million. The project is progressing well and likely to be completed by March 2016. Work on GOI supported LoC projects for US\$ 42 million Kakobola (9.3 MW) Hydro-Electric Project, Bandundu Province is also progressing well and is expected to be completed in 2015. Bilateral trade between the two countries increased from US\$ 15.29 million in 2011-2012 to US\$ 208.74 million 2013-2014. 5,300 Indian troops, military observers and police personnel are serving in DRC under the largest ever UN Peacekeeping operation in the country (MONUSCO).

## Djibouti

India's relations with Djibouti remained warm and friendly. Djibouti has become the pivot in the fight against terrorism in the Horn of Africa and anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. Indian Naval vessels engaged in anti-piracy operations periodically docked at the Djibouti port for logistical support and supplies.

Investments from UAE-based Indians continued to increase steadily, especially in logistics.

An additional Line of Credit of US\$ 15.13 million was approved in principle for upgrading the Ali Sabieh Cement Plant in order to make it economically viable.

Thirty-five slots were allotted to Djibouti under ITEC and 11 scholarships from ICCR. So far, 10 ITEC and 9 ICCR scholarships respectively have been utilized.

## Egypt

India-Egypt relations continued to be cordial and warm despite the evolving political developments in the country during the year, which saw election of Mr Abdel Fattah el-Sisi as President with an overwhelming 96.91% of the valid votes. The Egyptian Cabinet was reshuffled. Prime Minister Mr Ibrahim Mahleb was retained and Mr Sameh Shoukry was appointed as the new Foreign Minister.

Despite the global slowdown, India's trade with Egypt has increased by 60% during the last five years, from US\$ 3.1 billion in 2009-10 to US\$ 4.95 billion in 2013-14 with India's exports to Egypt touching US\$ 2.56 billion and imports at US\$ 2.39 billion, making India the second largest destination

for Egyptian exports after Italy and the 11th source of imports. Over 50 Indian companies with a total investment of US\$ 2.5 billion remain at the core of India's economic engagement. India continued to offer various training programmes under ITEC and CV Raman Fellowship to Egyptians with about 112 candidates benefitting from these programmes.

Commercial exchanges between the two countries included: Visit and participation of Egyptian delegations at "16th RBMS by CHEMEXCIL (28-29 January 2014)", "India Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS 2014, 22-24 January 2014)", "10th CII-Exim Bank Conclave (09-11 March 2014)"; "wheat production/testing/storage facilities in India"; "45-member Indian PHARMEXCIL delegation (PHARMACONEX, Cairo, 01-03 April 2014)". Ministry of Civil Aviation, India and Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority signed an MoU on aviation sector cooperation on 27 August 2014.

Besides, the Chief Electoral officers from the states of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa visited Cairo on 25-29 May 2014 to observe the Presidential elections. Joint Secretary (WANA) represented India at the Cairo International Conference on Gaza Reconstruction held in Cairo on 12 October 2014 with India announcing a contribution of US\$ 4 million to the Gaza reconstruction.

On the Defence side, as mutually agreed in the Joint Defence Cooperation meeting, a total of five delegations from India visited Egypt. Similarly, five delegations from Egypt visited various military establishments in India. Additionally, a high level delegation from India's DRDO, headed by DG DRDO, Shri Avinash Chander visited Egypt from 07-09 November 2014.

On the cultural front, the second edition of the 'India by the Nile' (IBN) cultural festival was held from 30 March-20 April 2014 in Egypt, and was attended by Minister of Culture, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Information, Minister of Social Solidarity and a number of high-level dignitaries. The festival programme included Bollywood dance workshop, Bollywood Love Story-A musical, exhibition of saris, Nagada workshop, Kathak dance recital, Indian Film festival, Indian Food Festival, Interactive sessions with Shri Javed Akhtar and Smt Shabana Azami, and Exhibition of cartoons by Shri Sudhir Telang. Ms. Sonam Kalra and her group participated in the 7th International "Samaa" Festival for Religious Chanting and Sufi Music in Egypt from 20-27 September 2014. The Minister of Culture Dr Gaber Asfour and the former Secretary General of the Arab League Mr Amre Moussa launched the Arabic version of Ambassador Shri P.A.

Nazareth's book 'Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership' on 18 September 2014.

Besides, 4,000 Egyptian school children from 400 different schools participated in the 20th 'Glimpses of India' Painting Competition, held from 13-15 October 2014 at four different venues in Cairo and Giza. This initiative assures excellent 'India-connect' with the future Egyptian generation.

'India days' were celebrated at Minya (20-21 October 2014) and Suez (16-17 November 2014) Governorates for Indian commercial and cultural promotion. "India Days" programme includes 'Glimpses of India' painting competition, cultural programmes and Indian exhibitions by the Maulana Azad Center for Indian Culture (MACIC) along with interaction with the local Chamber of Commerce showcasing Indian economy's strengths, meeting with local authorities including Governors as well as visits to Indian companies/projects in the region. This very cost effective and successful outreach model is very well received and appreciated.

## Equatorial Guinea

India's bilateral relations with Equatorial Guinea have been cordial. The Government of Equatorial Guinea has accepted, in principle, the offer made by India, under the IAFS process, for setting up a Centre on Geo-informatics Applications for Rural Development. India attended as an Observer the 25th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU which took place in Malabo from 23-24 June 2014.

## Eritrea

A 3-member expert team from India made a visit to Eritrea from 15-19 October 2014 to prepare the Detailed Project Report for setting up of a Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Eritrea. The team met the Eritrean Minister of Education and the Director General of Vocational Training of Eritrea and discussed modalities to set up VTC soon in Eritrea.

The Chief Justice of the State of Eritrea, Mr Menkerios, participated in the 15th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World held in Lucknow from 10-16 December 2014.

During the period, 1 Eritrean national was awarded ICCR scholarship and 3 Eritrean nationals availed of training courses organized under ITEC programme.

## Ethiopia

Maintaining their consistency India's relations with Ethiopia remained close and friendly in all facets of engagement viz. political, commercial, education and cultural. India continued to be amongst Ethiopia's most important and preferred trade, investments and development partner. The 9th Anniversary celebrations of the India Business Forum which operates under the auspices of the Indian Embassy in Addis Ababa was celebrated in October 2014 and it was attended by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr Hailemariam Desalegn. This was the Ethiopian PM's first public engagement with any foreign business community.

Bilateral trade and investments maintained their rising trend. Bilateral trade, according to Ethiopian figures, is expected to cross US\$ 1.2 billion in the calendar year 2014. Indian companies maintained their reputation as being in the top three foreign investors as newer Indian multinationals established business interests in Ethiopia.

Two of the three sugar factories being built in Ethiopia under the Indian EXIM Bank's Lines of Credit of US\$ 640 million and Phase I of the third factory neared completion. The Make in India Campaign was launched successfully in Addis Ababa on 25 September 2014. The engagement of Indian companies and exporters with Ethiopia was encouraged by arranging participation in fairs, exhibitions and Buyers-Seller meets.

India's capacity building assistance to Ethiopia continued through about 100 ITEC slots and 53 ICCR scholarships. Under the IAFS scheme 4 scholars came to India for higher studies. Under the CV Raman International Fellowship Programme for African Researchers, 6 Ethiopians were awarded fellowships. Four participants from the African Union and 3 from the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) were also sent for ITEC courses. A record number of 80 Ethiopian Students enrolled for different programmes being offered by India under the e-network programme for African countries.

A first-ever Indo-Ethiopian Film Festival was organized at the Addis Ababa University. Indian feature films and Ethiopian short films directed by the University students were screened for awards sponsored by the Indian Embassy.

The first-ever Free Eye Care Camp for Ethiopians was held at the Embassy on 13 December 2014. An Indian Medical Professionals Forum and an India Education Forum were established by the Embassy under its patronage to coalesce interests and consolidate the presence of the diverse Indian community.

## Gabon

Gabonese President, Mr Ali Bongo Ondimba paid a private visit to India in October 2014. GOI extended a Line of Credit worth US\$ 67.19 million to rehabilitate and upgrade the broadcasting facilities of Gabon. Bilateral trade between the two countries has risen sharply from US\$ 193.26 million in 2011-12 to US\$ 921.09 million in 2013-14.

## Ghana

A six-member team from the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, in collaboration with our Mission in Accra in Ghana and the local partner Aid to Artisan Ghana (ATAG), organized the third in-country Basketry Workshop and an Exhibition entitled "Designing the Difference" at the ATAG premises at Accra International Trade Fair Centre from 30 April - 14 May 2014. India was the "Partner Country" in the 11th edition of the West African Mining and Power Conference and Exhibition, WAMPOC/WAMPEX-2014 which was held in Accra from 28 - 30 May 2014. The INDIA PAVILION at the Exhibition had 28 Indian companies as exhibitors, brought together by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The Awards ceremony of the Indi Africa Business Venture Competition 2014, organized by the IdeaWorks Design & Strategy Pvt. Ltd (India) under the aegis of the INDIAFRICA: A Shared Future Programme and supported by MEA, was held at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Accra on 10 June 2014. On 19 August 2014, President Mr John Dramani Mahama cut the sod for the commencement of work on the Komenda sugar factory in the Central Region. The project is funded by the EXIM Bank's Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 35 million. The Government of Ghana is providing an additional funding of US\$ 1.5 million for the project. The sugar factory, on completion, would provide 1300 direct and over 5000 auxiliary jobs respectively to the local people. During his address, President Mr John Dramani Mahama announced the second additional LoC of US\$ 24.5 million secured from the Government of India for the development of sugarcane plantation with irrigation facilities in order to ensure sustainable raw material production base for the project. A 5-member Ghanaian delegation which included the Director General, Ghana AIDS Commission and Programme Manager, National ADIS/STI Control Programme (NACP), Ministry of Health participated in the first 'HIV/AIDS Health Conclave' under the South to South HIV/AIDS Resource Exchange Project, 'Partnerships beyond Borders', organized by FICCI in New Delhi on 03-04 September 2014.

A function was held in the Indian Mission on 25 September 2014 to mark the launch of the 'Make in India' campaign. The Ghanaian Vice President, accompanied by the Minister of State responsible for Private Sector Development visited India from 03-06 November 2014 to participate in the Economic Forum organised by the World Economic Forum and CII. He met our Vice President and captains of Indian industry.

Ghanaian Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, accompanied by a 9-member delegation, participated in the CII Partnership Summit held in Jaipur from 15 to 17 January 2015.

## Guinea & Liberia

Both countries have been severely affected by the Ebola Virus outbreak. GOI extended bilateral assistance of US\$ 50,000 each to Guinea and Liberia to combat the disease. In addition, GOI provided cash assistance of US\$ 500,000 to the WHO, a contribution of US\$ 10 million to UN Trust Fund for Ebola and an additional US\$ 2 million for purchase of protective gear to tackle EVD in the affected countries of West Africa.

## Guinea Bissau

Elections were held in Guinea Bissau and a new government was sworn in. GOI is engaging with the new government in the process of rebuilding and support. India has re-activated US\$ 5 million Line of Credit for Agriculture and Food Processing and US\$ 20 million for Rural Electrification Project in Guinea Bissau. Guinea Bissau voted in favour of India at the United Nations Human Rights Council elections for 2015-2014 in New York in October 2014. India continued to provide capacity enhancement support to the country notably under the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and ITEC capacity building programmes. The country has been allotted 30 training slots under the ITEC programme during the year 2014-2015.

## Kenya

India-Kenya relations continued to expand, with India remaining the largest trading partner of Kenya. Bilateral trade crossed US\$ 4 billion during the year.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Information & Broadcasting and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Prakash Javadekar visited Nairobi from 25-28 June 2014 to lead Indian delegation at the Ministerial segment of the inaugural session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

(UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). On the sidelines of the UNEA, the Minister had bilateral meetings with over a dozen Environment Ministers including Kenya, Mongolia, USA, Iran, Germany, UK, Bangladesh, Egypt, Sri Lanka etc. He also paid a courtesy call on Kenyan President.

Election Commissioner of India, Shri H.S. Brahma with Director General, Election Commission visited Nairobi in June 2014 to attend the Third Biennial Conference of the Commonwealth Electoral Network organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat in cooperation with Independent Electoral and Boundary Commission of Kenya. On request of Chairman of the IEBC, Election Commission decided to extend 10 fully paid slots for training IEBC officers in India for a period of 3 weeks in December 2014.

Minister for Forest, Environment & Ecology of the Government of Karnataka, Shri Ramanath Rai accompanied with Additional Chief Secretary, Shri Madan Gopal and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Mr Vinay Luthra led a delegation to Kenya from 20-26 August 2014. They met Secretary, Environment and Forest of the Government of Kenya and explored bilateral cooperation in this sector.

The Chief of Naval Staff of India (CNS), Admiral R.K. Dhowan paid an official visit to Kenya from 02-06 November 2014. He met Kenyan Navy Chief and reviewed bilateral cooperation and anti-piracy cooperation programme. The Kenyan Naval Chief briefed the CNS about the maritime security challenges being faced in the East African Region. CNS also interacted with the Defence Minister of Kenya and discussed several aspects of bilateral cooperation. The Western Fleet comprising of Indian Naval ships Deepak, Talwar and Mumbai visited Mombasa on a goodwill visit to Kenya. Indian Naval Hydrographic Ship INS Jamuna visited Kenya from 14 September to 18 October 2014 and carried out second phase of Joint Hydrographic Survey with Kenyan Navy in the vicinity of Manda Bay. A 16-member National Defence College (NDC) delegation visited Kenya on a study tour from 11-17 May 2014. The NDC team called on Kenyan Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Principal Secretaries of Devolution & Planning and Interior & Coordination and received briefings from other Kenyan Ministries and also Kenyan NDC.

At the invitation of Reserve Bank of India, six officials of the Central Bank of Kenya visited India in May 2014 for training and sharing of knowhow on safe handling of country's foreign exchange reserves.

15 agriculture extension officers from Kenya attended the third training programme being conducted by the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, under the India-US-Africa triangular cooperation framework in the field of Agriculture from 15 September to 16 December 2014.

One Senior Economist from the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade participated in the Indian Ocean Dialogue jointly organized by Ministry of External Affairs and Observer Research Foundation from 05-07 September 2014 in Cochin. Two Senior Economists from the Kenyan Ministry of Devolution participated in the Indian Ocean Rim Association Workshop on Women Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation jointly organized by Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Rural Development, GOI from 17-19 September 2014 in Hyderabad.

During the period, Indian firms participated in several business promotion events in Kenya. These include Kenya Auto Component Show from 27-29 April 2014; 17th Buildexpo Africa 2014 held in Nairobi from 02-04 May 2014; Kenplast 2014 Plastics machines and goods exhibition held in Nairobi from 2-4 June 2014

A delegation from the Kenya Supreme Court including the Chief Justice of Kenya Supreme Court and six other judges would be visiting the Supreme Court of India from 8-14 January 2014 on a study-cum-discussion visit with the Supreme Court of India Judges etc.

Following bilateral consultations, Election Commission of India organized a fully funded "Special Training Programme" for 10 Electoral officers of Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya at the India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management, New Delhi, from December 03-16 December 2014.

Six Kenyans went for training to India for the 30th Parliamentary Internship Programme for Foreign Parliamentary Officials conducted by Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training from 10 November to 09 December 2014.

4 officials from the Ministry of Energy & Petroleum of Kenya attended the 12th International training programme on "Wind Turbine Technology and Applications" held from 19 November to 12 December 2014 at the National Institute of Wind Energy, Chennai, under IAFS-II.

A 7 member delegation of the Select Committee on Delegated Legislation from Kenyan Parliament would visit Lok Sabha in January 2015.

During the period, 28 Kenyan nationals were awarded ICCR scholarships for higher education and 36 Kenyan nationals availed of training courses organized under ITEC programme.

## Lesotho

Lesotho's leadership is well disposed towards India and holds a favourable view of India's role in Africa. Lesotho has consistently supported India's candidatures to various international bodies and has been fully supportive of our aspirations to play a role internationally.

The Indian Army Training Team, stationed in Lesotho, since June 2001 made further progress in the professionalization of the Lesotho Defence Force. India-Lesotho Centre for Advance Education in Information Technology has been set up by India at Lerotholi Polytechnic under a grant of ₹ 86.99 million. Vocational Training Centres for empowerment of youth and women are being set-up in Lesotho through the GOI-supported Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 4.7 million.

Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), in FY 2014-15, 70 slots have been allocated to Lesotho out of which 43 have been utilised so far.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offered a total of 18 slots to Lesotho in FY 2014-15 and all 18 have been utilised.

Bilateral trade between India and Lesotho for the year 2013-14 was US\$ 33.52 million- much below potential. Major items of Indian imports from Lesotho comprise wool, fine or coarse animal hair, horsehair yarn and woven fabric, apparel and clothing accessories, while major items of Indian exports include pharmaceuticals, cotton, machinery, etc. In financial year 2014-15, under ITEC, 60 slots have been allocated to Lesotho.

Bilateral trade between India and Lesotho for the period April to September 2014 was US\$ 18.53 million, with India's exports to Lesotho at US\$ 17.68 million and imports at US\$ 0.85 million.

## Liberia

India gifted 15 buses to Liberia which was formally received on 11 December 2014 by the Liberian FM Mr Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan in the presence of President Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

## Libya

Libya remained entrenched in extreme instability, militancy

and Islamic radicalism. There was critical institutional and security deficit. It also became the base for cross-border arms trafficking, money laundering and flow of funds in Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Syria, and ISIS in Iraq. The militia warfare between Islamist and pro-government forces in Tripoli and Benghazi intensified in mid-July 2014. The Al-Qaeda linked Ansar Al-Sharia has declared Benghazi as "Islamic Emirate". Two governments and parliaments remained in place. Most diplomatic missions (UN, US, major EU Arab Missions) closed or relocated temporarily to neighbouring countries. The Indian Embassy relocated to Djerba (on Tunisian border) in beginning October 2014, but continued to render assistance to Indians nationals remaining in Libya.

An 'India Pavilion' with around 80 participating firms from a range of consumer product sectors (the highest Indian participation in recent times and the largest foreign country participation out of the eight countries participating in the TIF 2014) led by ITPO that marked the return of India to one of Africa's oldest fair after three years post February 2011 revolution was organized successfully in April 2014. Also an 'India Day' event was organized on 06 April 2014 for B-2-B interaction and BSM.

A 16-member CII led CEOs delegation visited Tripoli to scout for business opportunities in 'New Libya' from 05-07 April 2014.

The Group General Manager, TCIL, visited Libya from 11-14 May 2014 as part of the efforts to help revive the Pan-African E-Network Initiative launched in Libya in 2008-09 but currently stalled following the February 2011 revolution.

The inaugural re-launch meeting of the Libya India Friendship Association (LIFA) held on 24 May 2014 that was attended by around 30 registered members (both Libyans and Indians) to mark the revival of the erstwhile LIFA. A steering committee comprising of five members (two each from the Libyan and Indian side with Libyan Chair) was also constituted to guide LIFA during the first year.

A police delegation led by Assistant Director of Training Department in the Ministry of Interior visited India from 05-09 June 2014 to discuss and explore areas of bilateral cooperation in the field of capacity building through diplomatic security and police training among other things.

In August 2014 out of the 6,500 Indians, 3,284 were assisted in exiting from Libya in view of the security situation in Tripoli, Benghazi and other parts of Libya. Out of this 1,210 were evacuated with the full GOI assistance (against air tickets or chartering of special aircraft or special ferry) and 2,074 with

full facilitation by GOI. The remaining Indians, despite persistent Embassy Advisories, refused to leave for reasons of job security, pending financial dues, etc.

In view of escalation of violence and deteriorating security scenario, 71 more Indians were rendered assistance to return to India between 19-21 December 2014 taking the total number of Indians assisted to 3,371 since July 2014. Out of these 1,281 returned with full government assistance while 2,090 were provided full facilitation. There are still around 2,700 Indian nationals in Libya who have decided to stay back and continue with their jobs despite various advisories issued by the Indian Embassy.

## Madagascar

As part of the South-South Co-operation, India's focus in Madagascar during the current financial year continued to be on capacity building, through the courses offered under ITEC Programme, India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and ICCR Scholarships. 100 slots have been allotted to Madagascar under ITEC during 2014-15. Madagascar is a beneficiary of the Pan African e-network project, which has been extended till 2016. Tele-education facilities offered in collaboration with Imailaka University have benefitted 228 students since the start of the project. Tele-medicine facilities are also being offered in collaboration with a local clinic and free consultations and diagnosis are being given to the Malagasy patients since 2010 from top Hospitals in India. In all, 108 telemedicine consultations have been done since beginning of the project and twelve patients have undergone treatment in India using the tele-medicine facility of the project.

A medical delegation from Apollo Hospital group visited Madagascar and signed an MoU in May 2014 in the field of health cooperation with the Malagasy Ministry of Public Health.

25 Malagasy delegates, including government officials, importers, media etc. participated in the International Exhibition for Pharma and Healthcare (IPHEX) in May 2014 at Mumbai.

Two young journalists participated in Young Journalists Training Programme conducted by MEA in September 2014.

For the first time in its history, four Indian Naval Ships, namely, INS Mumbai, INS Talwar, INS Teg and INS Deepak visited Madagascar in October 2014. The Indian Naval personnel undertook humanitarian activities and imparted professional training to Malagasy Naval personnel in the fields of Damage Control and Fire Fighting and Anti-piracy.

## Malawi

India-Malawi relations have been friendly and close. A three-member delegation from the National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NICPM) visited Malawi from 27 July to 03 August 2014 to train Malawians in Pest Control under the Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (CTAP). Another three-member delegation from Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT) visited Malawi from 17-20 November 2014 under the CTAP. 60 slots have been offered to Malawi under ITEC programme during 2014-15.

## Mali

There was little bilateral interaction during the year. Mali continued to face challenges to its national integrity and democratic governance from the rebellious Tuaregs and armed Islamic extremist groups in the northern – eastern region. On its part, India continued to support efforts towards preservation of the national integrity and promotion of infrastructural development of Mali. The country had a new Prime Minister in Mr Moussa Mara and a new Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International cooperation in Mr Abdoulaye Diop. The mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), which was initially established by a Security Council resolution in April 2013 to support political processes in Mali and to carry out a number of security-related tasks, was extended till 30 June 2015 with the amendment that it should now focus on tasks like ensuring security, stabilization, protection of civilians, supporting national political dialogue and reconciliation. An 11-member business delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited Bamako from 16-18 July 2014. Malian Minister of Industries and Investment Promotion, Mr Moustapha Ben Berka attended the India Economic Summit in Delhi from 03-07 November 2014. Mali experienced a brief scare of the deadly Ebola virus Disease (EVD) in late October 2014. After having controlled the outbreak then, Mali again reported cases of EVD in November 2014 and is now in the list of affected countries.

Mali experienced a brief scare of the deadly Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in late October 2014 followed by another cluster in Bamako in November/December 2014. The Malian authorities, in collaboration with the WHO and other agencies have effectively controlled the spread and have received widespread praise for the effort.

## Mauritania

President Mr Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was re-elected with an overwhelming majority in June 2014. He secured about 82 % of the votes cast. Following the huge mandate that the President received, he promised to strengthen national unity and judicial independence. The country also had a new Prime Minister in August 2014 in Mr Yahya Ould Hademine who replaced Mr Moulaye Ould Mohamed Laghdaf. In August 2014, GOI approved an LoC of US\$ 65.68 million to Mauritania for a Solar-Diesel Hybrid Rural Electrification Project. This is in addition to earlier LOCs worth US\$ 21.8 million granted for various developmental projects which are at various stages of implementation.

## 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, with a renewed energy and focus received owing to the high level exchanges between the two countries.

Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam was one of the first world leaders to personally congratulate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the historic electoral outcome in May 2014. He visited New Delhi from 25-28 May 2014 as the only leader from a non-SAARC nation to be invited to witness the swearing-in of the new government. Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and held discussions with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on various aspects of the India-Mauritius relationship.

Mr Rajkeswur Purryag, President of the Republic of Mauritius, visited Bengaluru and Mysore from 02-10 June 2014 as Chief Guest at the All India Conference of Intellectuals 2014.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Mauritius from 01-03 November 2014, to attend, as Chief Guest, the national level celebrations commemorating the 180th Anniversary of the arrival of Indian indentured labourers. EAM had bilateral meetings with President Mr Rajkeswur Purryag, Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Deputy Prime Minister Dr A R Beebejaun, Foreign Minister Arvin Boolell, and Leader of the Opposition Mr Pravind Jugnauth. She was also hosted for a luncheon meeting by Minister of Arts and Culture Dr M Choonee. During the visit, EAM addressed five public functions and signed the IORA Charter.

INS Trishul, Western Fleet of the Indian Navy and INS Sukanya visited Mauritius to provide Outer Island support to the Mauritian authorities in addition to joint EEZ surveillance and patrolling for reinforcing maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region. During the deployments, the crew provided technical assistance and training to the Mauritius Police Force /National Coast Guard (NCG) personnel, and conducted various charity and friendly sports events with NCG personnel. The ship visits also generated considerable public interest, and more than 5000 members of public visited the ships as they were docked at Port Louis Harbour.

The Indian Hydrographic team deployed to Mauritius for setting up of the Mauritian Hydrographic Unit carried out extensive hydrographic surveys of Port Louis Harbor and its approaches, training of land surveyors and other stakeholders, and rendition of data for delimitation of maritime boundary. In November 2014, 150 nautical charts of the Mauritian waters prepared by Indian hydrographic experts were handed over to the Mauritian Government.

India continues to be Mauritius' largest trading partner. During FY 2013-2014, India exported goods worth US\$ 1000.8 million to Mauritius and imported goods worth US\$ 20.79 million from Mauritius.

On the occasion of the launch of the 'Make in India' Campaign by the Prime Minister of India, the Indian Mission organized a Business Roundtable on 25 September 2014. The Mauritian Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, Mr Cader Sayed-Hossen was invited as the Chief Guest. Over 50 Mauritian business leaders, senior government officials and heads of Indian public and private sector companies witnessed the launch ceremony, and it was broadcast live by the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation.

A delegation from Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL) visited Mauritius from 31 March-04 April 2014 for finalisation and signature of a contract for supply of ten Fast Interceptor Boats. Another delegation from Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL) visited Mauritius from 04-07 May 2014 for technical discussions and signature of a contract for the design, construction and delivery of one Water-Jet Fast Attack Craft by Goa Shipyard Ltd. to the Government of Mauritius.

Shri Satish Mehta, Director General of ICCR, visited Mauritius from 11-14 May 2014. During his visit, an MoU for the extension of the ICCR Chair in Sanskrit and Indian philosophy at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute was signed.

A two member delegation for the National Informatics Centre (NIC) visited Mauritius from 20-23 May 2014 for the inauguration of the E-Prisons Software Suite, which is being



*External Affairs Minister calling on President Mr Kailash Purryag of Mauritius in Port Louis on 02 November 2014.*



*External Affairs Minister calling on Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam of Mauritius in Port Louis on 02 November 2014.*



*External Affairs Minister addressing the gathering at the Commemoration of the 180th Anniversary of Aapravasi Diwas in Mauritius on 02 November 2014.*



*Presentation of Potrait of Nelson Mandela to FM of South Africa*

implemented by NIC for the Mauritian Government.

On 27 August 2014, Shri Kishan Rana, Ambassador (Retd.) delivered a set of lectures on Small State diplomacy and Foreign Ministry reforms at the Mauritian Institute of Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A delegation from National Defence College led by Rear Admiral R Gaikwad visited Mauritius from 25-27 August 2014 as part of a Strategic Neighborhood Study Tour. The delegation called on President Mr Rajkeswur Purryag, Vice Prime Minister Mr A K Bachoo, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Secretary General of the IORA. CEO, Prasar Bharati, Shri Jawhar Sircar led a delegation to Mauritius from 31 August – 03 September 2014. An MoU for cooperation in the field of broadcasting, including content sharing, co-production, and capacity building, was signed between Prasar Bharati and the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation.

Several cultural groups sponsored by ICCR, including Bharatnatyam Group led by Ms. Purva Dhanashree (April 2014), Rajasthani Music and Dance Group led by Shri Moru Sapera (May 2014) Fusion Group of 'Sufi Gospel Project' led by Ms. Sonam Kalra (October 2014), and Bhojpuri Folk Music and Dance Group led by Dr Pushpa Prasad (November 2014) performed in Mauritius.

Mr Irfan A Rahman, Electoral Commissioner of Mauritius visited India during the General Elections, from 10-18 May 2014 to study the last phase of polling in Varanasi and Kolkata and the counting process, including back-up paper trail of EVMs.

Mr Lormus Bundhoo, Mauritian Minister of Health and Quality of Life led a high-level delegation to India from 20-29 September 2014 on their National e-Health Project. Minister Mr Lormus Bundhoo held meetings with the Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan and Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. Various official level meetings were also held in addition to site visits to premier medical institutions of India.

## Morocco

The relations between Morocco and India are historical, warm and cordial. Morocco participated in the first India-League of Arab States Media Symposium in New Delhi in August 2014. A Morocco delegation also participated in the 1st India-Arab League Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held in New Delhi on 07 November 2014. Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Joint

Secretary (Counter Terrorism), Ministry of External Affairs visited Morocco to participate in the 5th Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) on 02-03 April 2014.

Bilateral trade between Morocco and India touched US\$ 622.8 million during the first semester of 2014. The exports from India to Morocco were US\$ 241.2 million and imports from Morocco to India were US\$ 381.6 million.

## Mozambique

Mr Arlindo Chilundo, Deputy Minister of Education of Mozambique accompanied by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation and the Ministry of Education visited India from 06-15 June 2014 for discussions with the officials of the Mozambican Mission in New Delhi and to meet Mozambican students studying in India.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mr Oldemiro Baloi visited India from 23-30 November 2014. He held delegation-level talks with EAM and signed an MoU on cooperation in the field of oil and gas with the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas. He also interacted with the representatives of select PSUs and gave a lecture on the Perspectives on Mozambican Foreign Policy at the Indian Council of World Affairs.

A 7 member delegation led by Chairman of SAIL and ICVL, including JS (Ministry of Steel), CMD (RIML), CMD (NMDC) and CEO (IVCL) visited Mozambique from 23-25 June 2014, and had a meeting with the Minister of Mineral Resources among other official engagements. On 08 October 2014, International Coal Ventures Private Ltd (ICVL) of India set up by SAIL, CIL, RINL, NMDC and NTPC acquired Rio Tinto's 65% stake in the Benga coal mine and two other coal projects in the western province of Tete for a cost of US\$50 million

An MoU on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development between the Governments of India and Mozambique was signed in Maputo on 23 April 2014 by the Mozambican Minister of State Administration and the High Commissioner of India.

On 15 July 2014, President Mr Armando Guebuza formally inaugurated the Technology Development and Innovation Centre (TDIC) at the Science & Technology Park at Maluane (60 kms from Maputo) developed under a Government of India-Line of Credit of US\$25 million.

Bilateral trade for the first five months of the current financial year (April-August 2014) was US\$ 819.64 million with Indian

exports at US\$ 728.39 million and imports from Mozambique at US\$ 91.25

Assistance to Mozambique in capacity building continued by way of ITEC, IAFS and ICCR programmes. In 2014-15, 41 Mozambican students were sent to India under ICCR scholarships, 10 officials under the ITEC programme and 4 officials under IAFS-II.

In March 2014, the Indian company Essar won a long-term concession from the Government of Mozambique to build and run a coal terminal at Beira port in collaboration with the Mozambican state railway and ports company, CFM. 45 Indian companies under the aegis of ASSOCHAM participated at the 50th edition of the Maputo International Fair (FACIM) from 25-31 August 2014.

At the invitation of EAM, Foreign Minister Mr Oldemiro Baloi visited India from 23-29 November. On 29 November 2014, Foreign Minister Mr Oldemiro Baloi held detailed discussions with EAM on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern. During the visit, Foreign Minister Mr Oldemiro Baloi also signed an MoU on India-Mozambique Cooperation in the area of Oil and Gas with our MoS for Petroleum, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

INS Teg, a stealth frigate, made a goodwill visit to port of Nacala in Nampula province of Mozambique from 17-20 November 2014. The ship also carried 200 Drill Purpose Rifles which were handed over to the representative of the Government of Mozambique as a gift from the Government of India.

## Namibia

India Wing, the Building accommodating the twin faculties of Mining Engineering and Information Technology, at Ongwediva campus of University of Namibia (UNAM), was officially inaugurated in a ceremony that took place at UNAM's Ongwediva campus on 03 June 2014. The inauguration of the building was done by Dr Sam Nujoma, Founding President of Namibia who is also the Chancellor of the University. The inauguration ceremony was attended by important dignitaries from the region and the Namibian Government. The building has been constructed with a grant of US\$ 12.13 million by the Indian Government to Government of Namibia.

## Niger

In April 2014, an agreement was signed between Ministry of Hydraulics & Sanitation of Government of Niger and

WAPCOS Ltd (a GOI Undertaking) appointing it as Project Management Consultant for the Project on Potable Water for Semi-Urban and Rural Communities in Niger being financed by a GOI Line of Credit of US\$ 25 million to Niger.

MFA Secretary General Mr Ibrahim Sani Abani, in his capacity as CEN-SAD Secretary General, participated in the 3rd African Regional Economic Communities Meeting held in New Delhi from 20-21 August 2014. Out of 135 slots allotted to Niger under ITEC programme in 2014-15, a total of 100 slots have been utilized so far. One Defence Officer from Nigerien Army availed a slot for defence training in India under the ITEC programme. Two Nigerien students availed ICCR scholarships for post-graduate courses and one Nigerien scholar availed CV Raman International Fellowship for African Researchers for pursuing post-doctoral research in India. Under the tele-education component of the Pan-African E-Network Project, 248 Nigerien students were registered with Amity University while 24 students were registered with Madras University for various courses.

Minister of Commerce and Promotion of Private Sector of Niger, Mr Alma Oumarou, visited Jaipur to participate in the Partnership Summit from 15 to 17 January 2015. Niger has utilized a total of 122 ITEC slots in 2014-2015.

## Nigeria

Our Mission in Abuja organized the first ever Indian Film Festival there from 31 March – 06 April 2014 which was inaugurated by the Nigerian first lady, Mrs. Dame Patience Jonathan. During week-long festival, popular Hindi movies were screened at the Silverbird Cinema complex.

A large business delegation led by Kano State Governor, Mr Mohammed Rabiu Kwankwaso visited India from 19-22 April 2014 at the invitation of Indian company M/s. Skipper. CMD, EXIM Bank of India and Nigerian Finance Minister signed the US\$ 100 million Line of Credit (LoC) agreement for Nigeria for three power projects in Enugu, Kaduna and River states at Kigali, Rwanda on the sidelines of African Development Bank meeting on 22 May 2014. An MoU between ICCR and Lagos Business School for continuation of the India Chair at LBS was signed in Lagos on 19 September 2014.

A 5-member delegation led by Joint Secretary (PIC), Ministry of Defence visited Nigeria on 06-09 May 2014 for the 2nd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting. They met Defence Minister Lt Gen Aliyu Mohammed Gusau and Air Chief Marshal Alex Sabundu Badeh, Chief of Defence Staff. A

3-member delegation led by Shri Deepak Amitabh, Chairman and MD of M/s. Power Trading Corporation of India visited Abuja on 20-24 July 2014. The visiting delegation had meetings with Nigerian Minister of Power Prof. Chinedo O Nebo and other Nigerian stakeholders in the power sector. A 3-member Indian Army delegation led by Brig D. Victor Rajamani visited Nigeria on 11-14 August 2014. During the visit, they met their counterparts and discussed issues concerning training requirement of the Nigerian Army. A 7-member defence delegation consisting officials from Indian Air Force and Hindustan Aeronautic Ltd (HAL) visited Nigeria from 22-26 September 2014. They had interaction with the Nigerian Air Force in connection with training, repair and maintenance of defence equipment, etc.

An 11-member Nigerian Parliamentary delegation visited India from 22-26 June 2014 and met with Chief Election Commissioner of India and MoS for External Affairs. A 10-member delegation from the Nigerian Parliamentary Committee on Museum visited India on 06-07 August 2014. Nigerian Minister of Industry, Trade & Investment Mr Olusegun Aganga accompanied by a high-level business delegation visited India from 10-13 September 2014. They met with Minister of State for Commerce & Industry. The Nigerian Minister also addressed a business event organized by CII. A Nigerian delegation from Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna comprising of two Instructors and three cadets visited Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala (Kerala) from 07-17 July 2014 as reciprocal visit between two Institutions. A delegation from NDA, Kaduna comprising of two officers and four Cadets visited NDA, Khadakwasla from 15-21 October 2014 as reciprocal visit between two Institutions.

A two-member team from Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), Bangalore, visited Lagos from 10 to 14 December 2014 for possible supply of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to Nigeria. During their visit, the BEL team also met with the Governor of Lagos and gave demonstration/presentation on EVMs. A 5-member delegation from NDA, Khadakwasla visited Nigeria from 21-23 November 2014 under the Defence Cooperation Exchange Programme. A 3-member delegation led by Cmde Ajay Dandona from Defence Services Staff College, Wellington (India) visited Nigeria from 15- 20 December 2014 as part of exchange visit between Staff Colleges of both countries. Former Nigerian President, Mr Olusegun Obasanjo, visited India to attend the International Conference organised by the Congress Party to commemorate Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's 125th birth anniversary from 16-17 November 2014. A 6-member high-level delegation from National Information Technology Development Agency

(NITDA) under Nigerian Federal Ministry of Communication Technology visited India from 09-12 December 2014 for possible collaboration with India in IT solutions, skilled manpower development and setting up of Nigeria-India Tech Forum. During the visit, they held meetings with NASSCOM, Infosys, and Cognizant.

A dinner reception was held at the Indian High Commission premises on 16 January 2015 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna which was set up by the Indian Armed Forces. The event was attended by senior dignitaries of the Nigerian Armed Forces (both serving and retired) including the Defence Minister and the Senate President. In September 2014, NDA Kaduna had also organized its Golden Jubilee celebration, which was attended by three Indian senior retired officers of the Armed Forces at the invitation of the Nigerian side.

## Republic of Congo (ROC)

Work on GOI supported Line of Credit (LoC) project for US\$ 70 million Rural Electrification Project is progressing well. In 2014, GOI approved two more LOCs for (i) US\$ 89.9 million for the Development of Transportation System in capital Brazzaville and Pointe Noire and (ii) US\$ 55 million for a Greenfield 600 tpd rotary kiln based Cement Plant Project in ROC. Bilateral trade between the two countries was US\$ 306.53 million in 2013-14.

## Rwanda

India Rwanda relations progressed further in several sectors of co-operation this year. President Mr Paul Kagame visited India from 03-05 November 2014 to participate in the India-Africa Forum. During his visit he called on President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

In June 2014, Dr Sutanu Behuria, Secretary, Department of Heavy Industries visited Kigali to oversee the progress of the Nyaborongo Hydropower project. During the visit the Secretary met the Rwandan Minister of Infrastructure Prof. Silas Lwakabamaba.

The 28 MW Nyaborongo Hydropower project being developed under an Exim Bank of India LoC of US\$ 80 million, has begun supplying electricity to the grid.

A Vocational Training Centre (VTC) committed under IAFS-I is at an advanced stage of completion and is expected to be ready by end of 2015.

The Rwandan government has identified the land for setting-up the pan-East African Community Agricultural Seed

Production-cum-Demonstration Center which is being established in Rwanda during IAFS-II. An Indian team of experts visited Kigali in November 2014 to take the project forward.

A Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) was proposed to be set-up in Kigali during IAFS-II. The necessary agreements have been signed. The requisite equipment procurement is being done by GOI.

A 20 – member business delegation consisting of FICCI and EXIM Bank visited Rwanda from 19-23 May 2014 to participate in the Annual Meeting of African Development Bank held in Rwanda. On the sidelines, EXIM Bank, in partnership with FICCI, had organized the India-Africa Partnership Day under the theme ‘Fostering Public Private Partnership in Project Development and Financing’ on 22 May 2014 in Rwanda.

A 12-member CII business delegation visited Rwanda from 14-17 September 2014. The delegation also participated in the World Export Development Forum in Kigali.

A business delegation from EXIM Bank visited Rwanda from 02-08 November 2014 to explore business opportunities in the country and oversee the progress of Nyaborongo Hydropower Project which is being developed under concessional Line of Credit from Government of India.

30 slots have been allotted to Rwanda under ITEC-SCAAP. 29 slots have already been utilized. 12 Rwandans have availed ICCR’s scholarships for graduate, under-graduate and Ph.D programmes. 2 Rwandans have also travelled to India on a CV Raman fellowship. Apart from this 4 short-term training programmes have been allotted to Rwanda under IAFS.

Solar electrification of 35 schools in rural Rwanda was completed and commissioned. The project was a grant-in-aid from GOI.

The Pan African e-Network project, especially the tele-medicine component, is operating successfully.

## Sao Tome & Principe

Relations between the two countries continued to remain cordial. Implementation of Pan-African E-Network Project by Sao Tome & Principe Government is proceeding smoothly.

## Senegal

India and Senegal enjoy excellent bilateral relations. GOI approved a line of Credit of US\$ 62.95 million for the first phase of Lift Irrigation for Rice Self Sufficiency Programme in

Senegal. GOI has already extended 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. The total developmental assistance portfolio in respect of Senegal is approx. US\$ 300 million.

Senegal voted in favour of India at the United Nations Human Rights Council elections for the term 2015-2017 in New York in October 2014. 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. Equipment for Patient End Location (PEL) facility is already functional and operative. The Project has been extended for a further period of two years i.e. till 13 July 2016.

India continued to provide capacity building training opportunities to Senegal and the country has been allotted 30 slots for the year 2014-2015 under the ITEC programme. In addition to this capacity building, assistance is also extended under India-Africa Forum Summit and CV Raman Scholarships. India also has cooperation opportunities for training defence personnel in India for technical skills development. Senegalese Government is under process to seek assistance of India for development of film city in Diamniadio, a newly upcoming city. Indian companies have been participating in the Dakar International Trade Fair (FIDAK) and Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) is scheduled to participate in FIDAK 2014 edition as well. There have been increased cooperation and visits of trade, cultural and commercial delegations between the two countries. Bilateral trade for the year 2013-14 stood at US\$ 580.087 million.

## Seychelles

India-Seychelles relations have grown immensely close since diplomatic relations were started in 1976. Bilateral engagement with Seychelles diversified further during the year covering a wide spectrum ranging from defence and security cooperation to development partnership and capacity building programmes. The period was also marked by several initiatives taken to promote community related activities for the relatively large Indian Diaspora, comprising over 8% of the total population. The focus during the year was on improving connectivity between the two countries with a view to strengthening economic and commercial ties, tourism and

cultural exchanges, besides facilitating people-to-people contact.

An Indian naval ship INS Trishul, visited Seychelles from 29 April to 07 May 2014 as part of its mission to carry out surveillance of the island nation's extensive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Six months later, INS Sukanya anchored in Port Victoria on 23 October 2014 on a scheduled maritime patrolling visit, during which it conducted EEZ surveillance in the southern waters of Seychelles archipelago from 27 October to 01 November 2014 before leaving for its next destination on 04 November 2014.

India and Seychelles signed the Bilateral Air Services Agreement under which Air Seychelles has commenced direct flights to India since December first week 2014 marking the beginning of a new phase in people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

The highlight of the period was the gifting of an Indian naval ship, INS Tarasa, to Seychelles on 07 November 2014 to augment surveillance and patrolling capacity of Seychelles waters that covers an extensive EEZ of over 1.3 million sq. kms. The Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy Admiral R.K. Dhowan visited Seychelles from 06-07 November 2014 for the formal handing-over ceremony in the presence of the President of Seychelles, Mr James Alix Michel. The ship was rechristened 'PS Constant' upon induction into the fleet of Seychelles Coast Guard. This is the second Indian naval ship to be gifted to Seychelles after PS Topaz in 2006.

Coinciding with the handing over of INS Tarasa and the visit by the Chief of Naval Staff, three Indian naval ships from the Western Fleet, INS Deepak, INS Mumbai and INS Talwar, made port calls in Victoria from 06-09 November 2014. Opening the ships for public to visit, a public performance by the Indian Navy band at the National Cultural Centre and various social and charitable work by the personnel of the three ships were widely appreciated.

As part of the bilateral defence and security cooperation, capacity building programmes were organized under ITEC for the Seychelles Peoples' Defence Forces (SPDF) in India, ITEC deputationists were deployed with SPDF, including as Military Adviser, Maritime Security Adviser, Medical Adviser and Naval Adviser (Technical). In response to a request from the Government of Seychelles, two military vehicles were presented by the Government of India to SPDF in May 2014.

## Sierra Leone

On 20 November 2014, India's Honorary Consul in Freetown

formally handed over to President Mr Ernest Bai Koroma GOI's donation of medicines and medical equipments (worth US\$ 50,000) to combat the Ebola Virus disease. In addition, GOI provided cash assistance of US\$ 500,000 to the WHO, a contribution of US\$ 10 million to UN Trust Fund for Ebola and an additional US\$ 2 million for purchase of protective gear to tackle EVD in the affected countries of West Africa.

## Somalia

It was assessed that despite the various conflicts in the region during the year, Somalia remained a "positive construct in the making" with encouraging progress in the fight against Al Shabaab by the Somali armed forces supported by African Union Mission in Somalia. However, the end of the year witnessed a vertical political divide between the President and the Prime Minister with potential for affecting the stability of the country.

High Commissioner of India to Kenya and concurrently accredited Ambassador of India to Somalia visited Somalia from 22-25 August 2014 and met separately with a host of Somali Ministers. Several issues of bilateral concern were taken up.

The Somali Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Investment Promotion, Mr Abdullahi Dool, participated in the Indian Ocean Dialogue jointly organized by Ministry of External Affairs and Observer Research Foundation from 05-07 September 2014 in Cochin.

Seven Indian crew members of the MV Asphalt Venture, held hostage by the Somali pirates since September 2010 were released on 30 October 2014 by the pirates. They reached Mumbai on 2 November 2014.

During the period, 12 ICCR scholarships were utilized.

## South Africa

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

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan accompanied by high level delegation visited South Africa on 07-14 June 2014 to promote MP's Global Investors Summit 2014.

Shri R. M. Lodha, Chief Justice of India visited South Africa on 23-27 June 2014 to participate in a conference on "United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice System".

Shri Harun R. Khan, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, visited Cape Town on 12-15 April 2014 to participate in the 9th Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India Annual Conference.

Shri Yashwantrao Gadakh, ex-Member of Parliament and Life Member of Indian Parliamentary Group visited Cape Town on 25-28 April 2014 for a study tour.

A 17-membered Delegation from National Defence College, led by Vice Adm. Sunil Lanba, Commandant, NDC visited South Africa on 11-18 May 2014.

A 2-membered delegation led by Shri Lokesh Chandra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel, visited Cape Town from 27-30 May 2014 to attend Annual Conference of International Manganese Institute.

Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly visited Cape Town from 30 September to 03 October 2014. Shri U. T. Khader Fareed, Minister of Health of Karnataka visited Cape Town from 30 September to 3 October 2014 to attend the Global Symposium on Health System Research organised by the South African Ministry of Health. Deputy Speaker of Gujarat Legislative Assembly visited Cape Town on 13-15 October 2014 for a post Conference tour after attending the CPA meeting in Cameroon.

An outreach event on the "Make in India" campaign, launched by PM on 25 September 2014 in New Delhi, was organised by the Mission in Johannesburg on 25 September 2014. The event was attended by CEOs and representatives of leading business groups in South Africa, members of country trade commissions based in Johannesburg, representatives of business organisations, officials from provincial governments, members of the India Business Forum and a large contingent of local and international media. A presentation was made on the salient features of the campaign and the policy decisions taken by the Government to make India an attractive manufacturing hub. Video file of Prime Minister's speech and the promotional clipping prepared by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion were also played.

Opportunities for South African companies to participate in the Industrial corridors and in defence, construction and food processing sectors were highlighted. A discussion followed the presentations wherein South African companies and other participants expressed a deep sense of encouragement by the "Make in India" campaign.

A Festival of India in South Africa - 2014 was jointly organized by High Commission in Pretoria and Department of Arts and Culture of South Africa during July-August 2014 commemorating 20 years of our diplomatic relations and also 100 years of Gandhiji's return to India from South Africa.

Media launch for the Festival was held on 16 July 2014 at CGI Johannesburg. From South African side, it was addressed by Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi and from the Indian side by the High Commissioner. Logo of the festival was unveiled during the media launch. About 50-60 journalists attended the event.

As part of the Festival, an exhibition on Gandhi-Mandela was inaugurated on 18 July 2014 at Constitution Hill, Johannesburg and continued till mid-August 2014. Thereafter, the exhibition was inaugurated on 29 August 2014 at Cape Town. As part of the Festival, High Commission organised a Qawwali Recital by Niazi Nizami Brothers and Party on 09-10 August 2014 at Pretoria and Lenasia (Johannesburg) respectively. Performances of Kathak dance group (from Sangeet Natak Academy through Ministry of Culture) were organised on 04, 06 & 08 August 2014 at Bloemfontein, Pietermaritzburg, Cape Town respectively. Performances of Odissi dance group (from ICCR) were organised on 10, 11 & 13 August 2014 at Maseru (Lesotho), Pretoria and Soweto (Johannesburg) respectively.

Gandhi – Mandela Youth Summit was organised on 19 July 2014 in which around 10-15 school children from India and approximately 200 students from various schools in South Africa participated. Marking 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa to India in 1914, a commemorative function was organised by the High Commission at the Tolstoy Farm, Lenasia outside Johannesburg on 20 July 2014. The event held at the site of the Tolstoy Farm, a settlement founded by the Mahatma in 1910. This programme also launched a formal structure to revive the settlement in the form of a "Garden of Remembrance" to nurture and cherish Gandhi's way of life. The event was attended by a large gathering of South African Indian community members, notably Chief Guest Ms Maniben Sita, a leading anti-apartheid activist, MEC for Road and Transport of Gauteng Province Mr Ismail Vadi, Ex- Federal Minister Mr

Essop Pahad, Councillor and leading member of the African National Congress Ms Prema Naidoo, family members of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, distinguished representatives of the Government of South Africa, and prominent members of the Indian community. High Commissioner addressed the gathering from Indian side. Gandhi-Mandela wall was inaugurated on 24 July 2014 at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg.

An exhibition on Indian cinema by Routes to Roots and an exhibition of original water colour paintings of Shri Kashinath Das on 'Monuments of India' (by ICCR) were inaugurated by the High Commissioner on 31 July 2014 at the prestigious National Museum of Cultural History in Pretoria. The exhibitions went on till 13 August 2014 in Pretoria. Thereafter, the two exhibitions were moved to Richards Bay, where these were displayed from 29 August 2014 till 30 September 2014.

An 'Indian Film Festival' on 100 years of Indian Cinema was inaugurated by the High Commissioner on 03 August 2014 at Indian Cultural Centre, Johannesburg. Various films were showcased in Johannesburg and Durban.

An ICCR-sponsored, 5-membered Bharatnatyam dance group led by Ms. Purva Dhanashree visited South Africa on 08-12 April 2014 to perform during the Tamil New Year celebrations. Four performances were held in Pretoria, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, in association with the Tamil Federation of South Africa. The events were a great success. The impact was notable and well received by audiences.

Kathak performances in South Africa: High Commission organised cultural performances in Rustenburg (18 October 2014), Durban (19 October 2014) and Pretoria (21 October 2014) for ICCR-sponsored, 4-membered Kathak dance troupe led by Ms Prerana Deshpande. A workshop also organised in collaboration with a local Kathak dance school in Johannesburg. All the events were organised in collaboration with local Indian community organisations. All the performances received excellent response.

Consulate General of India, Johannesburg in collaboration with the India-Africa Business Network organised an "INDIA WEEK" at Gordon Institute of Business Science in Johannesburg on 17-21 November 2014. The celebrations showcased opportunities for South African companies to do business and investment in India, highlighting "Make in India" campaign. The events included an interaction of the India Business Forum, an Industry platform comprising 80

Indian companies in South Africa (SA), with SA's Home Minister Mr Malusi Gigaba; session on "Infrastructure and Energy opportunities in post-election India"; session on "How India Revolutionised the Healthcare Industry - Unpacking the Pharmaceutical and Ayurveda Sectors in India"; and exhibition and session on Bollywood "Making a Song and Dance of it: Taking Bollywood Cinema Seriously". An innovative feature of the event was the showcasing of business in its cultural context, through interaction with henna artist; exposure to the colours of India tourism and taste of Indian food, fairs and festivals.

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Teg visited SA on 20 October – 10 November 2014 to participate in the fourth edition of the IBSAMAR exercise. A Chetak helicopter and a 10 member Marine Commandos team were also embarked. A total of 279 personnel were deployed on the ship. The ships of the three navies managed a high degree of interoperability, with joint tasking of the Special Forces, ships' boarding teams and aviation forces working together professionally and with complete adherence to safety procedures. The reception hosted by INS Teg on 08 November 2014 was attended by the Mayor of Cape Town and two ministers from the Provincial Government of Western Cape, along with 120 other guests.

The first Gurudwara in Johannesburg was inaugurated on 30 November 2014. Important Sikh sangat leaders from neighbouring countries including Botswana, Tanzania, Kenya as well as UK were present on the occasion.

Bilateral trade between India and South Africa for the period April to September 2014 was US\$ 6.36 billion with India's exports to South Africa at US\$ 3.29 billion and imports at US\$ 3.07 billion.

Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation, in FY 2014-15, 100 slots have been allocated to South Africa out of which 74 have been sanctioned so far.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations has offered a total of 52 slots to South Africa in FY 2014-15 and so far 37 have been utilized.

Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, visited India to attend the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) 2015 on 07-09 January 2015 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. She had been invited as the Guest of Honour for PBD 2015 which also marks the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa.

Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) Meeting is likely to take place in the end of first quarter of 2015 in South Africa.

External Affairs Minister may visit South Africa to attend the proposed 9th Session of JMC. Regional Head of Missions' (HoMs) Conference is likely to be held during the visit.

Bilateral trade for the year 2013-14 between India and South Africa was US\$ 11.15 billion and the trade for the first five months (April - August) of 2013-14 is US\$ 5.51 billion, with India's exports to South Africa at US\$ 2.97 billion and imports at US\$ 2.54 billion.

There is substantial potential for trade growth between the two countries. Exports from India to South Africa include vehicles and components thereof, transport equipment, drugs and pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, footwear, dyes and intermediates, chemicals, textiles, rice, gems and jewellery, etc. Import from South Africa to India include gold, steam coal, copper ores and concentrates, phosphoric acid, manganese ore, aluminum ingots and other minerals.

Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation, 100 slots have been allocated to South Africa in 2014-15.

## South Sudan

The political security situation remained fragile on account of the political and ethnic forces loyal to President Mr Kiir and Vice President Mr Riek Machar. The entire country remained embroiled in armed struggle and ethnic clashes, forcing a large number of South Sudanese to seek shelter in neighbouring countries and in the UN assisted protection camps. In April 2014, the two Indian peacekeepers deployed in a UN camp in BOR, capital of Jonglei state sustained minor injuries during an attack while protecting the inmates in the camp. In order to resolve the crisis, the two main rival parties and other stakeholders are continuously engaged in peace talks, which are being held under the mediation of IGAD countries and International organizations. Since January 2014, seven rounds of negotiations have already taken place and parties involved in the conflict are yet to reach an agreement. Pursuant to the ongoing negotiations, the Government of South Sudan and the opposition forces have been able to sign agreements for Cessation of Hostilities, formation of a transitional government of national unity.

The internal conflict in the country led to the complete shutdown of oil production in areas under the operation of Indian company OVL and its consortium partners in South Sudan.

United Nations admitted South Sudan as 135th member of Group of 77 developing countries.

A four member audit team from Comptroller & Auditor General of India, led by Shri Nilotpal Goswami, Joint Secretary visited South Sudan from 11 August to 05 September 2014 to conduct the audit of UN Peace Keeping Operation Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

India continued to provide assistance in the field of capacity building. Seven South Sudanese were granted full time ICCR scholarships for pursuing higher studies. In addition, 32 South Sudanese have been granted scholarships for short term ITEC courses till November 2014.

An MoU was signed between Barefoot college (also known as The Social Work and Research Centre) at Tilonia, Rajasthan and Evangelical Prebysterian Church (on behalf of Government of South Sudan) on 18 August 2014, for establishing a Regional Barefoot Training and Vocational Centre (RBTVC) in Yei province of Equatoria State, South Sudan to promote solar electrification in the villages in Yei. MEA also signed an agreement with Barefoot College for providing funds amounting to US\$ 500,000 (₹ 2.48 crores) for establishing Regional Barefoot Training and Vocational Centre (RBTVC) in South Sudan.

## Sudan

The traditional and multi-faceted relationship between India and Sudan strengthened and expanded further, during the year. The bilateral trade growth recorded about 46% during 2013-14 financial year (US\$ 888 million to US\$ 1298 million). Indian private sector investment in iron ore, gold mining, steel manufacturing and pharmaceuticals has flowed into Sudan in the period under consideration. On 09 June 2014, a symposium on "Democracy in India" was organized by the Sudanese Indian Friendship Association and the Al zaem Al Azhari University (AAU) in collaboration with 'Council for International People's Friendship' at the conference hall of AAU.

Synthetic Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) organized its first-ever exclusive Indian Textile Exhibition (INTEXPO) in Khartoum, Sudan on 10-11 August 2014. Around twenty exhibitors exhibited their products and attracted a large number of importers, agents and retailers. As per SRTEPC initial feedback, around ₹ 52 million of business (spot order – ₹ 1.56 crores and under negotiation – ₹ 3.60 crores) were generated during the exhibition. A delegation from Khartoum Agriculture Union paid visit to India and participated in a BSM, facilitated by the CII at Delhi in September 2014.

## Swaziland

Bilateral trade for the first five months of the current financial year (April-August 2014) is US\$11.85 million with Indian exports at US\$7.80 million and imports from Swaziland at US\$4.05.

M/s Angelique International Limited of India was awarded a contract for an agriculture development project worth US\$37.9 million under a Government of India Line of Credit extended to Swaziland.

5 Swazi students won ICCR scholarships, 12 Swazi officials under ITEC and 1 student under IAFS for CV Raman Fellowship were sent to India in 2014-15.

## Tanzania

India's relations with Tanzania continue to be warm and friendly. Minister for Trade and Industry Dr Abdulla Kigoda led the Tanzanian delegation to the 'India Economic Forum' held at New Delhi, 04-06 November 2014.

Total bilateral trade during 2013 has crossed the US\$ 3 billion mark as per Tanzanian official figures with Indian exports to Tanzania at US\$ 2.3 billion, and imports from Tanzania to India at US\$ 700 million. The main items of export from India were petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, electrical apparatus, motor vehicles etc. The main items of import from Tanzania to India in this period were gold, cashew nuts, pulses, timber, and precious stones. As per the Department of Commerce figures, total bilateral trade in 2013-14 was over \$ 4 billion. Total investments by Indian interests in Tanzania in 2013 were US\$ 133.67 million with 1890 jobs supported with such investments. Cumulative Indian investment in Tanzania from 1990 to end 2013 was US\$ 1.96 billion supporting over 52,000 jobs locally.

Bank of Baroda inaugurated its fourth branch at Mwanza, Tanzania's second largest city, in July 2014. Andhra Bank delegation visited Tanzania in April 2014 to assess the possibility of establishing its presence in Tanzania. The local CRDB bank launched its 'India Desk' to provide a banking platform for business communities to take advantage of growing business ties between the two countries. The Bank has partnered with SBI and ICICI to offer money transfer facilities.

The 'Make in India' campaign launch done by the Tanzanian Prime Minister Mr Mizengo Pinda launched the expansion of an Indian-invested steel plant in Dar es Salaam on 17 August 2014 which will catapult this plant to be the biggest one in East Africa in terms of capacity.

International Trade Promotion Organisation of India participated at the Dar International Trade Fair. Eleven companies from India were represented in the event.

The GOI LoC for \$ 178.125 million for water supply augmentation projects in Dar es Salaam City and Chalinze region, was launched in mid November 2014. WAPCOS was appointed as the PMC and two Indian companies have been awarded the contracts. Progress on the projects has been satisfactory.

An MoU finalising Indian assistance of US\$ 1.3 million for setting up an ICT Resource Centre at the Nelson Mandela-African Institute of Science and Technology at Arusha was signed in October 2014. C-DAC is expected to mobilize for implementation of the project shortly.

India Tourism Office, Johannesburg participated for the second time at the Karibu Tourism and Trade Fair held in Arusha in June 2014. The Office also participated at the first Swahili International Tourism Expo in Dar es Salaam in early October 2014.

Tanzania's utilization of ITEC slots remained high. All 250 slots in civilian areas allotted to Tanzania were utilized by October 2014. Tanzania also fully utilized all 28 slots in defence sector by mid-November 2014. In addition, 7 IAFS and other training slots have been utilized. Of the 24 ICCR scholarships on offer, 20 have been utilized.

During this period, Ms. Vani Madhav, an Odissi dance exponent, held performances from 15-17 August 2014 at Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. 'Soul Samvad', a musical band held a performance in Dar es Salaam on 07 October 2014. Shri Shekhar Sen, a renowned monologue artiste performed a musical skit on Swami Vivekanand at the Indian Cultural Centre in August, to commemorate Hindi Divas.

Three ships of the Western Fleet, and the hydrographic ship INS 'Jamuna' visited the Dar es Salaam port.

## Togo

A two-member IL&FS Cluster delegation visited Togo from 06-10 May 2014 in connection with providing technical assistance for development of the Togolese cotton industry under the Cotton Technical Assistance Programme.

## Tunisia

Since the adoption of a new constitution in January 2014 and formation of a technocrat government, Tunisia has been making steady progress towards democracy. It achieved a

milestone in its history by successfully holding multiparty general elections on 26 October 2014. Another landmark achievement on the path of democracy was the organization of the first ever presidential elections held on 23 November 2014 which was contested by 27 candidates.

In the wake of breakdown of law and order in Libya in July 2014, Tunisia extended all possible help and cooperation in the smooth and orderly evacuation of thousands of Indians from Libya through Tunisia which continued till October 2014.

An 8-member Sufi Fusion Group led by Ms. Sonam Kalra sponsored by ICCR staged two performances in Tunis on 28-29 September 2014. Dr Abdeljalil Salem, former Rector, Zietouna University, Tunis, visited India as a guest of ICCR under Academic Visitors Programme during 21-30 November 2014.

In recent years, Tunisia has been evincing greater interest in the ITEC Programmes of GOI. 45 ITEC training slots earmarked for Tunisia for the year 2014-2015 have been utilized. Under India-Africa S&T Cooperation initiative, 3 Tunisian researchers and scientists participated in CV Raman Fellowship Programme during 2014-15.

## Uganda

India continues to enjoy close relations with Uganda, especially in view of the large Indian business community, political stability that the country enjoys in the region and the goodwill that India holds.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Sam Kutesa led a delegation of senior officials to India in July 2014. He was the first African leader to visit India after the formation of the new government. He was accompanied by Minister of ICT Mr John Nasasira, Minister of State for Investment Dr Ajedra Gabriel and Minister of State for Fisheries Ms. Ruth Nankabirwa. During the visit, Minister Mr Sam Kutesa called on the Prime Minister and had delegation-level talks with External Affairs Minister. The delegation also interacted with CII.

The inter-Governmental MoU for setting of a Food-Processing Business Incubation Centre (FPBIC) in Uganda was signed by High Commissioner with the Ugandan Minister for Agriculture in Kampala in June 2014. Subsequently, an MoU between the two implementing agencies viz. ICRISAT Hyderabad and National Agricultural Research Laboratories (NARL) Kawanda was also signed. The Centre is being setup with a grant-in-aid from the

Government of India.

The Indian Military Training Team (IMTT) continues to train mid and senior-level Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) officers.

85 slots have been allotted to Uganda under ITEC-SCAAP. UPDF officers attended defence programme at prestigious institutes like the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington. 31 Ugandans have availed ICCR's scholarships for graduate, under-graduate and Ph.D programmes. 1 Ugandan has also travelled to India on a CV Raman fellowship. Apart from this, 2 Ugandans have availed short term training programmes under IAFS.

Minister for Presidency Mr Frank Tumbeze, along with other ministers and Ugandan dignitaries were a part of the ITEC Day celebration at India House. The event was attended by around hundred Ugandan ITEC alumni.

The Pan African e-Network Project, especially its tele-education component, is functioning satisfactorily.

India was a source for the highest number of licensed FDI projects in Uganda and had 142 projects with the planned value of US\$ 108.7 million (July 2013-June 2014).

A 12-member CII business delegation visited Uganda from 17-19 September 2014. The delegation met several business partners and government officials, including Ministers.

India-Uganda Friendship Rally was organized to mark the 67th Independence Day of their country. Uganda has 27,000+ population of Indians/PIOs. 60% of the direct taxes collected by Uganda Revenue Authority are contributed by Indian/PIO owned companies. The Indian community also marked the 'India Day' celebration. Ms. Sunidhi Chauhan performed at the event. Speaker of Ugandan Parliament Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga was the Chief Guest at the event.

## Zambia

A 17-member delegation from the National Defence College, New Delhi led by Vice Admiral and Commandant, Shri Sunil Lanba visited Zambia on a study visit from 18-23 May 2014. Delegation called on the Commanders of the army, air-force and Zambian National Service. India and Zambia had a long standing cooperation in the field of training of armed forces.

Secretary (West) visited Zambia from 05-09 August 2014. Visit was to reiterate importance attached by India to its relations with Zambia. Apart from meetings in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he held meetings in the Ministry of Health to

discuss implementation of the project to establish 650 health posts in Zambia under the Indian Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 50 million.

A cultural fusion band visited Zambia in October 2014 and gave its presentation in Lusaka. Another cultural group led by Mrs. Usha Uthup performed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Zambian independence and establishment of the Indo-Zambian diplomatic relations.

## Zimbabwe

India and Zimbabwe have continued to take their cordial relations forward in the period. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 03 March 2014 in Harare between National Small Industries Corporation of India and Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe to set up a Vocational Training Centre in Harare under IAFS-I. The MoU aims to promote 27 SME technologies.

An Agreement to set up a Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) in Harare was signed on 18 March 2014 in New Delhi between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe. The FTL is being set up under IAFS-II.

A high-powered FICCI delegation visited Zimbabwe from 28-31 May 2014 with the view to promote and expand trade and commercial ties between India and Zimbabwe.

A two-member BHEL Delegation led by Dr Sutanu Behuria, Secretary in Department of Heavy Industries, GOI, visited Zimbabwe from 12-15 June 2014 to explore possibilities of mutual cooperation between the two countries in the areas of power and energy.

The Air Services Agreement between Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe was signed in Harare on 19 June 2014.

The Embassy in collaboration with ITDC, New Delhi organized the 3rd Edition of the Indian Food Festival in Harare from 13-18 October 2014. The Government of India Tourism Office in Johannesburg participated in the Sanganai/Hlanganani World Tourism Expo in Harare from 16-18 October 2014 and won the Best International Stand as well as the Best Overall Stand awards.

A three member delegation from Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi successfully conducted an Executive Development Programme on International Business in Harare from 17-21 November 2014 as mandated under the Indian

Africa Forum Summit. The Programme was conducted in collaboration with ZimTrade.

Government of India has approved donation of 500 metric ton of rice to Zimbabwe. There is a proposal to install a 42” Bronze Bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Harare. The proposal is awaiting the approval from the City of Harare.

## African Union

Since the inception of the African Union, India has been regularly participating in its various summits. Secretary (West) led a delegation to Addis Ababa to participate in the Annual African Union Summit in January 2014. On the sidelines of the summit, bilateral meetings were held with delegations of several African Countries.

Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa) led the delegation to participate in the AU summit in Malabo in June 2014. On the sidelines of the summit, bilateral meetings were held with the senior officers of the African Union Commission (AUC).

The 3rd India-African Regional Economic Communities (REC) meeting chaired by Secretary (West) was held in New Delhi on 20-21 August 2014. The visiting REC delegations called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, General (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.) on 20 August 2014 and held bilateral discussions with the concerned Joint Secretaries in the Ministry of External Affairs. The REC delegations also met with several Departments/Ministries/Agencies of the Government of India along with some civil society organizations engaged in implementing jointly agreed programme and projects. These include Department of Agriculture Research and Educations, Barefoot College, Tilonia, The Energy and Resources Institute etc. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized an interactive session for the RECs with Indian business leaders on the evening 20 August 2014. The visiting delegation also met with the Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) on 21 August 2014. The 3rd India-RECs Meeting has provided another platform to strengthen India-Africa ties.

## India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

The IAFS mechanism was conceived with the objective to lay the foundation of a new architecture for a structured engagement, interaction and cooperation between India and African partners in the 21st century, at three tiers: the continental, the regional and the bilateral. The first summit was held in New Delhi in 2008 and the second in Addis Ababa in 2011.

The projects and programmes approved by the two summits were continued successfully in 2014. Three of the capacity building institutions were completed – vocational training centres in Burundi, Ethiopia and Rwanda. All training programmes envisaged during the period 2011-14 under IAFS-II were completed, including visits of journalists and young parliamentarians. Academic conferences were also organized by ICWA and IDSA with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Under India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) mechanism, a training programme on “Wind Turbine Technology and Applications” was held by MEA from 19 November to 12 December 2014 at the National Institute of Wind Energy, Chennai. 21 candidates from eight African countries participated in the course.



## Europe and European Union

### Albania

Indian Ambassador from Romania, accredited to Albania, visited Albania from 05-07 August 2014 and held meetings with senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discussed bilateral issues. She also met Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Albania and discussed possibilities of promoting bilateral trade and commerce. She also met Sisters of Charity (Mother Teresa) and the Indian Community based in Tirana.

An Agreement on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic/official passport holders between India and Albania has been finalized and has received Cabinet approval and the same could be signed in the near future.

Albanian Embassy in New Delhi had closed down w.e.f. 30 September 2014 due to financial problems in Albania.

### Austria

Traditionally relations have been warm and friendly. Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Dr). V.K. Singh (Retd), MoS (VKS) visited Vienna on transit from Montenegro on 03 September 2014. MoS (VKS) interacted with the Indian Community in Vienna.

Mag. Michael Lederer, Head of Technology Transfer Department in the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology visited India on 08 September 2014.

Shri Thokchom Lokeshwar Singh, Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly visited Vienna on 14 October 2014 on a Post Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Tour.

The Parliament of Austria set up for the first time a separate Parliamentary Friendship Group for India, which is headed by Ms. Alev Korun, Member of Parliament from the Greens Party. The Friendship group consists of 15 Members of Parliament from both the Houses of the Parliament.

The Embassy organised an exhibition titled "A brief biography of Mahatma Gandhi" at the Institute of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies.

The Embassy in collaboration with the Austrian chamber of Commerce in Vienna on 09 October 2014 organised the launch event for the "Make In India" campaign.

The Austro-Indian Society for Culture and Leisure [India Centre Graz] organised their annual festival of Indian dance and music – India Sphere 2014 on 24 October 2014 in Graz.

The Austrian Anadi Bank (an Indian owned Austrian Bank) in collaboration with the Embassy and the Provincial Chamber of Commerce of Carinthia, organized the first Symposium titled "Carinthia meets India" in the provincial Capital Klagenfurt on 20 November 2014. The Event was attended by Dr Peter Kaiser, the Governor of Carinthia. The event focused on commercial linkages, business opportunities and also a session on Austro-Bollywood for which Ms. Gurinder Chaddha, an Indian origin Director delivered the Keynote address.

### Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH)

Relations with BiH are warm and friendly. During the year, following events took place which strengthened bilateral cooperation.

The 3rd round of Foreign Office Consultations were held in Sarajevo on 21- 22 April 2014. The Indian side was led by Secretary (West), Shri Dinkar Khullar while the BiH side was led by Assistant Minister for Bilateral Relations, Mr Amer Krpetanovic.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee sent a condolence message to Mr Bakir Izetbegovic, Chairman of the Presidency, conveying his profound sadness on the loss of lives and property caused due to the unprecedented floods in Bosnia & Herzegovina in May 2014. Government of India gave a relief assistance of USD 100,000 to BiH.

An Indian delegation, consisting of six National Film Development Corporation of India script writers along with a senior consultant and two expert script mentors came from Mumbai to participate in the prestigious 20th Sarajevo Film Festival from 15-23 August 2014, the very first for a delegation from India.

India took part in three big cultural and peace events that took place in Sarajevo this year, Sarajevo Winter Festival, Sarajevo Peace Event 2014 and the Sarajevo Film Festival.

## Bulgaria

Relations have been traditionally warm and cordial. Attraction towards India among young and old Bulgarians is abundantly evident from popularity of Yoga, Indian dance, Indian films and soap operas in Bulgaria. In the year marking 60 years of establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries, while expressing satisfaction over the status of existing friendly relations, have expressed desire to consolidate and strengthen the bonds of friendship existing between the two countries and peoples.

Events organized in Bulgaria to commemorate the 60th anniversary include the issuance of a special post card on 26 June 2014 by the Deputy Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications. The Friends of India Club, Indology Department of Sofia University and the Embassy of India jointly organized on 18 November 2014 at Sofia University a festive public meeting on 60 years of diplomatic relations. In his congratulatory message for the event, the Bulgarian Foreign Minister expressed deep satisfaction with the progressive development of bilateral relations and confirmed that Bulgaria accorded priority to further all round development of relations with India. The event was well attended and received coverage in the Bulgarian National TV.

The year witnessed organization of a number of events by the Embassy of India in Sofia. The Embassy in cooperation with East-West Indological Foundation had organized an exhibition of photographs titled "Holy Vrindavan" by the photographer Mr Yulian Angelov in the Sofia University in April 2014.

World Hindi day was celebrated on 10 April 2014 by the Embassy in cooperation with the East-West Indological Foundation and Indology Department of Sofia University. The Ambassador inaugurated the function and read out Prime Minister's message on World Hindi Day. The two hour programme titled "Wisdom of India" was well attended and comprised Bharatnatyam dance by Bulgarian artist Ms. Maya

Zhalova-Kanwar, songs sung by the children of Indira Gandhi Kindergarten, Pravets and a drama based on the tales of the Panchtantra performed by the current and former Indology students of Sofia University. The event was extensively covered by the Bulgarian media.

India participated in Veliko Turnovo International Folklore Festival with a 10-member ICCR-sponsored Manipuri folk dance and music troupe and a 20-member private Gujarati folk dance troupe. India's participation was the highlight of the festival and it was widely covered in the local media. The Manipuri dance group presented several performances in Veliko Turnova, Razgrad, Ruse and Chelopech from 19 July to 02 August 2014.

As part of 30 years anniversary celebrations, the Indology Department of Sofia University in cooperation with East West Indological Foundation launched an e-journal "Manas – Studies into Asia and Africa" on 20 November 2014. The first issue of this journal was dedicated to the culture of South Asia with a focus on India.

Bulgaria Ayurveda Association held an event to mark its 5th Anniversary on 30 November 2014. The Association had earlier requested the Embassy for providing books for teaching at the Ayurvedic Centre, Sofia. The Department of Ayush agreed to supply the books as per the list provided by the Bulgaria Ayurveda Association.

Tourism is an important part of Bulgarian economy. Bulgarian Government is keen to attract more tourists from India. Bulgaria may emerge as a destination for Indian films shooting based on the interest shown by some Indian movie production companies, who visited the country to scout locations for regional as well as Hindi movies.

During the year, Bulgaria availed two Government of India funded scholarships to learn Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, and two ICCR's Ayush Scholarship Scheme for 5 years B.A.M.S course. Besides, so far 13 scholarships have been availed under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs during the year.

## Croatia

Bilateral relations continued to be friendly and cooperative and these were further strengthened through sustained interactions during the period. There was mutually beneficially cooperation and support in various multilateral forums.

A two-member delegation of Indian Air Force led by Air Marshal D.S. Khajuria, Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance, Air HQ visited on 10-12 September 2014 as part of their visit to Central Europe. The delegation visited TPT factory at Karlovac to identify opportunities and seek ways for defence industry and business cooperation.

The Embassy of India shifted to GOI-owned property on 16 June 2014. The ceremonial opening was held on 30 July 2014 in which Mayor of Zagreb Mr Milan Bandic was the chief guest.

The Embassy continued with its support for the study of Indology at the University of Zagreb in which Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has a Hindi Chair and deputed a Hindi Professor for a period of three years. A fellowship was secured from ICCR for a Croatian Professor for Post Doctorate Research in Sanskrit in India in June 2014. ICCR sponsored 6-member Kathak dance group visited Croatia on 31 May to 05 June 2014 to give performances at four cities viz. Zagreb, Varazdin, Krapinske Toplice and Koprivnica. While ICCR paid for their air tickets, the mission made arrangements for their local hospitality, performances etc. with the help of LOTOS- Association for promoting Indian culture, a local cultural association. The concerned authorities appreciated their flawless performances.

Two films of 'Incredible India' won Awards at the International Festival of Tourism Films held in Zagreb on 04-06 June 2014.

The Embassy, in cooperation with the Croatian NGOs, LOTOS Association and the Mahatma Gandhi Cultural Centre, organised the 6th "Days of Indian Culture" in Zagreb on 27 April to 31 May 2014 in which various seminars, lectures, workshops, exhibitions etc. were held. The event was dedicated to various aspects of Indian culture in order to familiarize the Croatian people. A month long exhibition titled 'In Search of The Feminine Archetype' displaying art paintings by a local artist on Slavic and Indian deities was opened by Ambassador at a local Museum on 29 October 2014. Screening of film "Gandhi Lives" directed by Shri Arun Prasad Har was also organized on the occasion of International Day of Tolerance on 17 November 2014.

## Cyprus

Relations have been traditionally close and friendly.

For the first time, Gandhi Jayanti and International Day of Non-violence was commemorated in Cyprus on 02 October 2014. In a brief ceremony held adjacent to the House of

Representatives in Nicosia where a bust of Mahatma Gandhi is installed, floral tributes were paid by Mr Yiannakis Omirou, the President of the House of Representatives who also delivered a speech on the occasion.

The interim JS/DG level Foreign Office Consultations between India and Cyprus was held in Nicosia on 11 November 2014.

## Czech Republic

Relations continued to strengthen this year. People to people contact witnessed a considerable surge in tourist flow from both sides, particularly after shooting of a Bollywood film (Bang Bang) in Prague in July 2014.

Economic and trade relations remained on the path of consistent growth with frequent exchange of delegations from business and industry. Following are some important events of this year:

A 17 member delegation led by Shri G.C Murmu, Principal Private Secretary to Gujarat Chief Minister, visited Prague from 07-09 September 2014 for the Vibrant Gujarat road show. The road show was attended by over 60 Czech companies and also had a B2B in the end.

A seven member delegation led by Shri Sharad Jaipuria, President, PHD (Punjab, Haryana, Delhi) Chamber of Commerce & Industry, visited Prague from 08-10 September 2014 for business discussions. The delegation discussed possibilities of further cooperation with the Czech Chamber of Commerce and with the representatives of Ministry of Industry and Trade.

A 21-member delegation from the Dept. of Heavy Engineering led by Shri R.K Singh, Joint Secretary, visited Prague from 22-25 September 2014 for the meeting of Joint Working Group on Heavy Engineering. The delegation included representatives from public sector organizations HEC, HMT machine tools, Neyveli Lignite and Singareni Collieries. The delegation met with Mr Jiri Havlicek, first deputy Minister of Industry and Trade on 24 September 2014 and signed the India-Czech JWG Protocol. The Czech side arranged visits to coal mines of Czech Coal Group, Vitkovitce, Ferrit, Skoda transportation, Skoda Machine tools and Czech Precision forge. The visit also paved the way for bilateral cooperation in the mining sector.

Czech Republic has been one of the important countries for India in the defence sector. A delegation of 14 officers from College of Air Warfare, Secunderabad visited Czech Republic

as part of the “Instructional Tour Abroad” from 03-07 November 2014. The delegation was led by Air Vice Marshal D.P. Ugot. A group of 14 officers also joined a Short-term Cryptography Course on ICT Security at Masaryk University in Brno. The course started on 08 September 2014 and is scheduled until 15 February 2015.

High representatives of Czech Universities visited India in October and November 2014. The purpose of the visit was to deepen the cooperation in the field of Higher Education.

## Denmark

India Denmark relations continued to be affected by the non-extradition of Mr Niels Holck, aka Kim Davy to India for his involvement in the Purulia arms dropping case in 1995.

## Estonia

Prime Minister Mr Taavi Roivas had a meeting with MoS (VKS) on 16 October 2014 on the sidelines of ASEM-EU Meeting in Milan. Besides discussions on bilateral political and economic relations, the issue of marines detained in India and the opening of Indian Embassy in Estonia were also discussed.

A group of 26 Senior officers from the Central and State Governments visited Estonia from 22-29 August 2014 to participate in the training course on E-Governance solutions organised by the E-Governance Academy of Estonia.

## Finland

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, paid a State visit to Finland on 14-16 October 2014. He was accompanied by a high level delegation including Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Shri P. Radhakrishnan, Members of Parliament Shri Rajeev Shukla, Shri Anant Kumar Dattatreya Hegde, Dr Kirit Premjibhai Solanki and Shri Babul Supriyo Baral, senior officials, senior academicians from IITs and IISERs and businessmen. President met Finnish President, Mr Sauli Niinisto, Prime Minister, Mr Alexander Stubb, Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja and Speaker of the Parliament, Mr Eero Heinoluoma. President also addressed a Business Seminar in Helsinki. He also visited Rovaniemi and crossed the Arctic Circle, in addition to visiting the Santa Claus Village, the 'Arktikum' museum and the Arctic Science Centre. A total of 19 Agreements for cooperation in several fields including New and Renewable Energy, Biotechnology, Civil Nuclear Research, Meteorology, Healthcare and Education between educational institutions and commercial agreements were signed during the visit.

Foreign Office Consultations with Finland were held on 13 May 2014 in Helsinki. The Indian side was headed by Shri Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West) and the Finnish side was headed by Mr Jaakko Laajava, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Security Policy. Secretary (West) also called on Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Erkki Tuomioja. The Agreement on Social Security between Finland and India, which was signed in June 2012, came into effect from 01 August 2014.

## Greece

External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj met Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of Greece Mr Evangelos Venizelos on the margins of the 69th UNGA on 25 September 2014 in New York.

Speaker of the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly, Shri Govind Singh Kunjwal visited Athens from 15-17 October 2014 on a Study Tour to Greece.

The 10th Round of India-Greece Foreign Office Consultations was held in Athens on 09 May 2014. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West) and the Greek delegation was led by Secretary General of the Hellenic Foreign Office Ambassador Anastasios Mitsialis.

Greece assumed the rotating Presidency of European Union on 01 January 2014 which was handed over to Italy on 01 July 2014.

The Embassy organised 1st Business Promotion Forum in Athens on 27 March 2014. The Guest of Honour was Mr Ioannis Plakiotakis (MP), President of the India-Greece Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Cricket Teams from 5 schools in India participated in the 4th International Schools Cricket Tournament organised by the Hellenic Cricket Federation in Corfu from 21-26 April 2014. There were total 10 teams from Greece, India, South Africa, Bulgaria and England in the Tournament. Jain International School, Bangalore won the trophy.

Thirty two Indian companies (SMEs) took part in the 79th Thessaloniki International Fair from 07-14 September 2014 under the auspices of ITPO.

The Embassy of India, Athens, with the cooperation of the Indo-Hellenic Society for Culture and Development arranged several cultural events in Greece. Major events were: Second Bollywood Dance Festival in June 2014, Screening of Indian films in Thessaloniki and Athens (remembering Shri Satyajit

Ray in April and commercial screening of film the Lunch Box in August 2014), and Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti on 02 October 2014 in the New York College, Athens where Ambassador spoke on Gandhiji and his philosophy.

Ambassador invited over a dozen businessmen and entrepreneurs from Athens to brief them on 'Make in India' Campaign. Over a dozen prominent Greek entrepreneurs were invited on 17 October 2014 and 24 October 2014 in batches to the Embassy.

## Holy See

A high level delegation led by Shri Oscar Fernandes, Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Minister of Labour and Employment represented India at the Canonisation Ceremony of Late Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII on 27 April 2014 at The Vatican. The delegation included Prof. K.V. Thomas, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution; and Justice Cyriac Joseph, Member of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Ambassador presented credentials to His Holiness Pope Francis at The Vatican on 15 May 2014. He also met senior Vatican officials to discuss bilateral relations.

Two Indian Catholics priests, viz. Blessed Father Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Blessed Sister Euphrasia were canonized by Pope Francis on 23 November 2014 at St Peter's Square in Vatican. Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha, Shri P.J. Kurien, led the Indian delegation, which also included a number of MPs and Ministers from Kerala State Government.

## Hungary

Relations are close, friendly, multifaceted and substantive. The following important events added substance to bilateral cooperation.

A 3-member Indian Defence delegation (28-30 April 2014) visit to Hungarian Nuclear Biological and Chemical establishments for finalizing cooperation in the field of Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear equipment, training, aerial CBRN and lab testing facilities.

An international Ayurveda conference was organized in Budapest on 21-22 September 2014 for which Secretary (AYUSH), Shri Nilanjan Sanyal led a delegation. An AYUSH Information Centre established in January 2014 is the first such Centre in Europe and is effective in promoting AYUSH in Hungary.

Ambassador and Deputy Minister Mr Bence Retvari signed the Education Exchange Programme (EEP) on 19 November 2014. The EEP for the period 2014-2017 encourages cooperation between higher education institutions, exchange of publications, educational materials and curricula and institution of annual scholarships.

A Business Symposium "Make in India - PM Modi's Vision" was organized at the Embassy on 14 October 2014. Swatchh Bharat Abhiyaan was conducted in the Mission on 28 November 2014.

## Iceland

A film festival was celebrated in collaboration with Friends of India from 08-13 April 2014. Six hindi films were screened during the festival which was a great success.

There was overwhelming response to India Week 2014 which was celebrated from 10-16 May 2014 at the Hotel Hilton Nordica. This was the second India Week in as many years. This was organised with the help of Kerala Tourism, who sent one masterchef and an Ayurveda doctor for this purpose. A performance by Ms Pragati Sood, a renowned Kathak dancer from India was also held. The reception was attended by Mr Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Foreign Minister of Iceland and other dignitaries.

The Arctic Circle Conference was held from 31 October – 02 November 2014 at Harpa Convention Centre, Reykjavik. Approximately 1400 delegates from all over the world attended the Conference. India was represented at the Conference by the Embassy.

An International Day 2013 was held at the University of Iceland on 13 November 2014. India was represented and information on India was displayed and Indian food was served.

## Latvia

Bilateral relations continued to be warm and cordial. Latvia opened its embassy in New Delhi in January 2014, and the first Resident Ambassador of Latvia to India Mr Aivars Groza presented credentials to President of India on 21 October 2014.

An Ayurveda Conference was organized by the University of Latvia on 30 April 2014 and an MoU was signed between University of Latvia and the Arya Vaidya Chikitsalayam and Research Institute, Coimbatore.

Cultural ties were strengthened with the visit of a 10-member ICCR sponsored Gujarati Dance troupe 'Saptak' from 20-26 June 2014. They participated in the celebrations related to Riga being declared the Cultural Capital of Europe for 2014 and also performed in Liepaja, the first-ever Indian cultural event to be organized in this third-largest city of Latvia.

## Lithuania

The Asian Business Forum was organized in Vilnius on 06 June 2014 to help the Lithuanian and Asian enterprises establish constructive linkages with government bodies for promotion of trade and commerce.

An annual event, Asian Days in Vilnius, was organised by the Mayor of Vilnius on 06-07 June 2014. Asian Missions, accredited in Vilnius attended the event. Cultural programmes with participation of artists presented Bharatanatyam, Kathak and Indian music.

The "Sursadhana" festival of Indian classical dance and music was organized in Vilnius on 21 November 2014 and in Kaunas on 22 November 2014. The North Indian Classical music tunes were played by well-known sitar maestro Pandit Ashok Pathak, along with tabla master Shri Sandip Bhattacharya. Shri Vishwanath Mangaraj, exponent of Odishi, along with other Lithuanian artists, performed on the occasion.

The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Mantvydas Bekesius, and Vice Minister of Agriculture, Mr Saulius Cironka, visited India from 10-12 November 2014 to meet their Honorary Consuls accredited in South and South East Asian countries. The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs called on Secretary (West), Shri Navtej Sarna and Vice-Minister of Agriculture called on Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, respectively.

The Vice-Minister of Education and Science visited India from 28 November – 01 December 2014 along with an education delegation from Lithuania.

## Macedonia

Relations are warm and friendly and the ties are expanding. Macedonia has been supportive of India in bilateral and multilateral issues.

Bilateral trade between India and Macedonia remained modest due to lack of mutual awareness in each other's potentials in respect of trade and economic fronts. There are good prospects for investments in industrial zones established by the Macedonian government.

Macedonia has been availing training scholarships offered by India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC).

Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement between India and Macedonia came into force on 04 September 2014.

## Malta

India was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Malta and to establish diplomatic relations with it in 1965 and the relations between the two countries have been friendly ever since. Bilateral relations have seen positive changes and diversification in recent years especially in the area of trade and economy. During the period from 01 April – 30 November 2014 the following were most notable:

A 6 member CII CEO's delegation visited Malta from 08-10 April 2014 and signed an MoU for cooperation with Malta Enterprise. A group of students and teachers from Indian schools visited Malta from 27 April – 04 May 2014. In June 2014, an Indian film festival was launched.

On 10 August 2014, an Air India special flight made a rare visit to Malta to pick up 289 Indian nationals evacuated by special ship from the Libyan port city of Benghazi due to the deteriorating security conditions in Libya.

## Moldova

Relations are friendly and cordial. Embassy maintained a constant contact with Indian community to ensure their safety and well being.

## Montenegro

Relations with Montenegro have traditionally been close and friendly since the days of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) of which it was a constituent republic.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd.) paid an official visit to Montenegro on 02 September 2014. During his visit, he met President Mr Filip Vujanovic, PM Mr Milo Djukanovic and DPM and Foreign Minister Mr Igor Luksic. While the main focus of the Montenegrin dignitaries was on expansion of cooperation in the field of investments and economy through exchange of visits and organization of presentations, however, boosting overall cooperation, especially in the areas of education, culture and science was also discussed. Both sides agreed to seriously explore possibility of establishment of the intergovernmental Committee for Economic Cooperation.

An inauguration event of exhibition of paintings of Ms. Tatjana Burzanovic, a Montenegrin national was held in Podgorica on 15 April 2014. Ms. Tatjana Burzanovic has painted illustrations from the Bhagvad Gita. The President of Montenegro, Mr Filip Vujanovic was present for the inaugural event.

A 6-member, ICCR sponsored Kathak dance group led by Ms. Rujuta Soman visited Montenegro and performed in two coastal cities Tivat and Budva on 29-30 May 2014 respectively. Transport Minister, Mr Van Brajović, attended the event in Tivat.

Mr Vladimir Radulović has been approved to be appointed as the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of India resident in Podgorica,

Bollywood event was organised at the KIC Budo Tomovic Centre, Podgorica from 27-30 October 2014. Three Indian movies with Serbian subtitles were screened and received a tremendous response.

## Norway

During the period April 01-30 November 2014, wide-ranging interactions continued between the two countries.

At the invitation of His Majesty King Harald V, President Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid an official State visit to Norway from 12-14 October 2014. This visit was historic being the first official head of state visit from India to Norway. During his visit, President met, among others, representatives of the Royal Family, President of the Storting, Mr Olemic Thommessen and Prime Minister Mr Solberg. The abiding theme of the visit was expanding cooperation in education, research, innovation, trade and investment. President interacted via video-link with Indian scientists currently undertaking projects at India's Research Station in the Arctic, 'Himadri' as well as with Indian researchers at the Svalbard University Centre.

Six governmental agreements for cooperation in the fields of earth sciences, culture, scientific research, medicine and defence as well as consular matters and eight MoUs between educational institutions were concluded during the visit.

Secretary (A&C) Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Ashish Bahugana, led a three member delegation from 06-11 April 2014, including Dr Mandal, Director General of the Life Sciences, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Professor Bansal, Director of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources. They visited the

Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research (Bioforsk), and held discussions in Oslo with senior officials in Norway's Ministry of Agriculture and Food. They also visited Svalbard to see the Global Seed Vault.

A delegation led by Shri Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West) visited Oslo Norway from 23-25 April 2014 and held the 6th round of Foreign Office Consultations. The Norwegian side was led by Mr Christian Syse, Deputy Secretary General. Secretary (West) held meetings with Mr Olyvind Halleraker, First Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and with Mr Bard Glad Pedersen, State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Smt Sneh Lata Kumar, Secretary (Border Management), MHA and Smt Neel Kamal Darbari, Joint Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority participated in the 15th meeting of the Consultative Group of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), Oslo on 15-16 May 2014.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, met Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr Borge Brende on the margins of 69th UNGA on 25 September 2014 in New York.

Shri Kailash Satyarthi, the Indian children's right activist was the joint winner of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize by the Norwegian Nobel Committee

A delegation led by Shri Sheik Pareeth, Director, Kerala Tourism visited Oslo on 11-12 November 2014 to organise Oslo road show to promote Kerala as a tourist destination.

## Poland

The year 2014 assumes special importance being 60th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Poland, and to celebrate this milestone, a large number of outreach activities were held in this landmark year. Many cultural troupes led by eminent Indian artists participated and performed in different festivals in Poland.

Ms. Rama Vaidyanathan, Shri Rupinder Bedi, and Shri Himanshu Kanakmal Dugar and their respective troupes participated in Brave Festival organized in different cities of Poland in July 2014. On the invitation of Transtetnika, the Ganesh-Kumaresh music group performed in Poznan in June 2014. The "India, India.....Festival", organized by the Centre for Theatre Practices Gardzienice in September 2014, consisted of theatre performances, workshops, seminars and film shows including scientific conference dedicated to Wanda Dynowska – Umadevi, a friend of Mahatma Gandhi.

Renowned artist Ms. Mallika Sarabhai and her group performed in this festival.

At the invitation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies, Dr S.Y. Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner of India, delivered a lecture titled "How India manages the world's biggest elections" on 14 April 2014.

As part of its one year curriculum on 'National Security and Strategic Studies', a 17-member delegation from the National Defence College undertook a study tour from 18-24 May 2014.

More than 100 Indian engineering companies, mostly from the MSME sector, showcased India's engineering prowess in the "India Show" at Poznan, Poland from 03-06 June 2014. The event coincided with ITM Poznan, Poland's biggest technology and machine tools fair and was coordinated by EEPIC and Ministry of Commerce and Department of Heavy Industries. India was granted the "partner country" status by the Government of Poland. Polish Deputy Minister for Economy was the chief guest at the event. Representatives from Department of Commerce and Department of Heavy Industries also participated in the event.

As a prelude to the 7th Vibrant Gujarat Summit from 11-13 January 2015 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, a delegation led by Shri G.C. Murmu, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Government of Gujarat visited from 04-07 September 2014 with a view to disseminate, collaborate and intensify the investment opportunities and investment climate in the State of Gujarat. The delegation had representatives from the corporate and the public sector apart from iNDEXTb, KPMG and CII. The delegation attended programmes in Warsaw and Wroclaw organized in partnership by Polish Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Indo-Polish Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which was attended by Deputy Ministers of Economy and Foreign Affairs and senior officials of the Government of Poland. B2B meetings and interactions with the leading members of the trade and industry and with representatives from educational institutions and think tanks were the other highlights of the delegation's visit.

India Polo Cup 2014 was held in Warsaw on 20-21 September 2014. Two officers from Indian Army participated in the event.

Polish Deputy Agriculture Minister Mr Tadesz Nalewajk visited India in September 2014 in connection with exploring India's market of Polish food products, especially apples. He called on the Governor of Maharashtra.

The "Make in India" event in Warsaw was organized on 25 September 2014 in conjunction with a seminar titled "Poland-India – towards an effective model of economic diplomacy" at the prestigious premises of the Polish Parliament.

A monument commemorating Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja of Nawanagar was unveiled on 31 October 2014 at the Square of the Good Maharaja, Ochota District, Warsaw. The event was organised by the Polish Council for Protection of Memory of Combat and Martyrdom and the Mayor of Ochota District. The ceremony, was attended by Mr Andrzej Kunert, Minister for Protection of Memory of Combat and Martyrdom, and the Mayor of Ochota.

## Romania

Bilateral political relations are warm and friendly.

A 10-member delegation from All India Association of Industries (AIA), Mumbai, and representatives from the World Trade Centre (WTC) Associations of other cities of India participated in the WTC General Assembly Meeting in Bucharest which was held from 27-30 April 2014. The delegation was led by Mr Vijay Kalantri, President, AIA. Prime Minister Mr Victor Ponta inaugurated the meeting along with representatives of Romanian Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Economy and other Ministries.

A defence delegation led by Air Marshal D. S. Khajuria visited Bucharest during 06-09 September 2014 and held meetings with officials of Ministry of Defence of Romania along with representatives of local defence industry. Ambassador also participated in the discussions. Air Marshal Khajuria also visited the facility of M/s Aerostar SRL, Bacau which has an agreement with IAF for servicing of MIG aircrafts.

Mr Sorin Encutescu, Romanian State Counsellor for Defence & Security Issues in the Romanian PM's Office, accompanied by Mr Catalin Olteanu, State Secretary (Deputy Minister), Ministry of Economy, and companies related to defence production, visited India from 23-29 November 2014. The Romanian defence delegation had meeting with officials of the MoD, including Secretary (Defence Production), besides meeting with Deputy NSA and officials of DRDO.

Several cultural events were organized to mark 65 years of establishment of bilateral relations between India and Romania including exchange of messages of greetings between Foreign Ministers of both countries. A Booklet on "Cultural Values and Ethos of India" - was published by Embassy of India and is being used for distribution amongst local dignitaries during meetings, receptions and national day events.

"Namaste India' - a Cultural festival, was jointly organized by the Embassy, Tourist Office Frankfurt and local Indian cultural organizations from 23-25 May 2014 at Village Museum, Bucharest, showcasing diversity of India's culture. This has become an annual event now.

An ICCR sponsored Rajsthani Folk Dance Group visited and gave three cultural performances during 26-28 May 2014.

A Tourism Road Show was organized by the Embassy Bucharest and India Tourist Office Frankfurt on 20 June 2014, which involved presentations by Tourism Office, Air India and the Embassy.

Embassy of India organized a presentation on "Make in India" initiative by Prime Minister of India at the Ministry of Economy of Romania on 26 September 2014 highlighting incentives and further economic liberalization measures taken by Government of India. Prominent Indian businessmen and representatives from local Chambers of Commerce attended the presentation.

"Kalpana"- a painting exhibition, by 14 famous figurative artists from India, sponsored by ICCR was hosted by Art Museum, Ploiesti during 14-20 November 2014

## Serbia

The new governments of both Serbia and India rapidly established contacts after the respective national elections in March/May 2014; Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Serbian PM Mr Aleksander Vucic exchanged warm messages with the commitment to renew the historic friendship. In a gesture of goodwill, Government of India provided immediate financial relief assistance of USD 100,000 consequent to the catastrophic floods in Serbia in May 2014. Serbia expressed its condolences for the floods in J&K.

Serbia supported India's candidatures at the Human Rights Council and at the election to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural heritage. Serbia extended early gesture of support for India's bid for non-permanent membership of UNSC in 2021-22.

The second meeting of the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) was held on 09 October 2014 through video conferencing. The Serbian side urged Indian industry to take advantage of the privatization process and enter into strategic agreements in the fields of agriculture, agro-processing, energy, infrastructure and ICT. Both sides urged participation in trade fairs and to take advantage of the existing enabling agreements including BIPA, DTAC, Trade, Tourism, Air Services and ITEC etc.

Pending agreements were finalised, namely MoU on Traditional Medicines and MoU on Cultural Cooperation (including arts, sports, youth and mass media).

The Serbian subsidiaries of Indian agri-machinery companies such as Tafe, Mahindra and Sonalika participated in the (81st) Novi Sad International Agriculture Fair held from 20-26 May 2014. Mahindra donated two vehicles to the municipality of Obrenovac for post flood rehabilitation.

The Embassy of India's initiatives in public diplomacy included promotion of Incredible India through external bus branding and visits of journalists, participation in Belgrade Fashion Week (Manish Arora), Belgrade Design Week (Satya Sheel), Belgrade International Book Fair, Belgrade International Tourism Fair, International Yoga Festival, and screening of film "Barfi" by Film Street. ICCR shows were equally well received including Rujuta Soman's Kathak, Papon Mahanta's fusion music, Rita Kapur Chisti's curated sari exhibition and digital art works of Tagore. India-Serbia photography contest was launched through the social media.

Serbian film industry was well represented at the Mumbai and Goa International film festivals; Goran Paskaljevic, the renowned Serbian film director and the President of the jury of the Mumbai International Film Festival, finalised the first ever Serbia- India audio-visual co-production. "Court", the maiden venture of Indian director and screenwriter Shri Chaitanya Tamhane, was named the best film by the 20th Auteur Film Festival of Belgrade, and was awarded the grand prize "Aleksandar Sasa Petrovic".

Sporting links were strengthened with the visit of Grandmaster Shri Pentala Harikrishna for Chess Simul (Simultaneous exhibition). Serbia allowed visa-free entry for Indian (& other) passports holding Schengen/UK & USA visas.

## Slovak Republic

State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr Peter Burian, paid an official visit to India from 24-26 November 2014. The State Secretary had a bilateral meeting with Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.), and also called on the Commerce Secretary and Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxation (CBDT). An explanatory MoU with CBDT to resolve the application of Article 24 of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) of 1986 was signed by Shri Burian and Chairperson CBDT.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Finance, a delegation of officials from Slovak Ministry of Finance visited New Delhi from 27-30 October 2014 to negotiate Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Slovakia.

A Tourism Fair was organised in Bratislava by India Tourism Office, Frankfurt on 15 October 2014. A cultural performance was also given by Indian and Slovak artists.

With participation from Indian Embassy, the Bratislava Yoga Day was organised by Slovak Yoga Association on 08 November 2014.

## Slovenia

MoS (VKS) visited Slovenia (31 August – 01 September 2014) for the Bled Strategic Forum. He was one of the main speakers at the leaders' panel. During the visit, MoS (VKS) met President Mr Borut Pahor, PM-elect Mr Miro Cerar, and FM Mr Karl Erjavec. India was a focus country at this year's Business Bled Strategic Forum (01-02 September 2014). The speakers at the panel discussion on "India and South East Europe" included Shri Prakash Hinduja, Shri Deep Kapuria, and President of the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr Samo Hribar Milic. A business delegation from FICCI and CII also visited Slovenia during the Bled Strategic Forum.

On the sidelines of the ASEM meeting in Milan on 16 October 2014, MoS (VKS) met PM Mr Miro Cerar.

Other visits from India included those by Secretary (DPE) and Secretary AYUSH (24-27 September 2014). Secretary AYUSH inaugurated the AYUSH Information Centre at the Chancery of the Embassy.

State Secretary at the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science & Sport led a delegation for the CII's Knowledge Expo 2014 in New Delhi (21-23 November 2014).

The Rector of Primorska University attended the World Ayurveda Congress in New Delhi (07-09 November 2014).

The meeting of the third Joint Committee on Science & Technology was held in New Delhi on 19 November 2014. Issues of mutual interest were discussed and the joint projects under POC 2014-17 were identified.

India participated in a number of trade fairs in Slovenia: 18 Indian companies participated at the Celje International Trade Fair during 10-15 September 2014.

A selection of wines from India was presented for the first time in Slovenia at the Ljubljana Wine competition and VINO Ljubljana International wine fair.

India participated at the 45th Nature Health Fair at Ljubljana (13-16 November 2014). Ayurveda and Homeopathy consultants from the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy and the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences attended the fair.

India participated for the first time at the 30th Slovenian Book Fair held on 25-30 November 2014.

A delegation from NIMS University, Jaipur visited Slovenia on 21 October 2014 and held meetings at the Universities of Ljubljana, Maribor and Primorska to explore the possibilities of collaboration as well as investment in biotech, renewable energy, financial services and other activities of the NIMS Group.

A number of cultural events were organized during the year. These included the Gurudev Tagore Week which was organised by the Embassy, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; ICPE; Municipality of Maribor; and University of Maribor in May 2014. Gandhi Jayanti was observed at the Slovenian town of Slovenj Gradec, recognized by the UN as a Peace Messenger City. The book - Letters from a Father to His Daughter - was translated into Slovene. This was released on 19 November 2014. India and Slovenia released a joint stamp to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru on 28 November 2014. INDIA WEEK has been organised across 29 municipality libraries in Ljubljana (01-05 December 2014). A number of events were held including display of books on India in the libraries, screening of Indian films, symposiums and roundtables.

Two Indian films and a commercial were shot in Slovenia during the year. Indian films were screened at film festivals in Slovenia during the year. Four Indian films were screened at the Open Isola Film Festival during 04-08 June 2014. Indian films were also screened at the First Bled Film Festival from 17-21 June 2014. The opening film of the Bled Film Festival was Indian director Rajat Kapoor's "Ankhon Dekhi," which was well received and appreciated. An Indian film - Asha Jaoar Majhe - was also screened at the Ljubljana International Film Festival during 12-23 November 2014.

Media exchanges included the visit of four Slovenian journalists to India to cover the event of Air India joining the Star Alliance ceremony on 11 July 2014. Three Indian journalists were hosted by the Slovenian side during the Bled Strategic Forum in September 2014.

There are ongoing exchange programmes between Schools in India and Slovenia. Under an exchange programme between

Idrija High School and Amity International, Noida, three students from Idrija spent 7 months in India (July 2013-February 2014). A student from Amity International was hosted by the Idrija High School in July 2014. Six students from Adani Vidya Mandir, Ahmedabad were hosted by Gimnazia Maribor Secondary School (April 2014). In return, 6 students from Maribor visited Ahmedabad (October 2014).

7 Indian senior executives successfully completed the one year MBA course by International Centre for Promotion of Enterprises, Ljubljana (ICPE) and the Faculty of Economics. International Centre for Promotion of Enterprises, Ljubljana (ICPE), also conducted short term training programme for 47 officers from the National Institute for Smart Government, Hyderabad (02-06 June 2014), 25 women executives of central PSUs from ASCI from 16 November - 12 December 2014 and advanced leadership programme for 8 senior public sector executives from the Institute of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad (01-14 December 2014).

## Sweden

Bilateral relations continued to expand during 2014-2015 with important visits at Ministerial and official levels.

Significant visits from Sweden included that of Rear Admiral Jan Thörnqvist, Chief of Staff of the Royal Swedish Navy from 10-13 November 2014 and the visit of a high level delegation led by Mr Gabriel Wikström, Minister for Healthcare, Public Health and Sport from 23-25 November 2014. He met Union Minister for Health, Shri J.P. Nadda on 24 November 2014. Both the Ministers inaugurated the opening session of the five-year MoU celebration between India and Sweden in Health Sector. This was the first meeting of the Ministers of the new governments of both India and Sweden.

Visits from India included the visit of Dr Arun Maira, Member of Planning Commission. A number of high-level official visits took place including a 3 member delegation headed by Dr Arabindo Mitra, Department of Science & Technology which visited from 22-25 April 2014 to attend the India-Sweden Joint Committee meeting on Science & Technology, a 2-member delegation headed by Dr K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology visited from 22-25 April 2014 and the visit of Dr Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences from 05-07 May 2014.

A 4-member defence delegation visited Stockholm from 26-27 May 2014 to participate in the 4th meeting of the India-Sweden Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation.

There were also two important visits from the States of West Bengal and Karnataka. A delegation from the Government of West Bengal led by Shri Subrata Mukherjee, Minister for Panchayat & Rural Development and Public Health Engineering visited Stockholm from 21-24 August 2014 to pave the way for collaborative research and implementation of the methods of sustainable Arsenic Mitigation for up-scaling safe water access among the affected rural population in West Bengal. A 7-member delegation from the Government of Karnataka led by Smt K. Ratna Prabha, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Commerce & Industries visited from 17-22 August 2014 and explored the areas such as public transport, waste management and retail and presented the investment opportunities that it could offer to Swedish companies.

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore winning the Nobel Prize, a bronze bust of Nobel Laureate was unveiled at Uppsala University on 07 May 2014. In collaboration with Stockholm International School, the Embassy instituted the Tagore Award for the best project in Grade-X.

Cultural exchange was maintained with the help of ICCR. ICCR sponsored "Saptak" a 10-member Gujarati dance troupe gave performances in Umeå and Örnsköldsvik in June 2014, the first time that Indian cultural performances were organized in these cities. ICCR sponsored "Ghatam troupe" led by Shri Somnath Roy participated in the Stockholm Sangeet Conference on 28 September 2014. The troupe also performed in Uppsala.

The Embassy organized a week-long event from 22-28 April 2014 under the platform of India Unlimited which has been created to strengthen bilateral connections. Through the week, different and new aspects of Indian culture were showcased through a film festival and cultural performance while a series of business conferences presented the emerging opportunities in different sectors in India.

## Switzerland

Mr Mario Michel Affentranger, Chief of Department of International Treaties, Bern, visited India at the invitation of Directorate of Enforcement for presentation on Indo-Swiss cooperation on enforcement matters on Enforcement Day on 01 May 2014.

Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt Sumitra Mahajan, led a high-level Parliamentary delegation to the 131st session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly, held in Geneva from

12-16 October 2014. The delegation included Prof. P.J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and five MPs. Speaker also visited Zurich to meet the Indian community. Earlier, Speaker had visited Geneva for attending the 9th Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament on 04-05 September 2014.

Shri Shaktikanta Das, Revenue Secretary, led an Indian delegation to Switzerland on 15 October 2014 for talks on information sharing on tax issues with the Swiss State Secretary for Finance, Mr Jacques de Watteville. Swiss side agreed to expedite the Indian requests for information. The two sides also discussed measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement to fight against tax-evasion and money laundering and a joint statement was issued on the occasion.

The Interim JS/DG level round of Indo-Swiss Foreign Office Consultations was held in New Delhi on 18 November 2014. Both sides discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and international and regional issues of mutual concern. A consular dialogue was also held on the sidelines of the FOCs on 17 November 2014 for taking stock of ongoing discussions for cooperation in legal, judicial and consular fields and concerned agreements.

India's participation at the 'Basel World' was organised by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai. Over 50 Indian manufacturers and exporters of high end jewellery participated in the event, held from 27 March – 03 April 2014.

Swiss-India Chamber of Commerce (SICC) organised a seminar on "Outcome and Prospects of the Indian Elections for Foreign (Swiss) Investors" in Zurich on 21 May 2014. Earlier, SICC organised a number of meetings in different cities – 10 April 2014 (Mumbai), 11 April 2014 (Pune), 14 April 2014 (New Delhi), 23 April 2014 (Bangalore) and 24 April 2014 (Mangalore) on "Switzerland-the business gateway to Europe". Switzerland Global Enterprises, the Swiss Govt. agency that facilitates Swiss firms abroad, organised a workshop on doing business with India in Zurich on 24 June 2014.

A performance and lecture-demonstration on Kathak was organised in Zurich on 16 May 2014 by an ICCR sponsored 6-member Kathak troupe led by Smt Rujuta Soman.

At the Luzern Travel Expo 2014, held from 31 October – 02 November 2014, "India-India" was the Guest theme with participation of India Tourism, Paris. Workshops and performances of Indian dance, yoga, and stalls of Indian

Ayurvedic and herbal products, spices, textiles, and Indian food were arranged at the Expo. About 23000 visitors visited the Indian stalls.

## Turkey

Relations which have been warm and cordial, were further strengthened during the year through the exchange of official visits, business delegations, and cultural troupes.

High-level business delegations from Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Bombay Industries Association and India Tourism visited Istanbul. Leading Istanbul Chambers of Business and Industry, Turkish Confederation of Businessman and Industrialists (TUSKON) and MÜSİAD visited India during the year.

An Indian military delegation led by ADG (C&W), Maj Gen Shokin Chauhan, YSM, SM, VSM and two band pipers from Sikh Regiment participated in the Gallipoli Commemoration ceremonies on 24-25 April 2014.

Shri Dilip Parulekar, Minister of Tourism, Goa led the delegation of Goa Tourism for its road show on 12 May 2014.

Economic and commercial relations between the two countries received further impetus with the participation of commercial delegations in events in both the countries. India participated in the 83rd International Fair in Izmir during 28 August - 02 September 2014 as "Focus Country". More than 50 Indian companies participated in the fair showcasing wide range of Indian products.

The "Make in India" campaign was widely publicized through interactions with the local Chambers of Commerce, commercial institutions and business community.

The "Swachh Bharat" campaign was undertaken by the Mission, beginning with the pledge on 02 October 2014 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

ITEC Day was celebrated on 05 November 2014. The participants included officials from the Prime Minister's office, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Development, and Ministry of Mineral Research.

The mid-sessional Director General level Foreign Office Consultations between India and Turkey were held in Ankara on 28 November 2014.

With a view to deepen cultural bonds and strengthen people-to-people contacts, a diverse array of events were held during the year. Banyan Tree's flagship Sufi and Mystic Music festival – 'Ruhaniyat' was organized for the first time abroad in Istanbul on 17 May 2014.

The Turkish edition of Ambassador Mr Pascal Alan Nazareth's book on Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership was released at the prestigious Koç University. Four Professors from the Yunus Emre Foundation went to India on 3 September 2014 for teaching Turkish Language in Jamia Millia Islamia.

## European Union

India and the European Union celebrated the 10th Anniversary of their Strategic Partnership in 2014. The European Union is a valued strategic partner for India and India's relations with the EU and its precursors go back over half a century. As the grouping of European countries has grown from a common market to a common currency and from a Community to a Union, India's engagement with the EU has grown commensurately, complementing and supplementing India's relations with individual EU member-states.

Enhancing educational, cultural and people-to-people contacts has been an important ongoing priority. The relationship, which is intrinsically dynamic, has reached a significant level of maturity. We marked the Golden Jubilee of our bilateral relations in 2013.

The elections to the European Parliament were held from 22-25 May 2014. The European People's Party (EPP) emerged as the largest party in the elections. The new European Parliament elected Mr Jean Claude Juncker, former Prime Minister of Luxembourg, as the President of the European Commission. Ms. Federica Mogherini, former Foreign Minister of Italy was elected as the new EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The new Commission assumed charge on 01 November 2014 for a period of five years.

The European Council elected Mr Donald Tusk, former Prime Minister of Poland, as the new President of the European Council. Following elections to the European Parliament, a new Delegation for Relations with India has been constituted consisting of 43 members drawn from various political groups in accordance with their numerical strength in the Parliament. The chairperson of the new delegation is Mr Geoffrey Van Orden.

The meeting of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the President of the European Council Mr Herman Van Rompuy on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Brisbane on 14 November 2014 was an important step towards rejuvenating bilateral ties.

The EU as a bloc of 28 countries is India's largest regional trading partner while India was EU's 10th largest trading partner in 2013. India's overall bilateral trade (in both goods and services) with the EU28 during 2013 (Jan-Dec) was €96.6 billion (bilateral trade in goods €72.7 billion and bilateral trade in services €23.9 billion). Trade in Services valued at €23.9 billion grew by 6.22 % in 2013 as compared to 2012 when it was €22.5 billion. India's export of goods to the EU in 2013 stood at €36.8 billion while India's imports from the EU were valued at €35.9bn.

The EU continued to be one of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for India with FDI inflows from the EU to India valued at €3.2 billion in 2013. Indian investments in the EU28 were €0.4 billion in 2013.

The last meeting of the India-EU Sub Commission on Development Cooperation was held in Delhi on 03 June 2014. The EU Chief Negotiator met his Indian counterparts on 30 October 2014 at Delhi to take stock of the negotiations that have been ongoing since 2007. The 7th meeting of India-EU Macro Economic Dialogue (MED) and India-EU Financial Services Dialogue (FSD) took place in Delhi on 04 June 2014. The last meeting of the India-EU Energy panel was held in Brussels on 27 March 2014. The last India-EU JWG on Coal was held at Potsdam in Germany on 10-11 September 2014.

The 8th meeting of the JWG on Environment was held in Brussels on 10-11 April 2014 led by the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, from the Indian side. The 7th India-EU Joint Seminar on Employment & Social Policy was held in September 2014 at Delhi on 'Skill Development'. The next seminar will be held at Brussels in 2015. India-EU seminar on Quality Matters in National accounts was held on 25-26 November 2014 in India which saw participation from India and other Southeast Asian countries.

The first round of the Non-proliferation and Disarmament dialogue was held in New Delhi on 16 May 2014. The next round of the Dialogue will be held in Brussels in 2015.

## West Europe

### Andorra

The two sides conducted first Foreign Office consultations between the two countries. The discussions were held in Andorra on 31 March 2014 and both sides reviewed all bilateral and multilateral issues. They also affirmed to continue holding regular consultations on political matters and explore means to enhance cooperation in cultural fields as well.

### Belgium

Relations between India and Belgium continued to register significant progress in political, economical, technological and cultural spheres during the year.

During January-September 2014, India's import from Belgium stood at € 6.52 billion as compared to € 6.01 billion during same period in 2013(8.5% increase). Main item of India's imports from Belgium is unworked diamonds, constituting 83.2 % of total imports from Belgium.

India's sacrifices during the commemoration of World War I events in 2014 were appropriately sensitized by the Embassy through specific cultural events in Belgium, which were appreciated by the Belgian local authorities and the public.

MoS (VKS) represented India at WW-I Centenary Commemoration events organized by Belgian Government in Nieuwpoort and Ypres on 28 October 2014. During the visit, MoS (VKS) had bilateral meeting with Belgian Foreign Minister Mr Didier Reynders on 27 October 2014. He also had brief interaction with the King of Belgians.

Minister for Road Transport & Highways & Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari visited Antwerp Port on 19 November 2014 and held meeting with the Port authorities.

United Services Institute, New Delhi and In Flanders Fields Museum organized international seminar on "Indians and Western Front" during 24-25 October 2014 at Ypres. Embassy organized a seminar on Indian war contribution to WW I at Royal Museum of Armed Forces and Military History in Brussels on 22 October 2014.

A 15-member Group of Nagaland Singing Ambassadors performed in "1000 Voice for Peace Concert" in Brussels on 09 November 2014 inaugurated by the King of Belgians and witnessed by President of European Council Mr Herman Van Rompuy. They also performed at the historic Notre Dame Church at Sablon(Brussels) on 07 November 2014.

Mr Pieter de Crem (Secretary of State for Foreign Trade) visited India on 13-18 January 2015 and met with Minister of Shipping, Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari on 15 January 2015.

Visit of Defence Minister to India to attend the Aero India Bengaluru is scheduled on 15-17 February 2015.

### France

Bilateral relations between India and France have traditionally been close and friendly and both countries have excellent political understanding. The momentum gained after the visit of President Mr François Hollande to India in February 2013, has been maintained in 2014 through Ministerial visits and institutional dialogues. In addition to the Ministerial visits, there were regular exchanges of official visits between the two countries.

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of State for Environment and Forest, attended the 16th Major Economic Forum held in Paris on 11-12 July 2014. He again visited Paris on 21- 22 November 2014 to participate at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and 26th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister for Food Processing Industries visited Paris from 18-21 October 2014 to participate in Salon International de l'Agroalimentaire (SIAL) 2014.

Mr Laurent Fabius, French Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development visited India from 30 June to 01 July 2014. During the visit, he met External Affairs Minister and called on Prime Minister and also held meeting with Finance and Defence Minister. The French Defence Minister, Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian visited India on 01 December 2014 and discussed bilateral relations with Shri Manohar Parikar, Defence Minister.

The 25th round of Strategic Dialogue between NSA and French Diplomatic Advisor took place in Paris on 30 January, 2014. The 26th round of Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 09 October 2014. The 9th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in Paris on 20 June 2014.

There has been an increase in India's trade with France by 7.68 % during January-October 2014, which amounted to Euros 6.501 billion. India's export increased by 14.73% during this period to reach Euros 4.285 billion. Imports from France declined marginally by 3.76% to reach Euros 2.215 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of Euros 2.065 billion.

France has emerged as a major source of FDI for India with about 750 big French companies already present in India.

France is the 9th largest foreign investor in India with a cumulative investment of € 2.31 billion up to 2012. French companies continue to look at India as an attractive investment destination in order to expand their profits and diversify risks. There are around 100 Indian companies present in France, with a cumulative stock of approximately Euro one billion.

Following the General Framework Agreement and the Early Works Agreement between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and Areva for implementation of EPR Nuclear Power Plant Units at Jaitapur signed in 2010, discussions between two sides continued in 2014 regarding implementation of the above agreements.

France and India view each other as important partners in space technology and applications. The two countries have agreed to bring out joint commemorative stamps in 2015 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their excellent cooperation in Space. Under a commercial Launch Service Agreement, an advanced French Remote Sensing satellite - SPOT-7 was successfully launched on-board ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle from India on 30 June 2014. On 07 December 2014, India's satellite GSAT-16 was launched by the Ariane-5 launch vehicle.

The defence relations between the two countries are strong and have been growing. The fifth edition of the India-French Air Exercise, Garuda was held in Jodhpur from 02-13 June 2014. The Annual Air Force Staff Talks was held in New Delhi on 24-25 November 2014 and the annual Meeting of the Military Sub Committees on Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 26 November 2014.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) sponsored in 2014, visits of Indian artists to France as also exchange of students in the field of culture and art.

The Embassy organized 22 book readings, launches and discussions under its programme 'Literary Café' in 2014, with eminent Indian and French authors like Javed Akhtar, Pavan Varma, Vikas Swarup, Christophe Jaffrelot, Laurent Adiceam-Dixit, Alka Pande, Francis Monnoyeur, Henri Prevost-Allard, Swami Veetamohananda, Siddhart Dhanvant Shanghvi, Katia Légeret Manochhaya, Poonam Chawla, Jean-Joseph Boillot, Monish Gujral, Jean Claude Perriere, and Shashi Deshpande. Further, the Embassy also organized a 5 Day Festival on Indian Writers in association with Columbia University and French National Library, where 14 eminent Indian authors were invited. Separately, the Embassy along with an Indo-French association 'Les Comptoirs de l'Inde' organized the 4th India Book Fair in Paris.

In the field of performing arts, the Embassy organized 10 events around various forms of Indian dance like Manipuri, Bharatanatyam, Kathak and music with singers/musicians like Ms. Asha Bhosle, Pandit Goswami, Ms. Smita Nagdev, Ms. Sucheta Ganguly, Shri Vinayak Torvi etc were organized in 2014. The Embassy, in association with various film festivals and associations, arranged screening of Indian films in various film festivals including the Cannes International Film Festival. India was the 'Country of Honour' at the Vittel Film Festival, and it was decided to twin the festival with the Nasik Film Festival in India. Embassy, along with local Indo-French cultural associations has been promoting Yoga and Ayurveda. For reaching a wide public in France, Mission has been regularly publishing articles on Ayurveda and Yoga in its publication "Nouvelles de l'Inde". On the eve of the anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's speech at World Parliament of Religion in Chicago (11 September 1893), a bust of Swami Vivekananda was unveiled on 10 September 2014 in the compound of Cite Internationale Universite de Paris.

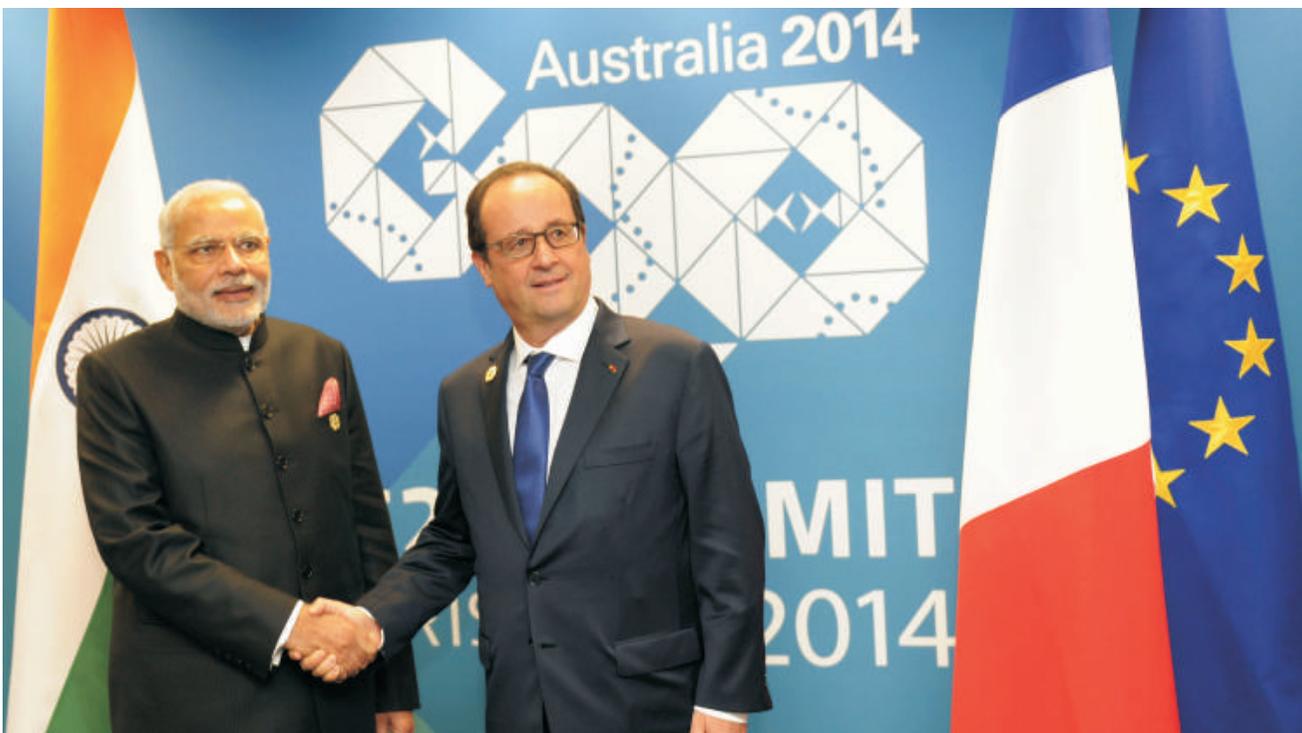
In order to promote educational exchanges, the Embassy has facilitated reciprocal visits of students from more than a dozen French schools to India and 16 Indian schools to France during 2014. ICCR Chair Prof. Rajini Palriwala taught at the prestigious Science Po in Paris and Le Havre during September to December 2014 on gender related issues.

The bilateral educational and scientific cooperation between India and France was further strengthened during 2014. Third and fourth meetings of the Scientific Council and Industrial Research Committee of CEFIPRA were held in Brittany in April 2014 and in Kolkata in November 2014. To promote exchange of PhD and Post Doc students Raman Charpak fellowship, jointly funded by DST and French Embassy, was launched in April 2013 by CEFIPRA. The fellowship is given to enable 15 Indian PhD students to come to France and 15 French PhD students to go to India for a period of six months. Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, met with Mme Anne Marie Descotes, Director General of Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Paris on 20 January 2014 to discuss bilateral cooperation in S & T matters.

On 24-25 November 2014 Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inaugurated the India-French Rail seminar on 'High & Semi Higher Speed, Multimodal stations, Infrastructure & Financing' in New Delhi.



*Prime Minister meeting the President of the European Council, Mr Herman Van Rompuy, in Brisbane, Australia on 14 November 2014.*



*Prime Minister meets President Mr Francois Hollande of France on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia on 15 November 2014.*

The Mission, in coordination with India Tourism Office, Paris, continued its task of promoting India as a tourist destination in 2014. India Tourism Office, Paris participated at International French Travel Market (IFTM) Fair from 23-26 September 2014 in Paris and showcased India Tourism products. 22 travel and tour operators from India participated. India Tourism Office, along with Indian Association of Tour Operators, organized Road Shows at Marseille, Toulouse and Lyon from 16-18 September 2014.

The Mission made persistent efforts to reach out to Indian community in France by participating in various events organized by the community organizations and by inviting the community to participate in the events organized by the Embassy. The Mission has also been interacting with the community on a regular basis.

The 15th meeting of the India- France High Committee for Defence Cooperation was held in Paris on 12-13 January 2015. The 16th meeting of the Sub Committee on Defence Industry, Procurement, Research and Technology was held in Paris from 09-11 January 2015.

Foreign Minister of France, Mr Laurent Fabius is scheduled to visit India to attend Delhi Sustainable Development Summit on 05-06 February 2015. He is likely to meet with External Affairs Minister and call on the Prime Minister.

**Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism:** The 10th Meeting of Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism for expanding cooperation in the fight against terrorism is proposed to be held in New Delhi towards the end of February 2015.

The second round of India France Cyber-dialogue is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 16-17 February 2015.

## Germany

The momentum of growing relationship between India and Germany continued and further intensified during the year. With new Governments assuming charge on both sides, the new leadership of the two countries established immediate contacts.

German Foreign Minister Mr Frank-Walter Steinmeier, accompanied by a business delegation, visited New Delhi on 07-08 September 2014. He called on Prime Minister and discussed potential areas of bilateral cooperation, including skills development, clean energy, waste management, cleaning of rivers, etc. His meeting with EAM focused on international issues including Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Ukraine. The

German FM also met Minister of Urban Affairs Shri Venkaiah Naidu.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a bilateral meeting with Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel on the margins of G-20 Summit in Brisbane on 16 November 2014.

Prime Minister, accompanied by an official delegation, including Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce, had an overnight stopover in Berlin on 13 July 2014 on their way to attend 6th BRICS Summit in Brazil. Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel made a telephone call to Prime Minister during his transit halt in Frankfurt during the return journey on 17 July 2014. Both leaders agreed to work closely in key areas to further strengthen the bilateral strategic partnership.

Prime Minister again transited through Frankfurt on 25-26 September 2014 and on 30 September-01 October 2014, on his way, for a bilateral visit to the US and to attend the UNGA session in New York.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications & IT accompanied by a business delegation, visited Germany on 15-19 September 2014. He met German Vice Chancellor and Minister of Economic Affairs & Energy Mr Sigmar Gabriel. A Roadshow on "Opportunities and Innovation in Electronics and IT" at Dresden, as well as Round Table Meetings at Munich, Berlin and Frankfurt were organized during the visit.

Dr Markus Ederer, State Secretary in the German Foreign Office visited India to attend Bilateral Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on 20 October 2014.

A new India-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group has been constituted in the 18th Bundestag under the Chairmanship of Mr Ralph Brinkhaus, an MP from the CDU. Exchange of visits by MPs has already gained momentum during the year.

The 2nd Round of Dialogue on East Asia was held on 07-08 April 2014 in New Delhi between Regional Director for Asia Pacific in the German Foreign Office and JS (EA), MEA. Bilateral Consultations on UN Issues was held in New Delhi on 18 July 2014 between Special Secretary (IO & Pol) and Director General for UN and Global Issues in German Foreign Office. Meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 15-16 May 2014.

In the defence sector, 7th Indo-German High Defence Committee Meeting was held in New Delhi on 08-10 July 2014. The German side was led by State Secretary in the

German Ministry of Defence Mr Wolfgang Brauksiepe. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R. K. Dhowan paid an official visit to Germany on 07-10 July 2014. Bilateral Military Sub Group Committee (MCG) meeting was held in Germany on 10-13 November 2014.

India is going to participate as Partner Country in the Hannover Messe-2015 being held in April 2015. The Hannover Messe is considered to be the world's biggest industrial fair. India was the Partner Country of the event in 2006. Germany would take part as Partner at RE-INVEST 2015, a renewable energy global investment promotion meet and expo to be held in New Delhi from 15-17 February 2015.

Germany is the largest trading partner of India in the EU. Bilateral trade has been on downslide in last couple of years due to global economic slowdown. It was valued at Euro 16.08 billion in 2013. During January-October 2014, it was valued at Euro 13.44 billion (India's exports worth Euro 6.00 billion and imports worth Euro 7.44 billion).

Germany is the 8th largest foreign direct investor in India since 1991. German FDI in India, in 2013, was to the tune of US\$ 1.014 billion; and during the period 1991-September 2014, its cumulative FDI has been to the tune of US\$ 7.57 billion. Germany is also a crucial source of technological know-how in several sectors. The Government of India is keen to enhance the current level of economic engagement with Germany, particularly in the areas of renewable, post-harvest infrastructure, high technology, transport infrastructure (including railways & ports), vocational education & training, water & waste management and urban infrastructure.

Bilateral Consultations on Development Cooperation were held twice in the year: first in New Delhi in May 2014 followed by in Bonn on 13-14 October 2014. Germany has agreed on allocation of a total fund of €1.2 billion for various development cooperation projects in India. Some of the major areas of these projects include Green Energy Corridor, Solar Promotion Projects, Urban Infrastructure Development, Skill Development, Ganga Cleaning and Innovation in Agriculture / Food Sector.

A number of bilateral meetings in core areas of bilateral economic cooperation were held during the year. Joint Working Group (JWG) on Automotive Sector was held in Hannover on 30 September 2014. The 7th meeting of the JWG on Vocational Education was held on 09-10 October 2014 in India.

The MoU on Bilateral Air Services Framework of 2008 has been amended to implement the use of A-380 aircraft by German carrier Lufthansa in November 2014.

A high-level FICCI delegation led by Shri Siddharth Birla visited Berlin on 11-13 November 2014. They met German Finance Minister Dr Wolfgang Schäuble, senior officers from the Ministry of Economics & Energy, Federal Chancellery and Foreign Office, and representatives of German Industry. The delegation participated in the 3rd Indo-German Business Summit on 12 November 2014.

The 23rd meeting of the Indo-German Consultative Group (IGCG) was held in Essen, Germany on 18-20 September 2014. 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 and Technology cooperation has been an important pillar of the bilateral relationship. Joint Advisory Committee of Department of Science and Technology (DST) and German Research Foundation (DFG) met in New Delhi on 04 April 2014. Meeting of the Indo-German Joint Committee on Science & Technology was held in New Delhi on 20-21 November 2014. A number of symposia and interactions took place at institutional level during the period.

The first meeting of Joint Working Group on Higher Education took place in New Delhi on 18-19 November 2014.

ICCR operationalized two short-term Chairs at Free University, Berlin and Phillips University of Marburg during the year. Prof. Dr Amiya P. Sen was appointed as the next incumbent of ICCR-sponsored Heinrich Zimmer Chair at South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University from October 2014. The Gisela Bonn Award for 2014 was conferred on Mr Rainer Hoerig for his significant contribution towards the deepening of Indo-German relations.

The 6th Core Group meeting of the Munich Security Conference took place in New Delhi on 21-22 October 2014 in collaboration with Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. More than 70 policy-makers, security experts, and business leaders participated in it. NSA Shri Ajit Doval addressed the meeting. The Discussions focused on security architectures in Europe and Asia.

German Finance Minister Dr Wolfgang Schäuble led a business delegation to New Delhi and Mumbai on 19-20 January 2015. During the visit, Dr Wolfgang Schäuble met Prime Minister, Finance Minister and RBI Governor.

National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval is scheduled to visit Germany to attend the 51st Munich Security Conference to be held in Munich on 06-08 February 2015.

A delegation of German MPs, led by Mr Ralph Brinkhaus, Chairman of India-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group in the German Parliament, will be visiting India on 10-19 February 2015.

German Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety Dr Barbara Heindricks will lead a business delegation to India on 27-29 January 2015 to participate in 2nd Indo-German Environment Forum (IGEnvF), meeting to be held in New Delhi. During the IGENvF, two Working Groups on Waste Management and Water Management are scheduled to be set up for concretising cooperation.

The 7th Meeting of the Indo-German Joint Working Group on Tourism took place in New Delhi on 09 January 2015. The German side was led by Dr Marion Weber, Head of Tourism Policy Division in the Ministry of Economic Affairs & Energy.

A delegation from the Department of Consumer Affairs, GOI visited Berlin on 14-16 January 2015 to participate in the 2nd Meeting of Indo-German Joint Working Group on Quality Infrastructure for Cooperation in Standardisation, Conformity Assessment and Product Safety.

A German delegation from the Federal Ministry of Interior (BMI) led by Mr Franz-Josef Molitor, Head of Unit for Civil Protection would visit India from 21-23 January 2015 for discussions with MHA on the proposed MoU for cooperation in Disaster Management.

A delegation led by Mr Uwe Beckemeyer, Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy is scheduled to visit India in February 2015. They will participate in the 6th Meeting of Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) to be held in New Delhi on 13 February 2015. The German delegation would also take part in the first Renewable Energy Global Investment Promotion Meet & Expo (RE-INVEST) on 15-17 February 2015 in New Delhi, in which Germany is participating as a Partner Country.

Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture Mr Peter Bleser would lead a delegation of German agriculture companies to India to participate in the 5th Indo-German Joint Working Group on Agriculture to be held in New Delhi on 12 February 2015.

## Ireland

Bilateral relations between India and Ireland remained cordial and friendly during the period.

After a cabinet reshuffle in July 2014, the newly appointed Irish Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills and Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with special responsibility for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English led an Enterprise Ireland education trade mission to India. The mission consisted of representatives from fifteen institutions of higher education of Ireland including all the seven major universities. During the visit the Minister launched the Science Gallery, Bengaluru, a Trinity College Dublin initiative. The launch was preceded by signing of Memorandum of Agreement between SGI and the Karnataka government. In New Delhi the Minister also officially launched 40 scholarships offered by National College of Ireland for Masters Programmes in Cloud Computing and also inaugurated the University College Dublin and University College Cork offices in India.

The Irish Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach (PM) and Foreign Affairs with Special Responsibility for European Affairs and Data Protection Mr Dara Murphy met with MoS (VKS) on the sidelines of the ASEM 10 at Milan, Italy, 16-17 October 2014 and had discussions on issues of mutual interest.

Bilateral trade continued to grow and reached €667 million. In a move to boost trade and tourism further between the two countries, Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr Frances Fitzgerald, announced on 17 June 2014 a new 'British Irish Visa Scheme', which would allow Indian tourists and business visitors to travel between Ireland and the UK on a single visa. The growing number of Indian professionals in Ireland in IT, engineering and healthcare sectors contributed to enhanced interaction between the two countries.

On the 150th anniversary of Irish poet W.B. Yeats, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Charlie Flanagan gifted a bust of the late poet to the Government of India. The bust will be installed in India during the year long celebrations worldwide.

A two-member team from Planning Commission led by Shri B.N. Satpathy, Senior Adviser, visited Ireland (14-16 April 2014) to attend the second meeting on 'Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2014),' a joint endeavour of UNECE, Eurostat, OECD and the ESCAP. During the visit, Shri B.N. Satpathy also addressed the seminar, 'Business Opportunities in India,' organised by Ireland India Business Association and the Embassy. Another two-member team from the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, led by Dr Mohan Chutani, Economic Adviser visited Dublin (22-26 April 2014) to attend the '29th Meeting of the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics.'

An ICCR sponsored choir group 'Nagaland Singing Ambassadors' visited Dublin in November 2014 and performed at the prestigious St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral in central Dublin. The Irish Minister of Education, Ms. Jan O' Sullivan was the chief guest.

The India Tourism Office, London participated in the Annual Tourism Exhibition 'Holiday World' in Dublin, 24-26 January 2014.

The India Tourism Office, Government of India and the Embassy of India in Dublin are jointly organising a Tourism Show under the banner "Incredible India" in Dublin on 21 January 2015.

Representatives from the travel and tourism industry including travel writers of prominent newspapers and magazines and government officials are expected to attend.

A ten-member delegation from the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland is visiting India on 21-27 January 2015 for discussing collaborative arrangement with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The 6th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) is being scheduled to be held in Dublin on 13 February 2015. The last FOC was held in 2009 in New Delhi.

A five-member delegation from the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade (JCFAT) of the Irish Parliament will be visiting India in February-March 2015. The delegation will be led by Mr Pat Breen, a Fine Gael MP and Chairman of JCFAT.

## Italy

A positive development took place on 06 June 2014 with the commencement of direct flights between India (New Delhi) and Italy (Rome & Milan) by Air India. Direct flights between both the countries will lead to an increase in flow of tourists and businessmen between two countries.

Bilateral trade for the period 2013-14 stood at US\$ 9.4 billion, of which exports to Italy were US\$ 5.2 billion and imports were US\$ 4.2 billion. The Commercial wing is actively scouting for Italian chambers and business people to plan business visits to India. In September of this year, a six member delegation from a prominent Italian Company Di Mar visited Delhi and Mumbai for an exploratory visit. The general effort remains to provide more information on business opportunities in India, encouraging Italian businesses to invest and manufacture in India while also attending to routine trade and commercial enquiries and complaints and disputes.

Defence delegations including DRDO representatives visited Italy this year for regular interaction, acceptance trials and training on defence equipment and projects. Italy has been seeking to engage the private and public sector defence industries of India through Joint Ventures and is keen to export niche technology realizing India as not only a big market for defence equipment and technology but also its emergence as a geo political power. Defence relations remain cordial.

The Information & Culture Wing of the Embassy made lots of efforts to reach out to many local cultural and yoga associations, organizers of film festivals and universities with the aim to strengthen and deepen bilateral relations in the field of culture, arts and academics. It succeeded in organizing a number of cultural events not only in Rome but other cities of Italy. The wing actively collaborated with the large Indian diaspora and has organized socio-cultural programmes with their support. The events held in Italian cities Paestum, Bucine and Siena were fructified because of the growing cooperation between Indian community in Italy and the Embassy. On 05 October 2014, Consulate General of India, Milan organized a classical Indian cultural programme "Noor" at the Chancery premises, marking the festive season of Dusshera and Id-ul-Azha featuring Indian classical dances and music and Sufi devotional dances.

Screening of the film 'Haider' was organized at Rome International Film Festival on 24 October 2014. The film won the 'People's Choice Award' in the Mondo Genere (World genre) category. A Conference on Gandhi was organized at Federico II Napoli on 05 November 2014. The conference, titled "Rights, development of the person and religion in the institutional thought of Gandhi", was opened by a lecture by the Ambassador.

Embassy of India in Rome plays an active role in the three Rome-based UN Organisations – Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In FAO, India is a member of the FAO Council and the Programme Committee. Through the membership of these Committees, India contributed significantly to the shaping of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget. In July 2014, India was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Asia Group within FAO. In WFP, India is a member of the Executive Board and in February 2014, was elected to represent List 'B' countries on the WFP Executive Board Bureau. In IFAD, India continued to be a member of the IFAD Executive Board and its Evaluation Committee. The Director General, FAO

visited India in August this year and called on the Prime Minister besides other Ministers. President IFAD also visited India in July 2014 and called on Finance Minister and officials from Department of Economic Affairs and Department of Agriculture.

## Liechtenstein

Ambassador presented his credentials to HSH Prince Alois, the Hereditary Prince of Liechtenstein, at his Castle in Vaduz on 26 June 2014. During the visit and after the credential ceremony, Ambassador called on the Hereditary Prince and met the Foreign Minister Dr (Ms) Aurelia Frick.

## Luxembourg

India has enabled Luxembourg on 27 November 2014 (along with 42 other countries) for electronic travel authorization scheme (TVoA enabled with ETA). This enables Luxembourg citizen to apply for Indian Visa online without visiting Indian Mission and also pay the visa fee online. The visa validity is for 30 days.

## The Netherlands

India and the Netherlands continued to actively explore possibilities of cooperation in various fields, including ports, infrastructure, inland waterway, agriculture, dairy, etc. Trade and investment cooperation between the two countries remained an important component of our bilateral relations, even though bilateral trade showed some decline in this period. During the first nine months of 2014, Indian exports to the Netherlands decreased by 34.46%, while total bilateral trade decreased by 21.65%. FDI equity inflows from the Netherlands into India during the financial year 2013-14 were US \$ 2.27 billion. FDI inflows during the period April-September 2014, totalled US \$ 1.971 billion. The Netherlands remained amongst the top 20 trading partners of India and the 5th largest country for FDI inflows into India.

There is a proposal for the visit of the Dutch Prime Minister to India in the first quarter of 2015.

The Joint Working Group Meeting for Renewable Energy Cooperation between India and the Netherlands was held on 06 November 2014 at The Hague.

The Netherlands was one of the partner countries at the 7th Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015 organized at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 11-13 January 2015. A 108-member delegation led by Mr Simon Smits, Vice Minister for Foreign Trade participated at the event.

## Portugal

Portugal and India share commonalities of history and culture, and have a common perspective on many issues of international interest. Portugal has consistently supported India at multilateral fora, including India's aspiration to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

A team from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Employee's Provident Fund visited Portugal from 14-16 April 2014, to negotiate and approve the Application Forms of the Social Security Agreement (SSA) signed in March 2013. The Agreement, once notified by both the governments will be implemented within ninety days.

Aaditya International, an Indian company, will invest € 9.8 million in a distillery and outlet in the Municipality of Tomar, under the Tomar Invest programme. Another Indian company, Zomato launched its operations in Lisbon.

On 02 October 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Champalimaud Foundation and the Government of Rajasthan in Jaipur to establish a state-of-the-art cancer institute with world-class facilities.

Several initiatives were taken by the mission to develop and promote Hindi language in Portugal. Two students were selected from Portugal under Promotion of Hindi Abroad scheme to study at the Central Institute of Hindi, Agra. Hindi Diwas was organised by the Embassy on 30 September 2014 at the Faculty of Arts, University of Lisbon. University of Lisbon has a robust course in Hindi language. On this occasion the Embassy presented a set of books on Hindi literature and language to the University. The World Hindi Day will be celebrated in January 2015 in collaboration with University of Lisbon.

In September 2014, a monthly lecture series on India was initiated at Faculty of Arts, University of Lisbon. The speakers shared knowledge on multifarious topics ranging from Indian economy and culture to International Affairs.

On 25 September 2014, Leopordo Films, in collaboration with the Embassy released six feature films by Shri Satyajit Ray in Portuguese cinemas. The films were shown across many cities of Portugal including Porto, Braga, Coimbra, Setubal and Figueira da Foz from 25 September 2014 to 05 November 2014.

Embassy of India in collaboration with University of Lisbon will launch the Centre for Indian Studies in January/February 2015.

The Embassy of India in collaboration with AICEP (The Investment and Foreign Trade Agency of Portugal) will organize a business seminar in March 2015.

## Bilateral Visits

- Queen Maxima (30 June - 03 July 2014) in her capacity as a Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Financial Inclusion.
- A 7-member delegation led by Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Akhilesh Yadav (31 August – 02 September 2014).
- Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Ms. Lilianne Ploumen (05-07 November 2014)
- Minister for Road Transport, Highways & Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari (19 November 2014)

India participated in the World Cup Hockey 2014 held in The Hague in May-June 2014. India secured the 9th position at the event.

India-Netherlands Foreign Office Consultations were held on 11 June 2014 in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Shri Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West) and the Dutch side was led by Ms. Renee Jones-Bos, Secretary-General, Dutch MFA.

The Embassy organized a Round Table on 13 June 2014, which was attended by four major companies having substantial business interest in India. The four major companies were Heineken, Royal Haskoning DHV, FMO and Allen & Overy Law Firm, Amsterdam.

The First JWG meeting between our Ministry of Urban Development and the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment was held in the Netherlands from 18-20 June 2014. During the JWG, the Indian side had useful discussions with the Dutch side for furthering cooperation in urban planning and regional planning, smart city development, drinking water, sanitation and solid waste, knowledge and capacity building, river front development and re-development for multimodal transport, etc.

The Embassy, in cooperation with the Apparel Export Promotion Council, organized an Apparel Buyer-Seller Meet in Amsterdam on 23-24 June 2014. This was the first Apparel BSM organized in the Netherlands in the last 10 years. Twenty Indian manufacturers and exporters participated in the BSM displaying a wide range of styles and designs of men, women and kids wear.

On 25 June 2014, an International Hindi Conference was organized by the Embassy. Over 40 selected poets, writers and dignitaries from India participated at the event. In the evening, a poetry session was organized.

On 05 July 2014, a cultural programme of ICCR-sponsored cultural troupe Gujarati Folk Dance “Saptak” was organized at the Gandhi Centre.

On 08 October 2014, the Embassy organized an event to give wide publicity to the launch of the “Make in India” campaign by the Prime Minister of India on 25 September 2014 and also to disseminate the policy initiatives of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. Around 40 Dutch companies attended the event.

The Embassy organized a half-day seminar on Indo-Dutch Cooperation in the Dairy Sector on 17 October 2014 at The Hague.

An electric folk-fusion music group “Papon and East India Company” sponsored by the ICCR and led by Shri Angarag Mahanta (Papon) visited the Netherlands from 28 October – 02 November 2014 and gave performances in the cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague.

## San Marino

India and San Marino both ratified the ‘Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement’ (DTAA) and ‘Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) this year.

## Spain

Bilateral Relations between India and Spain remained cordial and friendly during the period.

Foreign Office Consultations were held between both countries on 28 March 2014. Spain and India reviewed entire gamut of foreign relations and reaffirmed their commitment for strengthening the partnership. President of ICCR, Dr Karan Singh paid an official visit to Spain from 09-12 April 2014. He called on the King of Spain and also had meetings with Spanish Minister for Education, Culture and Sports. Commerce Secretary visited Spain from 11-13 May 2014 and had discussion on issues related to Commerce with his counterpart.

Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan visited Spain from 28 October to 01 November 2014 to inaugurate Global TB symposium in Barcelona. He also held meetings with Spanish Health Minister. A delegation led by Minister for Urban Development Shri Venkaiah Naidu

participated in the Smart City World Congress in Barcelona from 17-19 November 2014.

Spain-India Council Foundation organized the 3rd India Leaders Programme in May 2014. The theme for this edition was Education and Academics. The Foundation also organized First Spain-India Forum on Sustainable Cities and Transport Network on 03-04 December 2014. The Forum saw participation from both Spanish and Indian companies in this field.

Bilateral Trade between India and Spain in 2014 (January to August) stood at \$3.37 billion; Spain's exports to India during the given period stood at \$1.0 billion and India's exports to Spain stood at \$2.36 billion. There has been an increase of 6.96% in the bilateral trade compared to last year.

The year also saw a host of cultural activities organized by the Embassy in Collaboration with ICCR, local governments and Casa de la India. Noted Bharatnatyam Dancer Mrs. Alarmel Valli performed in Madrid and Valladolid in January of this year. The Embassy organized its biennial cultural event, 'India en Concierto' from 04-08 June 2014. Performance by the group led by Shri Fakira Khan from Rajasthan 'Manganiyar' tradition and Kathak by Ms. Rujuta Soman tried to highlight the ancient linkages of Indian Music and Dance traditions with Spanish Flamenco.

Performance by the Choir Group of 'Nagaland Singing Ambassador' in November 2014 and a flamenco-classical music fusion presented by a group of artists from India and Spain in Cobeña was also well received by the Spanish audience. ICCR, City Council of Valladolid and the Valladolid University signed an MoU with Casa De La India for cultural cooperation for another five years.

India was the Guest Country for AR & PA Biennial Event 2014. The prestigious Art and Heritage Restoration Management Festival saw active participation from Indian institutions like IGNCA, INTACH, Ahmedabad Municipality and a host of academic experts. An ICCR cultural troupe also participated in the event.

The year also saw several exhibitions on India being showcased in Spain. An exhibition on Sari and another on Art and Architecture by ICCR and another exhibition on Masks and Puppets showing Indian narrative traditions by IGNCA was in news.

Institute of Indology also conducted its autumn course on India from 01 October to 10 December 2014. The series of lectures in Spanish undertaken by the top Spanish experts saw

enthusiastic participation by Spaniards and friends of India.

The Embassy in Madrid and the Tourism office in Paris also participated in the Tourism Fair FITUR held from 28 January to 01 February 2014. 18 co-exhibitors were present at the India Pavilion setup by the Tourism office Paris.

The Spanish Defense Minister will be visiting India on 29-31 January 2015. He will be holding talks with Defence Minister on strengthening our bilateral relations in the defence sector.

Ministry of Tourism will be participating in the FITUR International Trade and Tourism Fair 2015 from 28 January-01 February 2015. Joint Economic Council is scheduled to be held on 02 February 2015.

## United Kingdom

The two sides have had number of high level bilateral visits and interactions during the year. Prime Minister had a one-to-one meeting with UK PM Mr David Cameron on the side-lines of G-20 in Australia. EAM visited the UK from 16-17 October 2014 to inaugurate the Regional Pravasiya Bharatiya Diwas (RPBD); she had bilateral meetings with UK Deputy PM and UK Foreign Secretary during her visit. MoS (VKS) visited London from 03-04 December 2014 to attend the London Conference on Afghanistan. UK Defence Secretary Mr Michael Fallon visited India from 28-29 October 2014. During his visit to India from 25-27 August 2014, UK Deputy Prime Minister Mr Nick Clegg visited Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. He also called on Prime Minister on 25 August 2014. Education, retail and aerospace were the three focus sectors during the visit.

The first major engagement between India and UK after the new Government took office was held when the UK Foreign Secretary Mr William Hague and Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr George Osborne jointly visited India on 07-08 July 2014. They held meetings with Prime Minister and EAM. Political, strategic and economic issues were discussed, as also matters relating to Indian students in UK, skill development etc.

The Chancellor and our Finance Minister held the 7th Round of the Economic & Financial Dialogue (EFD).

UK opened a new Tech Hub in Bangalore aiming to grow 1,000 Bangalore start-ups in 3 years and link them with the UK and the second UK Indian Business Centre that will provide support to UK businesses who want to grow in India.

UK is among India's major trading partners. As on date, UK ranks 17th in the list of India's top 25 trading partners. Despite

the global economic slowdown and the Eurozone crisis, India-UK bilateral trade has been resilient. According to the data published by the Department of Commerce, Government of India, two-way merchandise trade during 2013-14 stood at US\$15.82 billion, marking an increase of 6.16% as compared to 2012-13. The growth in trade is reflective of the efforts being made to enhance bilateral trade between India and the UK.

India's merchandise exports to UK grew by about 13.54% from US\$ 8.61 billion in 2012-13 to US\$ 9.77 billion in 2013-14 and imports from UK declined by 3.94% from US\$ 6.29 billion in 2012-13 to US\$ 6.04 billion in 2013-14. UK's share in India's global trade has also been improved from 1.88% in 2012-13 to 2.07% in 2013-14.

Today the UK is the 3rd largest inward investor in India, after Mauritius, and Singapore with a cumulative equity investment of US \$ 21.60 billion (April 2000- September 2014). UK ranks first among the G20 and accounts for around 9% of all investment into India for the period April 2000 – September 2014.

In 2013-14, UK invested \$3.2 billion in India, more than any other G20 country and more than Japan (\$1.7 billion) and the US (just under \$1 billion), who are ranked second and third respectively.

According to the figures released by the UK Trade and Investment in their 2013/14 Inward Investment Annual Report' India had 74 FDI projects in the United Kingdom which created 4,482 jobs during 2013-14.

As part of their annual 'Business Mission' to promote India's business linkages with UK, the FICCI brought a high-profile delegation to the UK during 22-25 June 2014.

Mission hosted a Roundtable Discussion on "Enhancing the India-UK Economic Partnership" where High Commissioner welcomed Mr Gregory Barker MP, former Minister for Business Engagement with India. Mr Gregory Barker, informed that India is the only country in the world for which the UK Government has appointed a Minister for Business Engagement. This reflects the strategic importance that the UK Government places on its economic relationship with India.

Global India Business Meet was organized on 22-23 June 2014 in Liverpool by Horasis in association with the City of Liverpool. The Global India Business Meet in Liverpool was hosted as part of the inaugural International Festival for Business 2014 to celebrate entrepreneurship and economic growth.

On 28 May 2014, the High Commission of India, London hosted an Interactive Session with the members of the London Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Asian Business Association (ABA).

## India-UK Economic Bilateral Visits in 2014

### *From India to UK*

- Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Government of India paid a visit to the UK during 17-18 November 2014
- Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry visited London to attend an Investors' Seminar during 27-28 October 2014.
- Secretary, Ministry of Power, led a 5 member delegation to UK on 13-14 October 2014 to explore specified areas of technical collaboration with UK in the power sector.
- Shri U.K. Sinha, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), visited London for an interactive session with the investors and bankers on 23 April 2014.
- Dr Arvind Mayaram, former Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India visited London to attend the Plenary Meeting of the Financial Stability Board (FSB) on 31 March 2014.

### *From UK to India*

- Rt Hon Matthew Hancock, former Minister of State for Skills & Enterprise (16-17 January 2014) to promote partnerships in education and UK expertise in training and educational technology.
- Rt Hon Gregory Barker, former Minister of State at the Department of Energy and Climate Change and former Minister for Business Engagement (05-10 February 2014).
- Rt Hon Oliver Letwin, Minister for Government Policy visited Mumbai on 4 March 2014 for a bilateral meeting with Shri Raghuram Rajan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India.
- Rt Hon George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer (07-9 July 2014) to attend the 7th round of the Economic & Financial Dialogue (EFD).
- Rt Hon William Hague, former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs (07-09 July 2014).

- Rt Hon Oliver Letwin, Minister for Government Policy, Rt Hon Gregory Barker, former Minister of State at the Department of Energy and Climate Change and Minister for Business Engagement with India, Mr Jo Johnson, Head of the Downing Street Policy Unit and Ms Priti Patel, UK PM's Indian Diaspora Champion accompanied the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor.
  - Rt Hon Edward Davey, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change visited India during 24-25 July 2014 to attend a round table with Gujarat energy sector experts.
  - Rt Hon Edward Davey visited India for the second time while accompanying UK Deputy PM during 25-27 August 2014.
  - Mr Shailesh Vara, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for the Courts and Legal Aid visited India during 01-03 September 2014.
  - Sir Edward Lister, Deputy Mayor of London for Policy and Planning visited India during 10-14 September 2014.
  - Ms Andrea Leadsom, Economic Secretary to the Treasury visited India on 10 October 2014 to formally launch the UK-India Financial Partnership.
  - Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable, UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills visited Delhi, Goa, Pune and Chennai during 10-15 October 2014 with an education and automotive business delegation.
  - Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones, First Minister of Wales visited India during 28-30 October 2014. First Minister Mr Jones led a trade delegation in Delhi and Mumbai to further raise the profile of Wales following a successful visit to India in 2012.
  - Baroness Ms. Sandip Verma, UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change led a Business delegation to Jaipur, Chandigarh and New Delhi during 12-15 November 2014.
  - Mr Greg Clark, Minister for Universities, Science and Cities of the United Kingdom visited India for the sixth India-UK Education Forum that took place in New Delhi on 13 November 2014. Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India, and Mr Greg Clarkco-Chaired the meeting.
  - The UK was one of the partner countries at the 7th Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015 organized at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 11-13 January 2015. A large business delegation combined of approx. 75 UK companies led by Lord Ian Livingston, UK Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills participated in the Summit.
  - Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held on 15-16 January 2015 in London. Indian side led by Additional Secretary (IO) and UK side was led Ms. Sarah Macintosh, Director General, Defence and Intelligence.
  - Mr Alderman Alan Yarrow, The Lord Mayor of the City of London, visited India on 06-10 December 2014 as part of the UK's efforts to boost economic ties between India and the UK.
  - Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited UK on 19 January 2015, leading Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) delegation for the 10th Meeting of India JETCO 2015 and had a bilateral meeting with Dr Vince Cable, UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.
  - Visit by Ms. Baroness D'Souza, Lord Speaker, UK House of Lords was scheduled for 16-17 February 2015.
- The present government of PM Mr David Cameron attaches importance to developing a special relationship with India in the field of education. Approximately 34 UK Universities have opened offices in India and are approaching students even from small towns in India besides the four metropolitan cities.
- British universities have hugely increased the level of collaboration with their Indian counterparts and the new links include establishing a new Chemical Biology and Therapeutics Institute in India; major collaborations on neuroscience; research partnerships in energy, medicine, business and manufacturing along with English language training for 1.5 million teachers in India by 2017.
- Exchange visits of scientists, Working Group meeting, interactive sessions through tele and video conferencing have taken place between DRDO and DSTL during April to November 2014.
- DRDO is also working with UK Home office in the field of CBRN security and disaster management (MoU signed in Feb 2013) and priority areas for cooperation has already been identified by India and UK. Under this agreement, UK Home office delegation visited India in October 2014 for conduct of "Training for Trainers" course, as agreed between two countries.

The fourth meeting of the Indo-UK Science and Innovation Council took place in New Delhi on 12 November 2014.

An MoU between The Department of Business Innovation and Skills, Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India for Newton – Bhabha programme (A UK – India Research and Innovation Partnership) was also signed during the meeting.

The ninth edition of Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (RPBD) was held in London on 17-18 October 2014. The event, inaugurated by EAM, was much acclaimed by leaders of Indian Diaspora in UK for its content and level of participation. This was the first Indian Diaspora event of the scale in the UK.

### **India-UK Financial Partnership (IUFPP)**

The India-UK Financial Partnership (IUFPP) was formally launched by Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister, Government of India and Mr George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, UK at the 7th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) held in New Delhi on 8 July 2014. The IUFPP was launched to deepen the Financial Services links between India and the UK. The IUFPP's objective is to identify specific and executable areas to deepen co-operation, provide mutual learning and sharing of expertise across the industry from regulation to product development and training. Mr Uday Kotak, Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Sir Gerry Grimstone, Chairman of Standard Life and the City UK, which represents the UK based financial and related professional services industry are the co-chairs for the IUFPP. Both the industry leaders will convene working groups of professionals to examine key areas of common interest and will report the progress and make recommendations to the Finance Minister of India and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, UK ahead of the next UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue in 2015.

### **India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)**

The 10th JETCO meeting was held on 19 January 2015 in London. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Dr Vince Cable, UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills led the Indian and UK delegations respectively. The meeting witnessed both Government and Industry come together for discussions at the Joint Working Groups on "Education", "Technological Collaborations" and "Smart Cities". The outcomes of these deliberations will be presented by the leaders of the respective working groups in the plenary session. Further, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry held bilateral talks with the UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. On the side-lines of the 10th JETCO, two site visits to Smart Cities - Milton Keynes and Cambridge Institute for Manufacturing have also been organised for the JETCO delegation on 20 January 2015.

### **India-UK Defence Cooperation**

The Xth IAF-RAF ESG meeting was held at Air HQ (VB), New Delhi from 03 Feb – 04 Feb 14. The last Executive Steering Group (ESG) and Defence Consultative Group (DCG) meetings were held in New Delhi on 03-04 Feb 2014 after a gap of two years. The next DCG meeting for year 2015 is scheduled in London on 11-12 Feb 2015. DESG meeting is scheduled on 07-08 Jan 2015.

Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2014 was conducted by the British Army in Wales from 17-26 Oct 2014. A total of 119 teams took part in the Patrol including 19 teams from overseas. Overall only five teams including India could achieve Gold Medal amongst a total of 119 teams.

Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta 2014 was conducted by Indian Navy at the Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala from 11-13 December 2014. Three officers from the Royal Navy participated in the event and the team attained third position overall.





*External Affairs Minister inaugurating the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in London. UK Foreign Secretary Mr Phil Hammond is also seen in the picture on 17 October 2014.*



*Prime Minister meeting with Prime Minister of United Kingdom, Mr David Cameron, in Brisbane, Australia on 14 November 2014.*



*External Affairs Minister meeting with Mr William Hague, MP Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom in New Delhi on 08 July 2014.*



*External Affairs Minister meeting with Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius of France in New Delhi.*

## Canada

The India-Canada bilateral relations have seen significant transformation in recent years. The present bilateral relations are underpinned by high level interactions covering political, security, trade and economic spheres. Prime Minister Mr Stephen Harper visited India twice in a short span of time in 2009 and 2012; the Governor General Mr David Johnston visited India in February-March 2014; and Prime Minister Mr Stephen Harper has extended an invitation to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to visit Canada.

In the Joint Statement issued during the visit of Canadian Prime Minister to India in 2012, the two sides agreed on the imperative to forge a forward-looking relationship by deepening the bilateral engagement at a strategic level and better leveraging significant complementarities existing between the two countries in key areas of mutual interest such as: energy security; agriculture and food security; mineral resources; education; infrastructure development; and advanced civilian, defence and space technologies. Towards achieving this objective, they agreed to intensify their interaction through regular meetings, and to institute an annual strategic dialogue between the two Foreign Ministers. The bilateral energy dialogue was also upgraded to Ministerial level. The first Ministerial Level Energy Dialogue was held in October 2013.

## Strategic Dialogue

The 2nd meeting of the India-Canada Strategic Dialogue, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj and her Canadian counterpart Mr John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs, was held in New Delhi on 13 October 2014. The two sides reviewed the whole gamut of bilateral relations and also discussed regional and international issues of common interest. Minister Mr John Baird along with Minister of International Trade Mr Ed Fast jointly called on the Prime Minister.

## Defence

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R. K. Dhowan paid an official goodwill visit to Canada from 05-08 August 2014 reciprocating the visit by the Canadian Navy Chief in January 2014. The Chief of Naval Staff visited Victoria, Ottawa, and Toronto. The visit aimed at fostering closer navy-to-navy ties with Canada, and to explore avenues for enhancing cooperation between the two navies.

## Nuclear

The Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA), which was signed in June 2010, was operationalized in September 2013 following completion of our internal procedures required for the Agreement to enter into force.

The 2nd meeting of Joint Committee on India-Canada Nuclear Cooperation Agreement was held in Ottawa on 25 November 2014. The meeting discussed National Operations relevant to Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and Appropriate Arrangement commitments, status of bilateral industry collaboration, among others. The Indian delegation also visited Canadian Nuclear Laboratories at Chalk River and Darlington nuclear power station and met with industry representatives in Toronto.

## Trade and Industry

The two-way bilateral trade was US\$ 5.2 billion and US\$ 5.6 billion respectively for 2012 and 2013 and US\$ 3.7 billion for the period January – August 2014. According to Statistics Canada, FDI from India into Canada in 2013 was C\$ 3.7 billion as against Canadian FDI of C\$ 613 million in India. India and Canada are working on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to enhance bilateral trade and investment. The last round of CEPA negotiations was held in New Delhi on 11 November 2014. There was discussion between the lead negotiators for the three core issues - goods, services and temporary entry, which was followed by meeting between the chief negotiators from either side.



*Prime Minister meets Mr Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada on the sidelines of G-20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia*



*External Affairs Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Mr Jhn Baird meet for India-Canada Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi.*

The Premier of the Saskatchewan Province Mr Brad Wall led a Trade Mission to India from 17-23 November, 2014. The week-long Mission included stops in Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Muzaffarnagar, and Chandigarh. This was Premier Mr Brad Wall's second Trade Mission to India to further cooperation in energy, agri-food and innovation sectors. The Program highlights included meetings on business and investment, interaction with key Indian government and industry leaders at the national and state (Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana) levels, and meetings with Atomic Energy Commission and Pulses and Grains Association of India.

Minister of International Trade Mr Ed Fast, Ms. Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, Minister of National Revenue, and Mr Bob Dechert, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice, were on a six-day, three-city trade mission to India to bolster Canada-India trade and investment partnerships from 12-17 October 2014. During the visit, Minister Mr Ed Fast met with Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry; Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance; Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology; Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Urban Development; Smt Uma Bharti, Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation; Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Shri Parkash Singh Badal, Chief Minister of Punjab. In the course of the visit a partnership agreement was signed to clean up the Ganges River using Canadian technology and expertise; an agreement involving Canadian medical company Novadaq Technologies to market innovation technologies in India was signed; and a call for proposals was launched for joint R & D projects that will foster greater bilateral science and technology collaboration.

The Premier of British Columbia Ms. Christy Clark and Minister of Advanced Education Mr Amrik Virk led a Trade Mission to India from 09-18 October 2014. The Trade Mission with representatives of over 70 companies held B2B meetings with Indian investors and high level meetings with government officials. During the visit the British Columbia (BC) and Punjab governments announced they will work together in the areas of advanced education, skills certification, agriculture and cultural exchange programs to boost economic and cultural ties between Punjab and BC; Richmond-based SignalChem opened up a research and development facility in Bangalore which would allow the company, which specializes in cancer, inflammation and central nervous system disorders, to convert its oncology drug discoveries into use; the Premier announced funding for 20 scholarships, worth a total of \$ 50,000, to support and encourage the two-way exchange of

students between the University of the Fraser Valley and Sanatan Dharma College in Chandigarh; IC-IMPACTS announced the signing of two agreements with GMR Institute of Technology and Reliance Industries ; an MoU was signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Simon Fraser University (SFU) to establish a Visiting Scholars Program in Indian studies at SFU; and Simon Fraser University and the Indian Oil Corporation signed an Agreement to collaborate on hydrogen and fuel cell technology research.

The Consulate General of India, Toronto, organized a special interaction on the "Make in India" initiative on 30 October 2014 which was attended by Presidents and CEOs of Canadian companies, heads of Chambers of Commerce and important business leaders. A brief overview of the "Make in India" initiative was followed by power point presentation on some of the high growth sectors, including the FDI policy and the investment opportunities in these sectors. A brief overview of the business portal of the Government of India [www.business.gov.in](http://www.business.gov.in) which aims to cater to all business related information needs of the end users was also provided.

A 15 member delegation from Government of Gujarat, including representatives from the industry, visited Montreal and Toronto from 01-04 September 2014 for promotion of the 7th Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015 to be held in Gandhinagar from 11-13 January 2015. Aside from session on Vibrant Gujarat Summit, business networking sessions were also organised to explore trade and business opportunities in the areas of financial services; oil and gas; mining; life sciences; agro -food processing; and education, automotive and energy. In Montreal the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal jointly organised with Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Exportation, Government of Quebec, a luncheon presentation on Vibrant Gujarat Summit which was followed by B2B meetings.

A Trade Mission from Gujarat Small and Medium Enterprises visited Toronto, Waterloo, Montreal and Ottawa from 07-15 June 2014 to identify trade partners in Canada by organizing one-to-one business meetings and by way of participating in networking events organised by local chambers and provincial authorities. The focus industry sectors were information and communication technology, engineering and education.

## Transport

A four member delegation from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways visited Toronto from 10-14 September 2014 for the India-Canada Joint Working Group meeting. The

JWG was formed consequent to the signing of the MoU to cooperate and exchange the expertise in the transport sector.

## Mining

A 5 member delegation from Ministry of Mines visited Sudbury, Ontario from 27 September 2014 to 04 October 2014 for the purpose of capacity building relating to mine closure measures, reclamation and rehabilitation process. The visit was in pursuance of the decision taken in the 7th Meeting of the Joint Working Group between India and Ontario. Presentations on topics including mineral tenure, staking of unpatented mining claims, leasing of mining claims, renewing of mining leases were made by the Ontario Government representatives.

## Agriculture

Government of Punjab's Agriculture & NRI Affairs Minister Sardar Jathedar Tota Singh, visited Saskatoon from 05-09 October 2014 to attend Agricultural Bio-Science International Conference 2014 hosted by Ag-West Bio, Saskatchewan's Bioscience Industry Association. During the visit, a Letter of Intent was signed between Government of Punjab and Innovation Saskatchewan which seeks to facilitate development of a joint Centre of Excellence for Water Security, joint pulse and other crops value addition programs, and a pilot project to field test Saskatchewan-developed water treatment and waste water recovery technologies in Punjab.

Mr Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, visited New Delhi from 22-24 September 2014. During his visit he met Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Minister of Agriculture, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries, and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Aside from cooperation in the agriculture sector, the issue of proprietary nature of canola oil raised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was taken up by Mr Gerry Ritz with Indian officials.

## Science and Technology

The 2nd India-Canada Joint Working Group (JWG) on Information and Communication Technology and Electronics (ICTE) was held in Toronto on 14 November 2014. The meeting discussed innovation and incubation in ICT sector, R&D collaboration, and partnerships in the field of cyber security. The Indian delegation also visited Ottawa for

meetings with officials of Industry Canada and Invest Canada. The delegation, along with representatives of Indian IT firms in Canada also met with senior officials of Citizenship & Immigration Canada, and Employment & Social Development Canada, to discuss the issue of visa for Indian IT professionals.

A delegation led by Dr K. Radhakrishnan, Chairman, ISRO, & Secretary, Department of Space, participated in the 65th International Astronautical Congress from 26 September- 04 October 2014 in Toronto. Dr K. Radhakrishnan was awarded the Allan D. Emil Memorial Award by the International Astronautical Federation at the Congress. The Allan D. Emil Memorial Award is one of the most prestigious IAF awards, and since 1977 has been presented annually for an outstanding contribution to space science, space technology, space medicine and space law.

## Consular

Mr Chris Alexander, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration visited India from 05-10 July 2014. During the visit he met External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj, and Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh. He launched Can+ Program in India which will result in more efficient processing of Indian visitors to Canada and facilitate arrival and integration of immigrants.

## Culture and Heritage

Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada announced the entry of force from 01 July 2014 the Audiovisual Coproduction Agreement between Canada and India, which was signed during the visit of Governor General Mr David Johnston to India in February/March 2014. The Agreement will allow producers from both countries to combine their creative, technical and financial resources to carry out audiovisual co-productions.

Shri Bimal Julka, Secretary, led the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting delegation for participation in the Toronto International Film Festival 2014 from 06-08 September 2014. The Secretary (I&B) attended meetings with key officials of Telefilm Canada, National Film Board of Canada, Ontario Media Development Corporation, and participated in a roundtable organized by the Canada India Business Council. As a follow up to the visit of Secretary (I&B), Telefilm Canada, the Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMCD) sent a delegation of 14 Canadian producers to the 8th Film Bazaar from 20-24 November 2014 as well as for the 45th

International Film Festival of India, Goa. The visit would help in developing business relations with India's film industry and position Canada as a major player and key partner for coproduction.

An ICCR-sponsored Kathak troupe led by Ms. Richa Jain visited Canada from 15-20 September 2014. The troupe staged performances in Ottawa, Toronto and Sudbury. In Ottawa the performance was organised at the National Arts Centre, which was well attended.

## United States

There was a qualitative reinvigoration in India's Strategic Partnership with the United States (US) in 2014. Ever since the General elections in May 2014 of India and the United States, including visits by US Secretary of State Mr John Kerry and Secretary of Commerce Ms. Penny Pritzker in July 2014 for the Fifth round of India-US Strategic Dialogue, and by the US Secretary of Defense Mr Chuck Hagel in August 2014. This culminated in Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the US from 26-30 September 2014 combining his bilateral visit to Washington D.C. at the invitation of US President Mr Barack Obama for the first bilateral Summit between the two leaders, with a visit to New York for the United Nations General Assembly. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj visited the US from 24 September to 02 October 2014, to take part in the UN General Assembly and as a member of Prime Minister's delegation to the US.

US Trade Representative Ambassador Mr Michael Froman visited India from 24-25 November 2014 to co-chair the Ministerial Trade Policy Forum with Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Smt Nirmala Sitharaman. Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan led a delegation to the US from 25-28 June 2014.

The members of the US Congress who visited India since April 2014 include Senator John McCain (Republican-Arizona) during 02-03 July 2014; Representative Steve Chabot (Republican-Ohio), and Representative Mr Luke Messer (Republican-Indiana) during 18-19 August; Representative Mr Aaron Schock (Republican-Illinois) on August 25-26 2014; Senator Mr Timothy Kaine (Democrat-Virginia) and Senator Mr Angus King (Independent-Maine) from 07-10 October 2014; and Congresswoman Ms. Tulsi Gabbard (Democrat-Hawaii) from 16 December 2014 – 04 January 2015. Governor of South Carolina Ms. Nikki Haley visited India from 13-22 November 2014.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, US President Mr Barack Obama visited India to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2015. President Mr Barack Obama was the first US President to be the Guest of Honour at India's Republic Day celebrations. He was also the first US President to visit India twice while in office. This will be the first time in history that two Summit-level meetings were taking place between our two countries within a span of four months.

## Visit of the Prime Minister to the US

The visit of Prime Minister to the US from 26-30 September 2014 was transformational in nature, in terms of setting a positive tone and forging a forward-looking and ambitious trajectory for the India-US Strategic Partnership. Prime Minister met US President Mr Barack Obama in restricted format and in delegation-level talks, including over a private dinner and during their joint visit to the Martin Luther King Memorial. Prime Minister shared with President Mr Barack Obama his vision for India's socio-economic transformation, conveyed his determination to accelerate this transformation and explored opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation between India and the US, in various fields. They also explored coordination between India and the US in multilateral forums and areas of cooperation in third countries.

In over 30 official engagements in New York and Washington D.C., Prime Minister successfully reached out to all key US stakeholders – US Administration, corporate America, US Congress and the 3 million strong Indian American community. The visit succeeded in aligning the India-US partnership firmly behind India's developmental needs, global aspirations and went to focus on concrete outcomes covering all key priority areas of the Government including health, education, skilling, clean energy, and infrastructure. The visit also succeeded in reaffirming India's strategic priorities in critical spheres of high technology, security, counter-terrorism and defence. A Vision Statement on the theme of 'Chalein Saath Saath: Forward Together We Go' and a Joint Statement, reflecting concrete ways to realize that vision, were issued during Prime Minister's visit to the United States. Prime Minister also authored two Op-Eds, individually and jointly with the US President. 30 September 2014 was designated by the US Senate as the India-US Partnership Day.

The US committed to continue to work with India for India's phased entry into the four export control regimes, namely, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Missile Technology



*Prime Minister meeting with President Mr Barack Obama of United States of America at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 25 January 2015.*



*External Affairs Minister meeting with US Secretary of State Mr John Kerry in New Delhi on 31 July 2014.*

Control Regime (MTCR), the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group. US President stated that India meets MTCR requirements and is ready for membership in the NSG. He also reaffirmed his support for a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member. The US also pledged to support India's enhanced voice and vote in the IMF and the World Bank. Both sides announced a new agreement to expand joint development initiatives in third countries in a range of sectors, including agricultural productivity, clean energy, health, women's empowerment, and disaster preparedness. Subsequently, India-US Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development was signed on 03 November 2014 in New Delhi.

## Strategic Dialogue

Deputy Secretary of State Mr William Burns visited India during 09-11 July 2014, preparatory to the India-US Strategic Dialogue. Fifth India-US Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 31 July 2014. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj led the delegation from Indian side and Secretary of State Mr John Kerry led the delegation from US side. The US delegation included Secretary of Commerce Ms. Penny Pritzker, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy Mr Daniel Poneman, Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Mr Francis X. Taylor and the US Special Envoy for Climate Change in the Department of State Mr Todd Stern amongst others. India and the US issued a Joint Statement on Strategic Dialogue.

## Political and Strategic Cooperation

US Ambassador to India Ms. Nancy Powell left India on 22 May 2014 upon retirement. US Cd'A Ambassador (Retired) Dorris Kathleen Stephens arrived in New Delhi on 05 June 2014. On 18 September 2014, US President nominated Mr Richard Rahul Verma to be the new US Ambassador to India. His appointment was confirmed by the US Senate on 09 December 2014.

The fourth India-US Political Military Dialogue was held on 04 December 2014 in New Delhi. Sixth round of India-US East Asia Consultations took place on 19 December 2014 in New Delhi. Sixth round of India-US-Japan Trilateral was held in New Delhi on 20 December 2014.

Issues relating to high-technology trade are discussed under the India-US High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG). Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh co-chaired the Ninth Meeting of India-US High Technology Cooperation Group

with the US Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security Mr Eric L. Hirschhorn on 20-21 November 2014 in New Delhi. Under HTCG, in addition to the Working Groups on Biotechnology and Life Sciences, and Defence and Strategic Trade which met under both B2B and G2G segments separately, a new Working Group on Hi-tech Manufacturing met for the first time, with joint participation from both Government and Industry.

Matters relating to international security and disarmament, multilateral export control regimes are reviewed under the India-US Strategic Security Dialogue (SSD). Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh co-chaired the India-US Strategic Security Dialogue on 20 November 2014 with Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ms. Rose Gottemoeller.

The Brookings 2014 Study Tour Delegation led by the President Mr Strobe Talbott visited India from 31 October to 09 November 2014. US Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights and Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues Ms. Sara Sewall visited India from 12-17 November 2014.

Government of India hosted the visit of two separate Congressional staffers delegation to India under the US Visitors to India Programme from 28 June – 04 July and 13-20 December 2014 respectively.

## Defence Cooperation

Bilateral defence cooperation saw continued expansion with further streamlining of defence trade and co-production/co-development through the newly constituted Defence Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI), to expeditiously evaluate and decide on unique projects and technologies which would have a transformative impact on bilateral defence relations and enhance India's defence industry and military capabilities, which met for the first time during 22-23 September 2014; new initiative for cooperation in defence studies; joint exercises, including in trilateral format with Japan and in RIMPAC; personnel exchanges; cooperation in maritime security; counter-piracy operations etc. The two sides have created a Task Force under the DTTI. US Secretary of Defense Mr Chuck Hagel visited India from 07-09 August 2014.

During Prime Minister's visit to the United States in September 2014, the two sides agreed to intensify cooperation in maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and unimpeded movement of lawful shipping and commercial activity, in accordance with accepted principles of

international law, as also to collaborate on setting up a National Defence University in India. India and the US also decided to renew for ten more years the 2005 Framework for the US-India Defense Relationship.

The Sixteenth Indo-US Joint Technology Group Meeting on Defence was held in New Delhi on 21-22 May 2014. The thirteenth India-US Defence Policy Group was held in Washington on 28-29 October 2014. The Indian delegation was led by the Defence Secretary Shri R.K. Mathur and the US side by the Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Ms. Christine Wormuth.

The United States Joint Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) conducts investigation/recovery missions to recover remains of US soldiers killed in military conflicts. Taking into account the essentially humanitarian nature of the Missions, India facilitated conduct of an exploratory JPAC Mission to Assam and Nagaland from 20 October to 23 November 2014.

## Security and Counter-terrorism cooperation

During Prime Minister's visit to the United States in September 2014, India and the US agreed to collaborate in countering the threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) with information and technology and prevent the spread of counterfeit currency and inhibit the use of cyberspace by terrorists, criminals, and those who use the internet for unlawful purposes, and to facilitate investigation of criminal and terrorist activities. Both sides stressed the need for joint and concerted efforts, including the dismantling of safe havens for terrorist and criminal networks, to disrupt all financial and tactical support for networks such as Al Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, the D-Company, and the Haqqanis.

An inter-agency delegation visited Washington DC from 22-25 April 2014 to attend the meeting of the Sub-group on illicit Finance, smuggling of cash, financial frauds and counterfeiting under the India-US Homeland Security Dialogue. An inter-agency delegation visited the US from 27-31 October 2014 to discuss border management under the Sub Group on Global Supply Chain of the India-US Homeland Security Dialogue.

India Participated in the trilateral India-US-Japan Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief tabletop exercise held in Honolulu from 19-21 May 2014.

The US Coordinator on Cyber Issues in the State Department Mr Christopher Painter discussed issues of mutual interest with Indian counterparts in New Delhi on 13 October 2014.

## Civil Nuclear Cooperation

During the meeting of the Prime Minister to the US in September 2014, both sides have agreed to establish a Contact Group to discuss all implementation issues, including administrative issues, liability, technical issues, and licensing to facilitate the establishment of nuclear parks in India. The first meeting of the India-US Contact Group on civil nuclear cooperation took place in New Delhi on 16-17 December 2014.

The Second Meeting of the India-US Joint Working Group on Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) was held at the Idaho Energy Innovation Laboratory (EIL), Idaho Falls on 14-15 July 2014.

## Trade and Economic Relations

During 2013-14, Indian goods exports to the US amounted to US\$ 39.14 billion (against US\$ 36.16 billion in 2012-13) which accounted for 12.45% of India's global exports. Indian imports amounted to US\$22.51 billion (against US\$ 25.20 billion in 2012-13) which accounted for 5 % of India's total import over the same period. The trade surplus of US\$ 16.65 billion is in favour of India (against US\$ 10.96 billion in 2012-13). The US has become India's second largest trading partner in goods. Total trade in services, for which complete data is only available for 2011, was US\$ 54.42 billion. From April 2000-September 2014, total FDI inflows from US to India stood at US\$13.12 billion, making US the sixth largest contributor of FDI to India, constituting nearly 6 % of total FDI to India.

In April 2014, India and the US extended the bilateral Commercial Dialogue for another two years, until March 2016.

In order to raise institutional and corporate US investment in India, particularly in infrastructure sector, it was decided during Prime Minister's visit in September 2014 to establish an Indo-US Investment Initiative as well as an Infrastructure Collaboration Platform. An MoU on India-US Infrastructure Collaboration Platform was signed on 17 November 2014. In keeping with "Make in India" campaign, US firms would partner for modernizing India's railway network and also in developing world-standard skill sets in India.

During Prime Minister's visit to the US in September 2014, the US agreed to be a partner in the development of Allahabad, Vishakhapatnam and Varanasi as 'Smart Cities' and collaborate in bringing clean water and sanitation to 500 Indian cities. It was decided to reinvigorate India-US CEO Forum.

The 8th India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) was convened in New Delhi on 24-25 November 2014, which discussed a range of trade and investment issues, in particular in the areas of agriculture, services, promoting investment in manufacturing, and Intellectual Property. The meeting was co-chaired by Commerce Secretary Shri Rajeev Kher and Deputy US Trade Representative Ambassador Mr Robert Hollyman on 24 November 2014. The Ministerial Trade Policy Forum meeting was co-chaired by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Smt Nirmala Sitharaman and US Trade Representative Ambassador Mr Michael Froman on 25 November 2014. India and the US issued a Joint Statement on Trade Policy Forum.

In partnership with MEA, RIS organised an International Conference on Cross-Border Connectivity on 12 May 2014 in New Delhi, at which officials and academics from Japan, USA, Thailand, Myanmar, India, ADB, World Bank and others participated.

Notable high level visits to the US from India in the field of bilateral trade and commerce since April 2014 include: Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Shri Vijay Chhibber from 28 April-05 May 2014; Director General of Civil Aviation Shri Prabhat Kumar from 25-29 August 2014 and Secretary, Ministry of Shipping Shri Vishwapati Trivedi from 29-30 October 2014.

Notable visits from the US to India in the field of bilateral trade and commerce since April 2014 include: Acting Deputy US Trade Representative Ms. Wendy Cutler from 16-18 September 2014; US President's Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics Ms. Caroline Atkinson from 11-13 September 2014; USAID Administrator Shri Rajiv Shah from 04-05 November 2014; Deputy US Trade Representative Ambassador Robert Holleyman from 24-25 November 2014.

## Science & Technology Cooperation

Science Advisor to US President and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy Mr John P. Holdren led the US government delegation to the first-ever India-US Technology Summit held on 17-18 November 2014 and to the third US-

India Science and Technology Joint Commission Meeting on 17 November 2014. Amongst others, Chairman and President of US Export-Import Bank Mr Fred P. Hochberg and US Trade and Development Agency Director Ms. Leocadia I. Zak visited New Delhi in connection with the Technology Summit.

Working Groups topics under US-India Science and Technology Joint Commission Meeting included: basic & applied research, health & medical sciences, emerging materials & manufacturing sciences, atmospheric environment and earth sciences and women in science & technology. It was decided to establish a new working group on Agriculture & Plant biotechnology.

15th meeting of the Governing Body of India-US Science and Technology Forum was held on 21 April 2014 through a digital video conference. The 11th meeting of US-India Science and Technology Endowment Board was held in Washington D.C. on 14 May 2014. The 12th Meeting of the India-US Science & Technology Endowment Board was held through a digital video conference on 12 December 2014.

Under the India-US Science and Technology Endowment Fund, four awards have been announced in 2014 to Indian and US partners for commercializing certain technologies for societal impact. Under the DST - Lockheed Martin India Innovation Growth Program 2014, a delegation of 18 young innovators & entrepreneurs visited the US in September 2014, while a 10 member delegation of women scientists, academicians and entrepreneurs had interactions at National Science Foundation.

An MoU was signed on 24 September 2014 in New Delhi between Earth System Science Organization (ESSO), Ministry of Earth Sciences and University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, US for Cooperation in the field of Earth System Sciences. A Statement of Intent on Operational Wave Modelling and Assimilation was signed between the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO), Ministry of Earth Sciences of India and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce of the US on 14 November 2014 in New Delhi.

## Space Cooperation

During the visit of Prime Minister to the US in September 2014, it was decided to establish a NASA-ISRO Mars Joint Working Group under the US-India Civil Space Joint Working Group. Both sides are also working on a new agreement to support the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture

Radar (NISAR) mission, to be launched in 2021. ISRO Chairman Dr K. Radhakrishnan visited the US from 13-19 April 2014.

In October 2014, a high level Indian delegation participated in Ground Breaking ceremony of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) at Mauna Kea, Hawaii. India signed in as a full partner in the TMT project.

## Energy and Climate Change Cooperation

During Prime Minister's visit to the United States in September 2014, it was agreed that the US Export-Import Bank would make available up to US\$1 billion in financing to bolster India's efforts to transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient energy economy. An MoU between Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. and Export-Import Bank of the United States with respect to Cooperation on Clean Energy Projects was signed on 18 November 2014 in New Delhi. It was decided to form a new Clean Energy Finance Forum to promote investment and trade in clean energy projects, and also launch a new U.S.-India Climate Fellowship Program to build long-term capacity to address climate change-related issues in both countries.

India and the US convened the first meeting of the India-US Climate Change Working Group on 30 July 2014 in New Delhi. A bilateral Task Force meeting on HFCs was held in New Delhi from 13-14 October 2014.

Director of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Dr M.A. Atmanand represented GOI at the first "Our Ocean" International Oceans Conference in Washington D.C. on 16-17 June 2014 hosted by US Secretary of State Mr John Kerry.

## Health & Education Cooperation

The then Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan led a delegation to the US from 25-28 June 2014. He attended "Call to Action" meeting of Global Health Forum at Washington DC and had discussions with Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Atlanta on 26-27 June 2014; and attended the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Annual Convention at San Antonio on 28 June 2014.

During the visit of PM to the US in September 2014, both sides agreed to launch a new phase of Vaccine Action Program to develop affordable vaccines for dengue, malaria, and tuberculosis, and the establishment of an adjuvant development centre. India and the US agreed to initiate

activities to increase capacity in cancer research and patient care delivery.

An Indian delegation visited the US National Cancer Institute for discussion on cancer research in India and establishing of National Cancer Institute under AIIMS and Secretary Department of Biotechnology led a high level India delegation to participate in Bio International at San Diego in June 2014.

The third India-US Higher Education Dialogue was held on 17 November 2014 in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Secretary, Higher Education, Ministry of Human resource Development (MHRD) and US Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Mr Richard Stengel.

During the visit of PM to the US in September 2014, it was decided to establish the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) to facilitate visits by 1000 US teachers annually to teach in India. There would be US collaboration in setting up our new AIIMS National Institute of Cancer as well as a new IIT.

## Consular Cooperation

The second Working Group Meeting on Privileges and Immunities between the Ministry of External Affairs and US Department of State was held in Washington DC on 23 April 2014.

Consultations on Mutual Legal Assistance requests and extradition were held between India and the US in Washington DC during 24-25 November 2014. India-US Consular Dialogue was held on 10 September 2014 in New Delhi.

During his visit to the US in September 2014, Prime Minister announced lifelong visa for PIO cardholders, 10-year visa and Tourist Visa on Arrival for US Passport holders.

## Latin America and Caribbean Countries

The past year has been a very active period for India's interaction with Latin America and the Caribbean region. During the year, enhanced level of interactions through landmark high level visits, conclusion of bilateral agreements, multilateral and bilateral engagements, development projects and cultural events helped in further strengthening bilateral relations between India and the region.

The landmark meeting of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with South American leaders and his bilateral meeting with President of Brazil in Brasilia during BRICS Summit in July

2014 set the tone for our engagement with the entire region. This was the first time that an Indian Prime Minister interacted with such a large number of South American leaders.

External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj met with CELAC Quartet on the sidelines of UNGA in New York in September 2014. Foreign Ministers of Costa Rica, Ecuador and Antigua & Barbuda and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba attended the meeting. Also a number of CELAC Coordinators were present. India proposed that India-CELAC Business Council and CEO's Forum, Energy Forum and S&T Forum should meet in 2015.

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.

Government of India approved grant in aid to Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname, Guatemala, St. Kitts & Nevis and Grenada for various projects like drought, solar traffic lights, flood lights for sports stadium, upgradation of mortuary, lab facilities and upgradation of two vocational training centres in Belize and Jamaica are also under process. The establishment of IT centre of excellence in Costa Rica is at an advanced stage.

Gradually the Latin American Region is becoming a major supplier of Crude Oil to India, as the import of crude oil from this region is increasing consistently in real terms as well as in percentage terms. Within LAC, Venezuela is the top-supplier with Columbia emerging as second in 2013-14, leaving Mexico to the 3rd and Brazil to the 4th spot.

## Argentina

India and Argentina share warm and cordial relations and the relations between India and Argentina continued to grow in a planned manner.

Argentine government under current President Ms. Christina Fernandez Kirchner treats its relationship with India as strategic in nature. There were two important breakthroughs to boost India-Argentina bilateral trade and economic relations:

- i. India was included in Argentina's pharmaceutical Annex II of countries by which import of finished formulations of Pharmaceuticals are allowed in September 2014. This was a rare Presidential decree amended by Argentina.
- ii. Exports of apples, pears and fruits from Argentina to India, is now permitted following the phytosanitary negotiations in November 2014.

The 8th Foreign Office Consultations with Argentine was held on 12 April 2014. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs Shri Dinkar Khullar and the Argentine delegation by Argentine Foreign Secretary, Vice Foreign Minister Mr Eduardo Zuain. He called on Argentine Vice-President, Mr Amado Boudou.

A 7 member Parliamentary delegation led by, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar in its first visit to the Latin American continent visited Argentina from 30 October to 01 November 2014. The delegation called on Argentine Deputies and Senators of the India-Argentina Parliamentary Friendship Group, Vice-President of Argentina, Mr Amado Boudou and Argentine Chief of Cabinet (Cabinet Minister to the President and Governor of the province of Chaco), Mr Jorge Capitanich. The Vice-President of Argentina and the India-Argentina Parliamentary Friendship Group have accepted the delegation's invitation to visit India early next year. The other important visits included former Judge of Supreme Court of India, Justice Swatantra Kumar in November 2014.

Argentina was the partner country at the India-LAC Investment Conclave organized by FICCI on 15-16 October 2014. A 70-member strong business delegation led by Mr Carlos Bianco, Deputy Foreign Minister and comprising important dignitaries such as Mrs. Carolina Moises, Secretary for International Relations of the Province of Jujuy, Argentina and Mr Alejandro Schiavi, Undersecretary of Coordination, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of Argentina among other senior officials and eminent business representatives, participated in the Conclave.

The other important visits from Argentina were by Mr Hernan Lamberti, Secretary of Production of Almirante Brown, Province of Buenos Aires who participated in the Buyer-Seller meet in Delhi from 12-22 September 2014, and Argentine Minister of Science, Technology and Innovative Production, Mr Lino Baraño participated in the BIO ASIA 2015 in Hyderabad in the first week of October 2014.

India Culture Week was organised in the city of Almirante Brown, Province of Buenos Aires from 10-16 May 2014 in collaboration with the Municipality of Almirante Brown. The event was graced by the presence of Mayor of the City and other dignitaries. Events encompassing all facets of Indian culture were organised during the week.

India Culture Week was also organized during 15-17 September 2014 in the province of Jujuy, which has the oldest Indian diaspora of Punjabi-Sikh Indians in Argentina. It

included a panorama of Indian Classical Dance and Music, Seminars on Indian philosophy and Yoga, and Indian Film screenings which were well received.

In addition, official participation by India in the International fair for Latin American Tourism Industry (FIT, America Latina) during 24-26 October 2014 featured Indian Tourism stalls and participation by Indian Tour agencies. The Sixth Festival of India was organised from 14-24 November 2014 in Buenos Aires. The Festival is the biggest assemblage of cultural events organised by any country in Argentina over recent years. 40 odd cultural, commerce, tourism, academic and gastronomy events were attended by more than 60,000 visitors.

Argentina strongly supported Indian stand on all issues including India's stand in the World Trade Organisation agricultural negotiations involving public stockholding, food procurement and distribution issues.

## Bolivia

India's relations with Bolivia continue to be friendly. The first Foreign Office Consultations co-chaired by Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS & CPV), MEA and Mr Juan Carlos Alurralde Tejada, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia was held in La Paz on 20 November 2014. Bilateral, multilateral and regional Issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. Special Secretary (AMS & CPV) also called on Mr David Choque Huanca, Foreign Minister of Bolivia who informed that President Mr Evo Morales had directed that India and Bolivia should work on concrete actions to strengthen bilateral relationship and expressed happiness that India could assist Bolivia in capacity building.

Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 0.12 billion during the period January to September 2014, an increase of 47.86% over the same period of 2013. India's exports during this period were US\$ 0.11 billion and imports were US\$ 0.001 billion. The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council PHARMEXCIL organized a Buyer Seller Meet at Santa Cruz for the first time in 10-11 August 2014 at which 22 Indian pharmaceutical companies participated.

## Brazil

India's multifaceted bilateral relationship with Brazil continued to intensify in 2014. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a bilateral meeting with President of Brazil Ms. Dilma Rousseff during his visit to Brazil for the BRICS

Summit on 15-16 July 2014. Prime Minister was received with a guard of honour at the official Residence of the President in Brasilia on 16 July 2014. They discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including agriculture and dairy science, conventional and renewable energy, space research and application, defence, cyber security and environment conservation. They also agreed to intensify cooperation in international forums and multilateral institutions, including the G20. Three important bilateral Agreements/MoUs were signed during the meeting on a) Cooperation in the Field of Environment, b) Space for implementing arrangement establishing cooperation in augmentation of a Brazilian earth station for receiving and processing data from Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellites and c) Establishment of a consultation mechanism on mobility and consular issues.

There were other occasions during the year when leadership of India and Brazil interacted in the multilateral context. PM met the Brazilian President in November 2014 at Brisbane during the G-20 Summit. EAM also met her Brazilian counterpart during the UNGA at New York in September 2014 under the framework of IBSA, G4 and BRICS.

There were a number of delegations visiting Brazil from India. Dr Anil Dhussa, Adviser, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, participated in the Steering Committee Meeting of the Programme for the Development of Alternative Biofuel Crops organised by the World Agro Forestry Centre (ICRAF) in Brasilia during 18-21 August 2014. High level officials delegations from Ministries of Minority Affairs, Finance and Consumer Affairs visited Brazil to attend meetings with their counterparts and G20 Meetings.

A 27 member delegation sponsored by PHARMEXCIL representing 19 Indian pharmaceutical companies participated in the CPhI - South America Exhibition in Sao Paulo during 05-07 August 2014.

As a follow up of Prime Minister's visit to Brazil in July 2014 and the MoU signed during the visit, a four-member Space delegation led by Shri G.P. Swamy, Scientist attended the Resourcesat-2 data direct reception at National Institute for Space Research (INPE) satellite ground station in Cuiaba, Brazil in August -September 2014.

Overall trade of India and Brazil reached a figure of US\$ 9.3 billion in first ten months of 2014 with exports to Brazil of US\$ 5.5 billion and imports amounting to US\$ 3.8 billion, giving India a trade surplus of US\$ 1.7 billion. 2014 saw India to become the 8th largest trading partner of Brazil from 12th

position in 2013. About 54% of Indian exports were value added petroleum products such as diesel. The other prominent export items from India were pharmaceuticals and agro chemicals which together constituted about US\$ 1 billion worth of exports. These exports grew at a healthy double digit figure. Electrical equipment and auto ancillary products formed the basket of engineering products and were the other major item in India's export basket constituting about US\$ 800 million. The other important items included the textile products (cotton, apparels, accessories etc.) which amounted to close to US\$ 500 million worth of Indian exports to Brazil.

A two-week long Indian Film Festival was organised by the Postal Department of Brazil during 01-15 May 2014 with support from Embassy of India and Directorate of Indian Film Festivals. In all, 13 films from different languages of Indian art cinema were shown. The Brazilian Postal Department also issued a stamp on 100 years of Indian cinema on 05 May 2014.

The Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) in Sao Paulo organised regular classic dances inclusive of Indian form of dances. The ICC also organised programmes by visiting artists notably, Odissi dance performances by Shri Rahul Acharya, Ms. Arun Pradhan and Mrs. Maria Laura Valdez; and, Bharatnatyam by Ms. Sharon Wezer from the Netherlands.

On the internal political front, the country witnessed major political developments in 2014; of these, the electoral victory of President Ms. Dilma Rousseff in October 2014 was the most notable. President Ms. Dilma Rousseff won a second Presidential term.

Brazil took over the rotating Presidency of MERCOSUR for the first half of 2015 from Argentina.

## Chile

The momentum of regular interactions, seen during the past few years, continued in 2014 thus strengthening the bilateral relations. During April-September 2014, the bilateral trade reached US\$ 1.9 billion with India's exports at US\$ 0.28 billion and imports at US\$ 1.66 billion.

The sixth round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Chile co-chaired by Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS & CPV) and Mr Edgardo Riveros Marin, Vice Foreign Minister of Chile were held in New Delhi on 31 October 2014. Bilateral, multilateral and regional issues were discussed during the meeting.

An Indian Goodwill Delegation of Parliamentarians visited Chile from 02-05 November 2014. The delegation was led by

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Textiles; Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and comprised of seven Members of Parliament from the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, and three officers from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The delegation had meetings with: (i) Mr Francisco Chahuan, Senator and President of India-Chile Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Senate of Chile; (ii) Mrs. Isabel Allende, President of the Senate of Chile; (iii) Mr Aldo Cornejo, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile; (iv) Mrs. Loreto Carvajal, President of India-Chile Inter-Parliamentary Group in the Chamber of Deputies of Chile and Mrs. Ximena Rincon, Minister, Secretariat General of the Presidency of Chile.

On the economic and commercial front, an India Tourism Road Show was successfully organized in Santiago on 29 September 2014 to promote India as a tourist destination.

## Colombia

India-Colombia relations continued to grow during the year. The 5th round of Foreign Office Consultations was held in Bogota on 21 November 2014. This provided an opportunity to discuss issues of bilateral, regional and multilateral interest. An MoU on Sports between India and Colombia was signed during the visit.

The Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement signed in May 2011 came into force on 07 July 2014 after ratification by the Colombian Government.

Bilateral commercial relations continued to expand further. The bilateral trade between April-September 2014 accounted for US\$ 3.324 billion. Indian exports were US\$ 0.91 billion and imports were US\$ 2.4 billion.

## Ecuador

Bilateral relations with Ecuador continued to be cordial and strong. Vice Foreign Minister Mr Leonardo Arizaga co-chaired the Foreign office Consultations Meeting along with SS(AMS&CPV) on 13 August 2014. Issues of bilateral, multilateral and regional interest were discussed during the meeting.

Bilateral trade also continued to grow at a rate of 19.79%. Between April-August 2014 bilateral trade stood at US\$ 0.343 billion. Indian exports accounted for US\$ 0.102 billion and imports were worth US\$ 0.24 billion.

## Guyana

Our relations with Guyana continued to be warm and friendly. President Mr Donald Ramotar held meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the sidelines of BRICS-Interactive session of Prime Minister with Leaders of South America Meet in Brazil on 16 July 2014. Both leaders agreed to further strengthen the existing economic, social and cultural relations between the two countries. The supply of fixed and movable irrigation pumps was completed with the Government of India line of credit of US\$ 4 million to Guyana. The mobilization of advance for the setting up of a super speciality hospital in Guyana was also released under the GOI line of credit of US\$ 19 million.

President of Guyana Mr Donald Rabindranauth Ramotar paid an official visit to India from 07-12 January 2015. He led a 7 member delegation. He was also the Chief Guest of the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas which was held at Gandhinagar (Gujarat) on 07-09 January 2015 in which he was also awarded Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award.

During his visit he held discussions with the Prime Minister of India and the Minister for External Affairs and the Governor of Maharashtra. Besides official meetings, he also visited a Sugar Factory in Valsad ( Gujarat) and held discussions with the sugar industrialists in Mumbai.

At the request of Guyana, India also agreed in principal to extend two LoCs of US\$ 60 million for the construction of road linkage project and the supply of an Ocean Ferry. Four specialized courses in the field of sugar technology under the ITEC programme were also offered to Guyana.

Two cultural groups under the aegis of Indian Council for Cultural Relations made several performances in various cities of Guyana including the capital city of Georgetown in May and October 2014.

## Mexico

India's Privileged Partnership with Mexico continued to grow and develop during the year. Following the Third Round of Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi on 07 March 2014, Mr José Antonio Meade Kuribreña, Foreign Minister of Mexico, visited India from 20-22 October 2014 and co-chaired alongwith EAM the 6th Joint Commission Meeting on 22 October 2014. During his three-day visit, the Mexican Foreign Minister also met the National Security Adviser of India, the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and India's Sherpa for the G-20 Summit.

The Joint Commission Meeting, first at Ministerial level since the establishment of the mechanism in 1984, was co-chaired by EAM and the Mexican Foreign Minister, who was accompanied by the Mexican Vice Foreign Minister and a 18-member inter-ministerial delegation in addition to businessmen. The entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political, economic and trade, energy, traditional medicines, science & technology, space, education tourism, consular and cultural issues, were discussed by the two Ministers. They also discussed important regional and multilateral issues including India's ongoing engagement with the Community of Latin American Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Pacific Alliance (PA). The Joint Working Group meetings on Tourism and Agriculture were held on the sidelines of the JCM on 20 October 2014. In the 5th Meeting of Indo-Mexican Joint Committee on S&T, a Programme of Cooperation for 2014-16 in the identified fields of S&T was finalised between DST and CONACYT. An MoU between ISRO and the Mexican Space Agency on Space Cooperation for Peaceful Purposes was also signed during the meeting.

The first ever Consular Dialogue between India and Mexico was held in Mexico City on 17 October 2014. Views were exchanged on a wide range of consular and visa issues with the objective of streamlining processes and facilitate travel between the two countries for business and tourism.

Regarding the visa and consular services rendered by the Embassy, an important development was the introduction of Tourist Visa on Arrival -Electronic Travel Authorization (TVOA-ETA) scheme for the Mexican nationals w.e.f. 27 November 2014. This will make it easier for the Mexicans to travel to India and will promote further the bilateral trade and investment as well as people-to-people ties.

An Indian Goodwill Delegation of Parliamentarians led by Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, MoS (Independent Charge) for Textiles and MoS for Parliamentary Affairs, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and comprising seven other Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs from different political parties visited Mexico from 26-29 October 2014. The Delegation visited the Mexican Senate and the House of Deputies and had interacted with the Presiding officers of the two houses, members of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate and the India Mexico Friendship Group in the House of Deputies. MoS (Parliamentary Affairs) called for establishing a mechanism for holding a regular bilateral dialogue at the parliamentary level and also invited Mexican parliamentarians to visit India in 2015 to mark 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

India participated in the IXth Pacific Alliance Summit held in Mexico as an Observer State and offered co-operation in the areas of MSME, S&T and IT.

India and Mexico completed their domestic procedures and exchanged diplomatic notes in November 2014 confirming the coming into force of the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters.

In 2013, India was Mexico's 16th largest trading partner in the world and the sixth largest in the Asia-Pacific region.

About 40 Indian companies have already established their presence in Mexico, including in IT, pharmaceuticals and auto components. In May 2014, Tech Mahindra, a leading IT company of India announced its foray into Mexico as part of its expansion strategy in the Americas region. ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and PEMEX signed an MoU on 25th September 2014 to cooperate in the hydrocarbon sector in Mexico and OVL is scheduled to launch its operations in Mexico in December 2014 with the objective to actively participate in the bidding process of exploration and development of oil fields in Mexico which are open to private investors following the key reform of the energy sector in Mexico. Mexican investments in India too are on the rise.

The Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) mounted the 'India Pavilion' at INTERMODA, the most important fashion industry event in Mexico, held in Guadalajara on 14-17 January 2014 in which more than a dozen Indian companies participated.

In February, the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) organized the 2nd Indian Chemicals & Cosmetics stand-alone Exhibition at the World Trade Centre in Mexico City. More than 47 companies from India participated in the Show. About 200 Mexican and foreign business persons from Mexico visited the 47 stalls of the exhibition.

The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) mounted a visit by a group of 13 young CEOs from auto component industries of India to visit Mexico from 24-28 March 2014 with the objective of understanding and identifying investment opportunities in the Mexican auto component market.

The Spices Board of India set up the 'India Pavilion' at Alimentaria Mexico-2014, one of the important exhibitions in Mexico City on 04 June 2014.

The India Tourism Office organised the participation of Indian tour operators in the International Tourism Fair of the

Americas (FITA 2014) held in Mexico City on 18 September 2014.

In keeping with growing bilateral trade ties, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), with the support of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and the Embassy of India in Mexico organized "The India Show" as part of the 26th Expo Nacional Ferretera in Guadalajara, Mexico from 28-30 August 2014, at which India was the official Partner Country. More than 70 Indian companies representing various sectors exhibited their high-quality engineering goods.

As a part of its one of the major and important activities towards propagation of Indian culture, the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre (GTICC) held regular classes at its premises in various disciplines.

## Paraguay

India and Paraguay enjoy cordial relations with no outstanding issues. Paraguay supported India's candidature for the UN Human Rights Council 2015-17. A 5-day India Food Festival was organised in Asuncion with co-operation from ITDC, Ministry of Tourism.

## Peru

Bilateral relations with Peru continued to be cordial and friendly. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Mr Ollanta Humala on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit held on 16 July 2014 in Brasilia. They exchanged views on deepening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various new fields.

The 1st meeting of the India-Peru Joint Committee on Science & Technology was held in Lima on 07-08 June 2014 and agreed on some concrete projects for collaboration.

On 20 August 2014, Mr Edgar Vasques, Peru's Vice Minister of Foreign Trade held discussions with Commerce Secretary in New Delhi. Both sides agreed to start negotiations for a bilateral Free Trade Agreement. Peru was the focus country at FICCI's India-LAC Conclave held in New Delhi on 15-16 October 2014.

Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 0.8 billion during the period January to September 2014, a decrease of 17.34% over the same period of 2013. India's exports to Peru during this period were US\$ 0.567 billion and imports from Peru were US\$ 0.233 billion. The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council organized the first-ever Indian textile and

yarn exhibition-cum-BSM – INTEXPO PERU - in Lima on 28-29 April 2014. A 21 member delegation from the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council PHARMEXCIL visited Peru on 06-08 August 2014. The Spices Board of India for the first time participated in 'Expoalimentaria' the largest Food Fair in the LAC region held from 27-29 August 2014 in Lima. Several Indian companies continued to expand their operations in Peru.

## Uruguay

India and Uruguay enjoy cordial relations. The third round of Foreign Office Consultation was held from 09-10 April 2014 in Uruguay and the Indian delegation was led by Shri Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West). Mr Tabare Vazquez won the recently held Presidential elections and will be sworn in on 01 March 2015.

India has supported Uruguay on all important issues as well as its candidature in all multilateral fora, including the recent support to its candidature for the UN Human Rights Council 2015-17.

## Venezuela

India and Venezuela have been maintaining cordial relations. There is a similarity of views on major international, political and economic issues. Venezuela is an oil and resource-rich country in terms of its reserves of oil, gas, minerals, gold and diamonds. Venezuela has the largest proven oil reserves, estimated at around 297 billion barrels and the 8th largest natural gas reserves (196 trillion cubic feet) in the world. Venezuela has taken over as non-permanent members of UNSC with effect from January 2015. Venezuela has been elected as the next NAM Chairman in 2015.

Venezuela is India's 3rd largest supplier of crude oil contributing to approx 12% of the total oil imports with the hydrocarbon sector standing out as the most important sector of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Venezuela has in the last few years emerged as our largest trading partner. There is a quantum increase in the footprints of Indian pharmaceutical companies in Venezuelan market. There is a growing interest in deepening ties in other potential areas of mutual interest such as pharmaceuticals, industry, auto parts, IT & telecommunications, science & technology, agriculture, dairy and animal husbandry.

With the overwhelming response last year, the Government of India allotted 16 ITEC seats to Venezuela for 2014-15.

## Central America

### Costa Rica

MEA recently shifted the concurrent accreditation of Costa Rica to Indian Embassy in Panama which has helped in facilitating Indian visas and thereby improve India's relations with Costa Rica. President Mr Luis Guillermo Solis of centre-left Partido Accion Ciudadana took over as the 47th President of Costa Rica on 08 May 2014. President Mr Luis Guillermo Solis has reaffirmed to pursue close cooperation with India, and to adopt measures to exchange high-level bilateral visits.

### El Salvador

Ministry has recently shifted the concurrent accreditation of El Salvador to our Embassy in Guatemala which has helped in facilitating Indian visas and thereby improve India's relations with El Salvador. The Second Foreign Office Consultation with El Salvador held in December 2014 in New Delhi. On the economic and commercial relations front, a 21 member trade delegation of Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (PHARMEXCIL) visited El Salvador in August 2014 and buyer-seller meet was held.

The Second Foreign Office Consultation with El Salvador was held in 10 December 2014 in New Delhi. The entire gamut of bilateral relations including political, commercial & trade, science & technology, tourism, financial & technical cooperation, education, environment & climate change, innovation were discussed during the meeting. New areas of cooperation were identified to further intensify the existing bilateral cooperation. Important regional and multilateral issues including India's ongoing engagement with Community of Latin American Caribbean States (CELAC) and Central American Integration System(SICA) were also discussed.

### Guatemala

India's economic and commercial relations with Guatemala strengthened significantly. The first Foreign Office Consultation between India and Guatemala was held in Guatemala on 7 April 2014. The Foreign Minister of Guatemala Mr Carlos raul Morales Moscoso visited India and met EAM on 15 October 2014. EAM announced a grant of US\$ 200,000 towards drought relief assistance, the symbolic cheque for which was later handed over to the Vice President of Guatemala, Ms Roxana Baldetti. A high level delegation from Guatemala led by Minister of Economy participated in the

Vith India-LAC Investment Conclave on 16-17 October 2014. The delegation comprised of the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and a group of seven high profile Guatemalan businessmen. Two Indian trade delegations, Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) and Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (PHARMEXCIL) visited Guatemala in April and October 2014 respectively. They held very successful buyer-seller meets.

## Honduras

Ministry has recently shifted the concurrent accreditation of Honduras to our Embassy in Guatemala which has helped in facilitating Indian visas and thereby improve India's relations with Honduras. Honduras is also processing to open its Embassy in India. The participation of the Minister of Economic Development of Honduras at the VIth India-LAC Investment Conclave in October 2014 will help in further promoting the bilateral trade.

## Nicaragua

Ministry has recently shifted the concurrent accreditation of Nicaragua to our Embassy in Panama which has helped in facilitating Indian visas and thereby improve India's relations with Nicaragua. India-Nicaragua bilateral relations further strengthened with the holding of the first India-Nicaragua Foreign Office Consultations, led by Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS&CPV) from the Indian side and Mr Valdrack Jaentschke, Vice Minister for International Cooperation from the Nicaraguan side, in Managua on 17 November 2014. Shri R. Swaminathan also called on Foreign Minister Mr Samuel Santos Lopez. The meeting provided an opportunity for reaffirmation of mutual commitment to strengthen relations in the political, economic, commercial and consular areas. Three LoCs extended by India for setting up different electric sub-stations were also discussed. It was agreed that key sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, automotive, IT, agriculture, energy and human resource development required a greater focus. India proposed the deputation of an ITEC Expert to Nicaragua for one year for assisting Nicaragua in the agricultural sector.

Mr Alvaro Baltodano, Presidential Advisor for Investment Promotion and Foreign Trade, (Minister-rank) led a business delegation to participate in the India-LAC Investment Conclave, organized by FICCI in New Delhi on 16-17 October 2014.

Government of India, in principle, approved two LoCs in 2014 – (i) US\$ 31.29 million for electric transmission line

project in La Esperanza-La Gateada sector in Nicaragua and (ii) US\$ 26.24 million for the Carlos Fonseca Substation/Transmission Line Project.

India donated medicines to Nicaragua for Dengue epidemic in April 2014.

## Panama

President Mr Juan Carlos Varela, leading the centre-right Panamenista Party, took over as the 37th President of Panama on 01 July 2014. He has expressed his strong desire to strengthen relations with India.

Sixty six Indian companies participated in Expocomer-2014, one of the largest annual commercial expositions in Central America, organised by the Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture from 26-29 March 2014 in Panama City. Thirty five foreign countries participated in the exposition.

Progress is underway for early conclusion of two projects - (i) Telemetry Tracking Establishment of Telemetry Tracking and Commanding (TTC) Earth Station in Panama for satellite operations by ISRO and (ii) extension of US\$ 10 million LoC to Panama for setting up bio-diversity and drug discovery centre in Panama.

## Caribbean Countries

### Cuba

Our relations with Cuba have further strengthened in the year 2014 with the visit of the Cuban First Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Mr Antonio Luis Carricarte Corona who participated in the India-LAC Investment Conclave on 16-17 October 2014. He made presentation giving overview of new Foreign Investment law and the facilities available at the newly established Mariel Free Zone and sought investment from India in the field of energy, information technology, genetic engineering and biotechnology. He also called on the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry.

Two agreements were signed between the EXIM Bank of India and the Cuban Banco de Exterior for modernisation of Injectable Products Plant and setting up of Bulk Blending Fertilizer Plant under the Government of India's line of credit of US\$ 7.7512 million.

An MoU between the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Havana for educational cooperation was signed in September 2014.

## Dominican Republic

Minister for State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.) would pay an official visit to Dominican Republic from 15-17 February 2015. During the visit MoS (VKS) would hold discussions with the President Mr Danilo Medina and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Andres Navarro.

## Haiti

Ms. Carmelle Jean Marie, Minister of Economy and Finance led a 5 member Haitian delegation to the India-LAC Investment Conclave 2014 in October 2014. Besides attending the Conclave, she also held discussions with the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Smt Nirjala Sitharaman and Secretary (EA) of the Ministry of External Affairs.

President of Haiti Mr Michel Joseph Martelly would pay a private visit to India from 06-07 February 2015 to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit which will be organized by TERI. During the visit the Haitian President would call on the President of India and hold discussions with the Prime Minister and the Minister for External affairs.

The 241 dwelling units in the Gandhi Village (outskirts of capital city Port-au-Prince) for the displaced Haitians in the devastated earthquake of January 2010 have been constructed with GOI grant-in aid of US\$ 5 million.

## Jamaica

India and Jamaica continue to enjoy cordial and friendly relations based on common linkages of History, Parliamentary Democracy, membership of the Commonwealth, English language and the love of cricket, reinforced by the 70,000 plus strong Indian Diaspora, which now constitutes around 3% of the Jamaican population, who have integrated themselves in the Jamaican mainstream.

The Government of India gave a grant of US\$ 0.002 billion to Government of Jamaica for installation of flood lights at the famous Sabina Park Cricket ground in Kingston, Jamaica, which was the only stadium without floodlights in the Caribbean. These flood lights were inaugurated by the Government of Jamaica on 03 August 2014 in a Public Ceremony.

Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State for External Affairs is scheduled to visit Jamaica on 18-19 February 2015. He is also expected to sign an agreement on cultural exchange programme with the Jamaican authorities.

## Suriname

India's cultural ties with Suriname go back to more than a century with the arrival of first group of indentured labour from India in 1873. Persons of Indian Origin comprise 27.4% of the population of Suriname. India and Suriname continued to enjoy warm and friendly bilateral relations. President Mr Desi Delano Bouterse held a meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the sidelines of BRICS Summit in Brasilia on 16 July 2014 during which the issues of bilateral interest were discussed and both leaders agreed to further strengthen the existing relations between the two countries.

The Fifth Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between Suriname and India co-chaired by Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs and Mr Winston G. Lackin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname was held on the 13 January 2015 in New Delhi. The Surinamese Foreign Minister was accompanied by Minister of Education & Community Development Mr Ashwin Adhin and a large multi-sectoral delegation. The entire gamut of bilateral relations including political, economic and trade, traditional medicines, technical cooperation, education, consular and cultural issues were discussed by the two Ministers. They also discussed important regional and multilateral issues.

India offered a fresh LoC worth US\$ 50 million to Suriname for which specific proposals will be sent by Suriname. Two grant assistance projects for upgrading Mortuary in S' Lands Hospital, Paramaribo and for supply of computers and other equipments to NATIN Institute in Suriname were announced.

The 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group constituted under the MoU for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors, signed in March 2003 took place in New Delhi on 28 July 2014, during which a Work Plan for 2014 -19 and a Priority Work Plan for 2014-2015 was discussed.

Three Chetak helicopters have been supplied by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in 2014 for US\$ 0.005 billion under LoC from India. Six Surinamese Pilots are getting flying training in HAL Rotary Wing Academy, Bangalore, under the terms of agreement between MoD Suriname and HAL. The three helicopters will be assembled and operationalised by HAL on completion of the training of these pilots.

Mr Ashwin Adhin, Minister of Education and Community Development of the Republic of Suriname, paid a personal



*Prime Minister being received by the Brazilian President Ms Dilma Rousseff on arrival at the Ceara Events Centre for the BRICS Summit*



*Visit of President of Guyana to India during 07-12 January 2015.*



*External Affairs Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of United Mexican States, H.E. Mr. Jose Antonio Meade Kuribrena at the signing ceremony in New Delhi on 22 October 2014.*



*Minister of State for External Affairs meets Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname, H.E. Mr. Winston G. Lackin, in New Delhi on 13 January 2015.*

visit to India from 13-25 November 2014. During the visit, on 24 November 2014, he paid a courtesy call on MoS (VKS) and exchanged views on various bilateral issues.

Under the aegis of the ICCR, two music and dance troupes visited Suriname during the period under Report. The first was a 5 member Bhojpuri music group led by Ms. Kalpana Patowary who gave two public performances during 21-23 May 2014. The second was a 5 member Devotional / Light Classical group led by Ms. Indira Naik which gave performances from 15-19 October 2014 in Suriname and from 22-27 October 2014 in Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

### **St. Kitts & Nevis**

Relations between the two countries remained to be warm and friendly. Agreement between India and St. Kitts & Nevis for Exchange of Information relating to Taxes (TIEA) was signed on 11 November 2014 in New York.

### **Trinidad & Tobago (T&T)**

India continued to enjoy close and friendly relations with Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), which go back to 1845 when the first ship carrying 225 Indian indentured labour reached shores of Trinidad. Today 43% of country's population is of Indian descent with a vibrant Indian culture. The incumbent Government is the second government led by Indian Diaspora since country's independence in 1962.

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Trinidadian Minister of Energy Mr Kevin Ramnarine met in Moscow on the sidelines of 21st World Petroleum Congress to discuss closer cooperation between India and T&T in energy sector.

Mission took initiative to set up the Diaspora Council comprising prominent individuals and organizations to facilitate interaction with Indian Diaspora on issues of mutual interest. As part of Know India Programme 17 young Diaspora members were sent to India for first hand knowledge of the country of their ancestors.

A two-member delegation from AYUSH visited T&T to discuss cooperation in the field of traditional medicine and medicinal plants, during which an MoU in the field of medicinal plants was also signed. A 3 member T&T delegation participated in the 6th World Ayurveda Congress held in New Delhi in November 2014.

Under the aegis of ICCR, two cultural troupes - a 6-member Bhojpuri Music Group led by Ms. Kalpana Patowary and a 5 member Classical Group led by Ms. Indra Naik visited T&T in May and October 2014, coinciding with the Indian Arrival Day and festivities of Divali respectively. These groups gave several performances across the country.

The Indian Mission closely collaborated with the Inter Religions Organization of Trinidad and Tobago on the International Conference "Is Ancient Wisdom and Spirituality Answers to Resolving Problems of Modern Times". Ms. Ela Gandhi, Grand Daughter of Mahatma Gandhi was the Chief Guest for this event which was attended by a galaxy of distinguished scholars from many countries.

ITEC Programme continues to be a flagship programme for development of human resources in T&T. During the year 2013-14, 25 scholars were sent to India under this programme. Recently, an expert in rice cultivation has been deputed to Ministry of Food in Trinidad and Tobago to help Trinidadian authorities revive rice cultivation.



# United Nations and International Organisations

9

## India in United Nations

### 69th Session of the UN General Assembly

The regular session of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly commenced in September 2014 in New York. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the official Indian delegation to the General Debate from 24 - 30 September 2014. This was the first visit of Prime Minister after he assumed office in May 2014. In his statement during the General Debate on 27 September 2014, Prime Minister strongly advocated reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council to reflect current political realities. He called for reforms to be completed by the 70th anniversary of the UN in 2015.

He stressed India's desire for a peaceful and stable environment for its development. "A nation's destiny is linked to its neighbourhood. That is why my Government has placed the highest priority on advancing friendship and cooperation with her neighbours", he added.

Prime Minister gave a collective call to the international community to work together for a genuine peace, to pursue a more stable and inclusive global development and to seek a more habitable and sustainable world. On the Post 2015 Development Agenda, he said that "eradication of poverty must remain the core of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and command our fullest attention".

Highlighting the facts that Terrorism is taking new shapes and names and that no country is free from its threat, Prime Minister strongly called for concerted international efforts to combat terrorism and extremism. As a symbol of this effort, he urged the world community to adopt the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. He also denounced States allowing terrorist sanctuaries on their territory or use of terrorism as instruments of their policy.

Prior to PM's address to the UNGA, he had a bilateral meeting with Mr Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General wherein they discussed a range of issues including

urgent reform of the UN Security Council, Climate Change, UN Peacekeeping and Declaration of an International Day of Yoga.

External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj visited New York for the UNGA session from 23 September to 02 October 2014. During her visit EAM participated in ministerial meetings of G-4, BRICS, IBSA, SAARC, GCC Troika, India-CELAC Quartet as well as NAM Committee on Palestine. She also interacted with the leaders of the 53-member Commonwealth and attended the meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group. She held bilateral meetings with her counterparts from UK, China, Sudan, Maldives, Kyrgyz Republic, Nigeria, Norway, Greece and Israel. The discussions during these meetings covered the entire gamut of India's bilateral and multilateral relations as well as issues of regional and global importance.

EAM became the first-ever dignitary to place a wreath in memory of the valiant UN Peacekeepers at the United Nations Memorial to UN Peacekeepers in New York on 02 October 2014. The Memorial had been set up after the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to UN Peacekeepers in 1988.

### UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon visit to India

UN Secretary General (UNSG), Mr Ban Ki-moon paid an official visit to India from 09-13 January 2015. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation. UNSG began his trip with Gujrat where he was the Guest of Honour and Keynote Speaker at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit on 11 January 2015. He also had a substantive exchange of views with Prime Minister on the sidelines of the Summit. The discussions covered issues relating to the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Climate Change and clean energy. He also visited Vadodara where he inaugurated a 10MW canal top solar power plant. During the Delhi leg of his visit, UNSG called on President of India, and Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He also had bilateral interactions with External Affairs Minister, Defence Minister



*Prime Minister meets Secretary General of United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon in UNGA*



*External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj with her Brazilian counterparts from Brazil, Germany and Japan during Group 4 meet on the on the sideline of UN General Assembly on 25 September 2014.*

and MoS (Independent Charge), Ministry of Environment and Forest. UNSG also delivered the 13th Sapru House Lecture at the Indian Council on World Affairs on “India and the United Nations in a changing world”.

## Reform of the UN Security Council

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his address at the High Level Segment of the UNGA 69th Session on 27 September 2014 underscored the urgent need for reforms of institutions of global governance, and said, “We need a genuine dialogue and engagement between countries. I say this from the conviction of the philosophical tradition that I come from. Our efforts must begin here - in the United Nations. We must reform the United Nations, including the Security Council, and make it more democratic and participative. Institutions that reflect the imperatives of 20th century won't be effective in the 21st. It would face the risk of irrelevance; and we will face the risk of continuing turbulence with no one capable of addressing it.”

He concluded by adding that “We are at a historic moment. Every age is defined by its character; and, each generation is remembered for how it rose together to meet its challenges. We have that responsibility to rise to our challenges now. Nowhere is this pronounced than in this great assembly. Next year we will be seventy. We should ask ourselves whether we should wait until we are 80 or 100. Let us fulfil our promise to reform the United Nations Security Council by 2015. Let us fulfil our pledge on a Post-2015 Development Agenda so that there is new hope and belief in us around the world. Let us make 2015 also a new watershed for a sustainable world. Let it be the beginning of a new journey together.”

Prior to PM's address, G4 Foreign Ministers from India, Brazil, Germany and Japan met in New York on 25 September 2014, on the sidelines of 69th UNGA, where substantive views were exchanged on the way forward on Security Council Reform. In the Joint Press Statement issued after the meeting, the Ministers underscored their continuous commitment to a Security Council reform reflective of the geopolitical realities of the 21st century. They agreed that the difficulties of the Security Council to effectively address current international challenges are a compelling reminder of the urgent need for Security Council reform which makes it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thereby further enhances its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions.

The Ministers voiced their concern that, 70 years after the foundation of the United Nations, 50 years after the first and

only time that the Security Council was reformed, nearly 15 years after the Millennium Summit and 10 years after the 2005 World Summit - when our leaders unanimously called for an early reform of the Security Council - discussions are still at a stalemate. They underscored that the process of bringing about reforms of the Security Council should not be seen as an endless exercise. The G4 Ministers therefore invited all their counterparts to use the 70th anniversary of the UN as an opportunity to finally achieve a concrete outcome on a process that has dragged on for over twenty years and to engage in all possible efforts to fulfill, by September 2015, the mandate given by our Heads of State and Government.

They also reaffirmed their view of the importance of developing countries, including from Africa, to be represented in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of an enlarged Security Council.

They also recognized the need for greater involvement of civil society, the media and academia on the discussions about the reform of the Security Council and recalled the seminars hosted by Brazil, India and Japan to broaden the debate on the urgency of reforming the body.

## International Day of Yoga: Initiative of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his address at the High Level Segment of the 69th UNGA called upon the membership of the United Nations to proclaim 21 June each year as the International Day of Yoga.

He said, “Yoga is an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition. Yoga embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well being. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change. Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day.”

Pursuant to the call, the Permanent Mission of India to the UN introduced a draft General Assembly Resolution for proclamation of International Day of Yoga at the United Nations under agenda item 124: “Global Health and Foreign Policy”. A record number of 167 member states (as of 27 November 2014) signed up as co-sponsors to the draft Resolution, tabled in the UN General Assembly on 11 December 2014.

## 8th International Day of Non-Violence

The United Nations observed the 8th International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October 2014 at a Special Event organized by the Permanent Mission of India at Trusteeship Council of the UN Headquarters in New York. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj presided over the event, which was attended by President of the 69th UN General Assembly Sam Kutesa and UN Deputy Secretary General Mr Jan Eliasson, in addition to the visiting Finance Minister from Bangladesh. During the event, EAM presented a life size portrait of Mahatma Gandhi spinning the charkha, to the PGA. The event was attended by delegates from various Permanent Missions including more than 80 Permanent Representatives and a large number of young children from the UN International School. A special performance was rendered by Mr Carman Moore's Choir with favorite prayer hymns of Mahatma Gandhi.

## Peacekeeping

India continued its active engagement on peacekeeping issues at the UN, delivering plenary statements and participation in debates within the Special Committee on Peacekeeping. The successful finalization of the report of Special Committee on Peacekeeping after a hiatus of one year partly owed to efforts from our side. India participated in three peacekeeping debates of the United Nations Security Council and also in the peacekeeping debate in the Fourth Committee of the 69th UNGA. India played a critical role in the UN in finalizing the long-pending review of troop reimbursement rates, which was formalized in 2014. Engagement with the UN Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations as well as participation in other plurilateral initiatives in the area of peacekeeping were other important activities undertaken in the area of peacekeeping. The demand for greater involvement of troop/police contributing countries in the decision-making process for peacekeeping mandates and their review as and when necessitated by the ground realities, was continuously raised with the UN authorities.

Overall, India has been the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, having contributed in total more than 180,000 troops in 48 out of 69 peacekeeping missions mandated by the United Nations Security Council so far. Currently, India is the third largest troop-contributor to UN peacekeeping with 7,884 military and police personnel deployed in ten UN peacekeeping missions. Indian presence in major peacekeeping operations include Democratic Republic of Congo (4,035), South Sudan (2,073), Lebanon

(885), Haiti (429), Liberia (250), and Golan Heights on Syria-Israel Border (190). The high standards of performance by the Indian troops and police personnel under challenging circumstances have won them acclaim world-wide.

A 4-member delegation led by Mr Herve Ladsous, Under Secretary General, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations visited India on 25 July 2014. The delegation met Defence Secretary, Special Secretary (IO & Pol), MEA, Chief of Army Staff, Vice Chief of Army Staff, and Deputy Chief of Army Staff (IS & T).

## Piracy

The 16th Plenary Meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) was held on 14 May 2014 in New York. An inter-ministerial delegation which represented India at the meeting raised our concerns including the High Risk Area and use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel on ships.

The 17th Plenary Meeting of the CGPCS was held on 28 October 2014 in Dubai. Shri Vinod Kumar, Additional Secretary (International Organisations), MEA led the Indian delegation for the Plenary.

At the end of October 2014, 7 Indian seafarers were released from captivity of pirates. As of now, there are no Indian hostages, but we still have continuing concerns on HRA.

## The Commonwealth

India, which is the largest member-state of the Commonwealth, with nearly 60 percent of the total population of the association, continued its engagement in the activities of the organisation. India is the fourth largest contributor to the Commonwealth budget and the fifth largest contributor of the Commonwealth fund for Technical Cooperation.

India is a member of the reconfigured Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) for the term 2013-15. CMAG, established in Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Auckland deals with serious or persistent violations of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values. It consists of Foreign Ministers from nine member states. Following the formation of an elected government in Fiji, as of now, there is no country in the formal agenda of CMAG.

The Commonwealth Secretary General, Shri Kamallesh Sharma visited New Delhi between 1-2 December 2014 for



*EAM in Commonwealth meeting*



*External Affairs Minister presiding over the Special Commemorative Event on the International Day of Non-Violence at the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations (2nd October 2014, New York)*

discussions on Commonwealth related issues. During his visit CSG called on Prime Minister, EAM and Finance Minister.

A meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) will be held in London on 12-13 March 2015, which will be attended by EAM. Discussions focus on the core political values of the Commonwealth and the need for ensuring their faithful observance by all Commonwealth States.

## Terrorism

India strongly supports all efforts, especially within the purview of the United Nations that strengthen international and regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The Global Counter Terrorism Strategy agreed by the UN member states in 2006 is a unique and universally agreed strategic framework to counter terrorism. The Fourth Biennial Review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Review Strategy (GCTS) was held during 12-13 June 2014. India actively participated in the deliberations of the GCTS and contributed in the finalization of the resolution on GCTS.

On 24 September 2014, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2178 (2014) on the growing menace of Foreign Terrorist Fighters which has affected almost every country in the world. Even though India is not a member of the UNSC at present, India was closely involved during the negotiation of this Resolution with like-minded countries.

We continued our engagement with the UNSC's Sanctions Committee's like the 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee in order to ensure that there is a strict compliance by the member states of the sanctions regime and in case of any violation concrete action is taken by the UNSC Sanctions Committee against the member states violating the sanctions regime. In addition, we also worked closely with UN Counter Terrorism bodies like the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate whose workshops we have regularly attended and with the Security Council's Al-Qaida and Taliban Monitoring Team.

## Non – Aligned Movement

As a founder member, India has played an active role in the Non-Aligned Movement as it provides a valuable forum for developing countries to articulate their views on a range of political and economic issues in a collective manner. In the post Cold-War era, NAM has undoubtedly undergone

considerable change. Nevertheless, the Movement continues to enjoy high relevance, particularly on issues where commonalities of views are possible among countries of the South. India participated actively in the mid-term NAM Ministerial Conference held in Algiers, Algeria from 26-29 May 2014. The next NAM Summit is scheduled to be held in Venezuela in 2015.

## Democracy initiatives

- (i) **Community of Democracies (CoD):** Community of Democracies is a global intergovernmental coalition of States to bring together governments, civil society and the private sector in the pursuit of a common goal: supporting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world. India has been an active member of the Community of Democracies and is also a member of its Governing Council. Meetings of the Governing Council are held on a quarterly basis. In the High Level segment meeting of CoD Governing Council on the sidelines of UNGA in New York held on 24 September 2014, India stressed the need of addressing issues related to the democratic deficit in global institutions and governance structures, including the United Nations.
- (ii) **Bali Democracy Forum:** The 7th Bali Democracy Forum (BDF VII) was held on 10-11 October 2014 in Bali, Indonesia on the theme “Evolving Regional Democratic Architecture: The Challenges of Political Development, Public Participation, and Socio-Economic Progress in the 21st Century”. India was represented at the Forum by the Ambassador of India to Indonesia. India mentioned the need for the United Nations General Assembly to play a more constructive role and act as a policy making body of the UN.
- (iii) **UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF):** The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) was initiated in 2005 as a result of a partnership between India and the United States. Presently, India is the second largest contributor to the UNDEF, having contributed a cumulative amount of USD 31.56 million till November 2014. 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 member of its apex governing body - the Advisory Board.

## ELECTIONS

India consolidated its presence in the United Nations system during this year. India was re-elected to the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the term 2015-2017. India secured highest votes (162) in the Asia-Pacific Group at the HRC elections held on 21st October 2014 in the UN General Assembly in New York.

India also got re-elected to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the term 2015-2017 by obtaining highest votes (183) in Asia-Pacific Group, at the elections held on 29 October 2014 in the UN General Assembly.

In elections of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held in April 2014, India was elected, by acclamation, to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the term 2015-2017, and re-elected to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (CNGO) for the term 2015-2018, the Commission of Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) for the term 2015-2018. Shri Chandrashekhar Dasgupta was re-elected to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) for the term 2015-2017.

India's nominee Ms. Jagjit Pavadia, Chief Commissioner of Central Excise, Nagpur was elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the term 2015-2020. India's nominee Dr. Rasik Ravindra, former Director of National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) was elected to the Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf (CLCS) during the 24th Meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in June 2014 in New York.

## ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

### 50th Anniversary Summit of the Group of 77 and China

The 50th Anniversary Summit of the Group of 77, the largest grouping of developing countries at the UN, was hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in the city of Santa Cruz on 14-15 June 2014. The Indian delegation to the Summit was led by the Indian Ambassador in Peru Shri Manpreet Vohra who also delivered India's national Statement. The Summit concluded with the adoption of a 'Santa Cruz Declaration'

that elaborated on the developmental and other priorities of developing countries as also their interests in the upcoming discussions on a Post-2015 Development Agenda.

### Second UN Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC)

The Second UN Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) was held in Vienna Austria from 03-05 November 2015. Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd.) led the Indian delegation. The Conference adopted the 'Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries 2014-2014' which prioritizes international cooperation and action to address the specific interests and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries.

### Special Session of the UNGA on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

A special session of the General Assembly on the follow up to the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 was held on 22 September 2014 at the 69th Session of the UNGA. The year 2014 is the 20th anniversary of the ICPD that was held in Cairo in September 1994, during which 179 governments adopted a landmark 20-year Programme of Action (PoA) to deliver a more equal, sustainable world. The PoA formally to expire in 2014 was extended by a General Assembly resolution in its 65th session. Highlighting its progress in the population and development fundamentals, India reiterated its firm commitment to the ICPD PoA.

### High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council

The 2014 High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held in New York from 07-09 July 2014. Ambassador Shri Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York led the Indian delegation to the High level segment of the session and addressed the Annual Ministerial Review on the theme "Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future".

## High Level Political Forum

The first meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC was held on June 30 – 09 July 2014. The discussion at the High Level Political Forum emphasized progress on all the three dimensions of sustainable development.

## Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)

The Fourth Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) was held on 10 - 11 July 2014 at the UN headquarters in New York. The meeting took place as part of the High-level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The 2014 DCF focused on “The future of development cooperation” in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Shri Kumar Tuhin, Joint Secretary (DPA-II), Ministry of External Affairs represented India in the DCF.

## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

India participated in the 70th annual Commission Session of UNESCAP in Bangkok. The Session was held in two phases due to the political situation in Thailand. The first phase was held on 23 May 2014 and the main second phase was held from 04–08 August 2014. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Ambassador of India to Thailand and Permanent Representative of India to UNESCAP, who delivered the country statement at the Ministerial Segment on the theme topic ‘Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity’.

Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Minister of Women and Child Development led the Indian delegation at the Asian and Pacific Conference on “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review” on 19-20 November 2014 in Bangkok. Smt. Maneka Gandhi called on Police General Adul Saengsingkaew, Minister for Social Development and Human Security of Thailand and met Ms. Meng Xiaosi, Vice Chairperson of National Working Committee on Children and Women, State Council of China and Mrs. Meher Afroze, Minister of State for Women and Child Development of Bangladesh on the sidelines of the Conference.

Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home Affairs led the

Indian delegation at the first Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on 27 & 28 November 2014 in Bangkok. In addition to delivering the country statement, Shri Rijiju participated in the ministerial panel on “civil registration and identification systems as smart investments”.

India participated in the inaugural session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development held in Pattaya from 19-21 May 2014. India participated in the 3rd session of UNESCAP Committee on Social Development in Bangkok from 18-20 August 2014. India participated in the fourth Sessions of both the Committee on Information and Communications Technology and the Committee on Transport held in Bangkok from 14-17 October 2014. The Embassy in collaboration with UNESCAP commemorated the International Day of Non-Violence on 02 October 2014 at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok.

On the occasion of the remembrance Ceremony on the 10th Anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami on 26 December 2014, the Government of India announced contribution of US\$ 1 million to the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness to further strengthen the process of building resilience to natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP visited New Delhi from 02-06 February 2015. During the visit, she called on EAM and had meetings in the Ministry of Commerce.

## United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

Joint secretary (DIPP), Department of Commerce, Smt. Shubhra Singh attended the first forum “Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development Strategies and Instruments” and the 30th session of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) from 23- 26 June 2014. Smt. Shubhra Singh also called on DG, UNIDO and met with other officials at the UNIDO.

On the invitation of Secretary, DIPP, Department of Commerce, Deputy to the Director General, UNIDO Mr. T. Nishikawa, attended the “Make in India” campaign on behalf of the Director General, launched by the Prime Minister at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 25 September 2014.

The Mission attended the 2nd UNIDO Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) Forum titled

“Partnerships to scale up investment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development” which was held in Vienna from 04-05 November 2014. The United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon attended the event.

The Mission participated in the 42nd session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB) meeting of the UNIDO in Vienna on 25-26 November 2014.

## UN-HABITAT

The seventh World Urban Forum (WUF7), convened by UN-HABITAT with a theme “Urban Equity in Development – Cities for Life”, was held in Medellin, Columbia from 07-11 April 2014. The meeting was attended by around 22000 delegates from more than 140 countries representing governments, UN agencies, NGOs, urban professionals, local authorities and academics. The Medellin Declaration issued during WUF7 will feed into the post-2015 development agenda process and preparations for the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016. India was represented by a 5-member delegation comprising of two officials from Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and an official each from HUDCO and BMTPC

Dr Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN Habitat visited India from 12-15 November 2014. During the visit he called on Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Urban Development, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Secretary Urban Development and Secretary (ER) and Additional Secretary (IO) in this Ministry.

## ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

### United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Minister of State (I/C) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar led the Indian delegation to the 20th Conference of Parties (COP-20) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Lima, Peru from 01-13 December 2014. The Conference also included the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP-10). The outcome document on the Ad-hoc Working Group for Enhanced Action on Durban Platform titled ‘Lima Call for Action’ is an important step forward towards finalizing a comprehensive, balanced and equitable outcome for the post 2020 period at COP 21 to be held in Paris in December 2015.

In the run-up to the Lima conference, a series of meetings and preparatory conferences were held through the year. This included inter-sessional meetings in Bonn, Germany in March, June and October. India actively participated in these meetings and played an important role in advancing discussions in several key areas. The close coordination between India, China, Brazil and South Africa as part of the BASIC Group also continued in the run-up to the Lima Conference with meetings at New Delhi (August) and Sun City, South Africa (October). India also worked closely with the group of Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs) which played a significant role in the Lima conference.

### Climate Summit 2014

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki moon hosted a Climate Summit on 23 September 2014 in United Nations Headquarters, New York. The Indian delegation to the Summit was led by Minister of State (I/C) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar. He delivered the national statement of India and also participated in the Action Session on Transport. Minister in his statement highlighted the initiatives taken by India to address climate change.

### Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda

The mandate to set up an Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly to negotiate a set of SDGs was the flagship decision of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) which was held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) concluded its work at its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting held in New York on 14-18 July 2014 and submitted its report containing a proposal for SDGs to the UN General Assembly. Spread over 169 targets, the proposal of the OWG contains a set of 17 goals. With a headline goal of ending poverty by 2030, the goal set recommended by the OWG is evenly spread and balanced across the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environment. The proposal of the OWG also contains a dedicated goal on global partnership to provide financial, technological and systemic support to developing countries while separate ‘means of implementation’ targets have been included under each of the goals as well. Indian delegation participated actively in the debates and negotiations under the OWG and made a meaningful contribution in achieving a development-oriented outcome of the process.

## **Post-2015 Development Agenda – Setting the Stage**

During the 68th session of the General Assembly, a series of high level events and thematic debates were organized by the President of the General Assembly including inter-governmental negotiations from January 2015 to set the stage for the Post-2015 Development Agenda which is expected to be adopted in September 2015. The events covered a diverse range of topics including contributions of women, the young and civil society to the post-2015 development agenda; human rights and the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda; contributions of North-South, South-South, triangular cooperation, and ICT for development to the post-2015 development agenda; the role of partnerships; ensuring stable and peaceful societies; and water, sanitation and sustainable energy in the post-2015 development agenda. India participated actively in these events and shared its views on elaborating an ambitious, comprehensive and equitable Post-2015 Development Agenda with poverty eradication as its central and overarching objective and balanced emphasis on social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

## **Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)**

As a follow up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio in 2012, an Intergovernmental Committee of 30 experts was established on Sustainable Development Financing under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly to assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives as mandated by the Rio+20 Summit. The Committee held five sessions since August 2013 and completed its work on 08 August 2014. The Committee finalized its report containing recommendations on a basket of policy options for designing an effective financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving post-2015 objectives. Ms. Rajasree Ray, Additional Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance was the nominated Indian expert in this Committee.

## **Minamata Convention on Mercury**

The Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Kumamoto, Japan on 10 October 2013. Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Ambassador Shri Asoke Kumar Mukerji signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury on behalf of India at the United Nations Headquarters on 30 September 2014.

## **United Nations Environment Programme**

The inaugural session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the UNEP was held in Nairobi from 23-27 June 2014. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Information & Broadcasting and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Prakash Javadekar, led the Indian delegation at the High Level segment. The High Level segment themed “A Life of Dignity for All” addressed two issues, viz. i) sustainable development goals including sustainable consumption and production and ii) illegal trade in wildlife. The UNEA was attended by over 1200 participants including Environment Ministers, heads of international organizations, representatives of governments, civil society and business leaders. President Mr Kenyatta, UNSG Mr Ban Ki-moon and President of the 68th UNGA Mr John Ashe also addressed the Assembly. A ministerial outcome document and 18 decisions and resolutions on various environmental issues were adopted by the Assembly.

Intergovernmental negotiations began in January 2015 for the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) to be held in Addis Ababa on 13-16 July 2015.

As a State Party to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, India participated in the 48th meeting of Ramsar Convention Standing Committee which took place at the Ramsar Secretariat Headquarters, Gland, Switzerland from 26 to 30 January 2015.

## **SOCIAL AND HUMAN ISSUES**

### **UN-Human Rights Council (HRC)**

India was re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the term 2015-2017 by securing the highest number of votes in the Asia Pacific Group. India, as a member of the Human Rights Council (HRC), took part in the

proceedings of the three regular sessions held in 2014 and the three special sessions on Central African Republic, Iraq and Palestine. India played a significant role as Vice President representing the Asia-Pacific Group in the Bureau of the HRC. India also participated constructively in shaping some of the resolutions that were adopted by HRC during the year. The Human Rights Council, besides its attention to various thematic issues, focused on country-specific situations by adopting country-specific resolutions on Syria, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK), Myanmar, Iran and Sri Lanka and Palestine. The HRC adopted a Presidential Statement on "The Human Rights of Migrants at Sea" initiated by India.

India also participated constructively in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the HRC by making statements on 22 national reports out of a total of 42 countries' reports that were considered. India also served as a member of the Troika for the UPR of Qatar.

Four eminent Indians continued to serve with distinction as members of important Treaty Bodies and human rights mechanisms, including Ambassador Dilip Lahiri (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination), Ambassador 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).

### **India's Reports to the Committees on the Rights of the Child (CRC) & Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

The Indian delegation led by Secretary (Women and Child Development) Shri Shankar Aggarwal presented its Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the Initial Reports on two Optional Protocols to the CRC on 02-03 June 2014. Secretary (Women and Child Development) Shri Shankar Aggarwal also led the Indian delegation to the presentation of India's Combined 4th and 5th report to the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 02 July 2014. These dialogues of Indian delegation with the two Treaty bodies saw a comprehensive presentation of various legislative instruments, programmes and policies put in place to create an enabling environment for

the full realization of the rights of every child to survival, development, protection and participation as well as elimination of all forms of discrimination against the women, respectively.

The two Treaty Bodies i.e. CRC and CEDAW commended India's commitment to realization of children's rights and also to end discrimination against women respectively, despite its enormous size, and for putting in place a number of legislations as well as initiatives through policies and programmes for implementation of the relevant Conventions. The Committees also made recommendations on full implementation of the provisions of the Conventions.

### **India and UN Women**

Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-NGCuka called upon the External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj during her visit to New York (October 2014) for the UNGA to discuss matters pertaining to gender equality and empowerment of women, the drafting of the post-2015 Development Agenda, and related issues. During the meeting, External Affairs Minister handed over the fifth instalment of India's contribution to the UN Women, amounting to USD \$ 1 million in keeping with the commitment and support of India to UN Women and its cause.

The Executive Director of UN Women also visited India from 07-11 November 2014. During her visit she called on President of India, Speaker Lok Sabha, External Affairs Minister and Chairperson, UPA. She was the keynote speaker at the 2nd Global Symposium on Engaging with Men and Masculinities for Development, Gender Equality and Social Justice in a Globalizing World, organized by MenEngage (an alliance of 400 NGOs across the world).

India participated in the 1st regular Session of the UN Women Executive Board to be held from 09 – 10th February 2014. India is a member of the Board for the period for three years for the period 2013-16.

India is an elected member of the Commission of Status of Women for the period 2014-2018. The 59th Session of the Commission on Status of Women was held from 09-20 March 2015. The main focus of the 59th Session of the CSW was the review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

## **United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)**

India was elected to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for a four-year term from 2014-2018 at elections held at UNESCO in Paris on 04 June 2014, with the highest number of votes (135/142) among the ten countries which contested the elections. India was nominated as Vice-Chair to the committee for the year 2014-15. In June 2014, India was also elected unanimously as Chair of the UNESCO Commonwealth Group.

Presently, India is on the following 9 Committees/bodies of UNESCO : Executive Board; World Heritage Committee; International Bioethics Committee (IBC); Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC); Council of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) (Geneva, Switzerland); EFA Steering Committee; Intergovernmental Committee for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Chair of the UNESCO Commonwealth Group.

UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, paid an official visit to India from 23 to 26 November 2014 to attend the Conference entitled "From Exclusion to Empowerment: role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Persons with Disabilities", organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Indian Government as well as international, national and regional partners.

India handed over the E-9 Chair to Pakistan at the 10th Ministerial Review Meeting in November 2014. The E-9 Initiative is a forum established in 1993 at the EFA Summit in New Delhi for the nine highly-populated developing countries of Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan.

India engaged in the ongoing consultations at UNESCO to shape the Post-2015 Development Agenda in the areas of UNESCO's mandate viz., education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information.

As a member of the World Heritage Committee, India participated in the 38th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Doha (Qatar) from 15-25 June 2014. During the Meeting, India's two sites 'Rani-ki-Vav' and 'The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area' were inscribed on the World Heritage List. With these inscriptions, India has a tally of 32 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and ranks fifth overall in terms of number of sites inscribed.

Another important milestone during the Meeting of the World Heritage Committee was India's nomination as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the years 2014-15. India also launched its ambitious 'Mausam: Maritime Routes and Cultural Landscapes' Project during the Doha Meeting of the World Heritage Committee.

India participated in the 9th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Paris from 24-28 November 2014. India's nomination 'Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India' was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. India now has 11 elements inscribed on this List and ranks eighth overall in terms of number of elements inscribed on this List.

India participated as Observer in the 21st session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 18 to 20 June 2014. During the session India supported the revised proposal for the launching of World's Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI).

India also participated at the 47th Executive Council of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) that took place on 01-04 July 2014 at UNESCO, Paris. India contributed to the debates which included the consultation process for the establishment of a short list of applicants for the appointment of the Executive Secretary (ES) and IOC participation in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition 50th Anniversary Initiative (IIOE-2).

## **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

India participated in the 65th Session of the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held in Geneva from 29-30 September 2014. India engaged in the deliberations of the UNHCR during the year and advocated appropriate action to address refugee problems and work towards durable solutions to refugee problems, while adhering to its core mandate. India supported UNHCR's efforts in capacity building of refugee response and management in the host countries including skill development so that refugees attain means of livelihood on their own. UN High Commissioner for Refugees appreciated India's policies and approach of handling refugees..

## **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

India played a constructive role during the deliberations of 105th Session of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council held in Geneva from 25-28 November 2014, and also at the meeting of its Standing Committee on Programme and Finance (SCPF). India urged IOM to work closely with major destination countries to adopt humanitarian border management practices including protection of migrants at sea and for creating awareness among potential migrants to follow legally prescribed procedures to establish win-win situation for all stakeholders and establish humane and orderly pattern of international migration.

India also advocated for use of social media in innovative, efficient and cost effective manner to create a meaningful platform for exchange of views and ideas among all stakeholders including migrants and their families.

India continued to oppose moves from state/non-state players to co-relate remittances with Overseas Developmental Assistance (ODA). India strongly emphasized the need to treat remittances as personal earning of individuals and for their sole right to use it as per their judgment.

## **United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)**

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) organised PrepCom-1 on 14-15 July and PrepCom-2 on 17-18 November 2014 of the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to negotiate Zero Draft of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). India constructively engaged in the meeting to advocate the concerns of the developing countries, particularly LDCs, and stressed upon the need for international assistance to ensure predictable and adequate resources to develop disaster preparedness capacities in forecasting, early warning system and disaster risk reduction. India argued in favour of non-prescriptive international framework to monitor disasters and advocated policy space for national governments to take necessary measures for protection of its citizens and resources from disasters.

UNISDR appreciated India's efforts in managing disasters this year, particularly by minimising impact of cyclone Hudhud and Phailin on human casualties through accurate forecasting, effective early warning, timely evacuation and well-coordinated post-disaster measures.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju led the Indian delegation to the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok from 22-26 June 2014. Shri Kiren Rijiju co-chaired the High Level Round Table at the Conference. While delivering the country statement, Shri Rijiju highlighted the pre-emptive steps taken by the Government of India in evacuating more than one million people before the Cyclone 'Phailin' hit the eastern coast of India in October 2013.

## **Global Forum for Migration and Development**

India participated in the seventh annual meeting of Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), which is a global platform for enhancing dialogue among Countries of Origin, Transit and Destination on international migration and development, held in Stockholm from 14-16 May 2014. Indian delegation was led by Permanent Representative to the UN based in Geneva, and also included a representative from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. India, as a major Country of origin and destination for migrants, also took active part in GFMD's Steering Group, Assessment Team on the Future of the Forum and Friends of the Forum meetings held in Geneva. India promoted and supported deliberations on orderly, humane, transparent and cost efficient means of migration along with efforts to reduce cost of remittances.

## **United Nations Commission on Science, Technology for Development (UN-CSTD)**

India has been re-elected as a member of the UN Commission on Science, Technology for Development (CSTD) for a four-year term starting from 2015. Indian delegation participated in its 17th session held in Geneva from 12-16 May 2014. India continued its active engagement as a member of the UNCSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC) at its fourth and final meeting from 30 April to 02 May 2014. Due to persistent divergence of views among the members of the WGEC, it could not make any recommendation to the 17th session of CSTD, as it was mandated by the UN General Assembly 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 made substantive contributions during the Inter-sessional Panel of CSTD held from 26-28 November 2014 in

Geneva. The session discussed a draft report on 'CSTD's Ten-Year review of implementation of WSIS outcomes', and the report on 'Mapping exercise of international internet public policy issues' prepared by the CSTD Secretariat, which would be further discussed at the 18th Annual Session of CSTD in May 2015.

## **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

Executive Director General of UNODC Mr. Yuri Fedotov visited India from 02-04 December 2014 at the invitation of Revenue Secretary. During the visit, he engaged in dialogue with the relevant authorities to review key UNODC achievements and future plans in India as well as in the region. He invited the Government of India to consider taking greater leadership role in drug control and fighting transnational organized crime. He called on Finance Minister, Revenue Secretary, Special Secretary Home and Additional Secretary (International Organisations) in MEA.

The United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) Preparation segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) took place in Vienna on 03 December 2014. The Joint reconvened sessions of the 57th CND and the 23rd CCPCJ was held on 04-05 December 2014.

The 58th session of the CND is scheduled to take place in Vienna from 09 -17 March 2015.

Several senior officials from the relevant Ministries have, in the course of the year, attended various meetings of UNODC covering different aspects of crime control.

## **World Health Organization (WHO)**

India participated in the 67th World Health Assembly (WHA) which took place in Geneva from 19 to 24 May 2014. India's effort in eradication of polio was applauded by the WHO and the international community. India stressed the need for appropriate international policy space to facilitate equitable access to affordable, quality, safe medicines, vaccines and advanced medical technologies for combating various diseases and mentioned that the full use of flexibilities available under the WTO TRIPS Agreement, including the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and the WTO decision of 30 August 2003 would assist developing countries in better serving their public health needs.

During WHA's discussions on the link between climate and health, India spoke of the importance of addressing climate

change. India also participated at various discussions that took place at the Assembly, including WHO's engagements with the Framework of engagement with non-State actors, combating antimicrobial resistance, including antibiotic resistance.

India participated in the first meeting of the Global Health Security Agenda Steering Group held on 24 January 2015. The 136th Session of the Executive Board of WHO (24 January to 03 February 2015) deliberated inter alia, on a proposal of the World Health Assembly to develop a global action plan on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), air pollution and health, role of Non-State Actors in WHO, progress on discussions on Substandard, Spurious, Falsely-labeled, Falsified, Counterfeit (SSFFC) medical products as well as financing matters relating to WHO. India also participated in a Special Session on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) on 25 January 2015 at which international response to Ebola outbreak was assessed.

## **International Labour Organization (ILO)**

India participated in the 103rd Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), which took place in Geneva from 28 May to 12 June 2014. During the ILC, India's progressive schemes oriented towards the socio-economic upliftment of the poor and the marginalized workers were acknowledged. In this regard, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), Rashtriya Swashta Bima Yojana (RSBY), etc. were recognized within the ILO constituents as important social protection measures for workers. India remained engaged in the ongoing reform process in the ILO regarding its governance mechanism, including the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference.

During the ILC, India supported the adoption of a Protocol and Recommendation on supplementing the Forced Labour Convention 1930 (No. 29) to address the implementation gaps to advance prevention, protection and compensation measures, to effectively achieve the elimination of forced labour. India reiterated its commitment for securing inclusive growth, leading to sustainable development. India urged that labour mobility be recognised as a factor of sustainable growth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Indian delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment participated in the 322th Session of the ILO Governing Body held in Geneva from 03-13 November 2014. India stated that the tripartite consultation at the forum of ILC

is the best way to resolve the issues of the Committee on the Application of Standards. 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.

India participated in a meeting of Experts held on 04-06 February 2015 to discuss ILO Convention No. 185 concerning Seafarers Identity Documents, meeting of Labour Experts on Non-Standard Forms of Employment at ILO Headquarters in Geneva from 16-19 February and the Tripartite Meeting of Government Group, Employers Group and the Workers Group from 23-25 February 2015.

### **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

The 34th Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) meeting of UNAIDS was held from 01-03 July 2014 in Geneva. A wide range of discussions took place on various agenda items, including update on AIDS response post-2015 development agenda, Follow up to Thematic Segment: HIV, adolescents and youth. India's continued lead role in promoting access to low-cost, high-quality medicines that are extending life and hope to millions of people living with HIV around the world, was acknowledged during the PCB.

The 35th Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) meeting of UNAIDS was held from 09-11 December 2014. India's role as a global leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS as well as for promoting access to low-cost, high-quality medicines that are extending life and hope to millions of people living with HIV around the world, was acknowledged during the meeting. The PCB meeting dwelt on agenda items, including update on AIDS response post-2015 development agenda and strategic use of anti-retroviral medicine for treatment/prevention of HIV.

### **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

India was re-elected to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14) held in Busan (South Korea) from 20 October to 07 November 2014. A high level delegation led by the Minister for Communications and Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, including Secretary (Telecom), attended the Conference. The Indian delegation actively engaged in various Panel discussions and Committee

sessions during PP-14. During the PP-14 elections to the top management positions of the ITU, including the Secretary-General, and the ITU Council were held.

India engaged in the preparatory process of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event held in Geneva from 10-13 June 2014 by the ITU. The WSIS+10 High-Level Event reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes under the mandates of participating UN agencies, and took stock of achievements in the last 10 years. India supported the full implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and highlighted the achievements made by India in last ten years on the different Action Lines agreed in 2003 Geneva Conference of WSIS and its targets for the future..

### **International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)**

Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General of India Smt. Suman Saxena and Director, CAG office Shri Rajdeep Singh attended the 66th meeting of the INTOSAI Governing Board and the first personal meeting of the INTOSAI Task Force on Strategic planning from 05-07 November 2014 at Vienna.

### **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**

Speaker of the Lok Sabha Smt. Sumitra Mahajan led the Indian Parliamentary delegation, which included Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Professor P.J. Kurien, five Members of Parliament, and Secretaries General of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, which participated in the 131st IPU Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) from 10-16 October 2014 in Geneva. The Indian Parliamentary delegation actively participated in the IPU Assembly's four segments, i.e. panel discussions, sessions of IPU Committee on various themes, emergency item and pre- and post-Assembly sessions.

Speaker of the Lok Sabha also attended the 9th Annual Meeting of Women Speakers' of Parliament organized by the IPU from 04-05 September 2014 in Geneva. Speaker participated in the sessions of the two-day meeting and also made a key note statement.

### **International Humanitarian Law**

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council, a Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention was organized by Switzerland, in its capacity as the depositor of the Geneva Conventions, on 17

December 2014. India participated in the Conference as a High Contracting Party to the Geneva Conventions. The Conference adopted a Declaration by consensus, which reiterated the need to fully respect the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

### **Constitutional Meeting of the Montreux Document Forum**

India participated in the opening session of the 'Constitutional Meeting' of the Montreux Document Forum held in Geneva on 16 December 2014. Switzerland initiated 'Montreux Document' seeks to regulate the conduct of Private Military and Security Companies by reiterating the applicability of the existing established principles of general international law and there is no legal gap under international law to address the obligations of the States in engaging PMSCs. India also participated in the Montreux + 5 Conference and contributed in the discussions on the issue of jurisdictional gaps existing in the Document in regulating the conduct of the Private Security Companies.

### **India's assistance to mitigate Ebola outbreak**

India contributed substantially to the international efforts to meet the challenge arising from the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease. India fully supported the initiatives of the UN Secretary General and the establishment of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. India contributed US\$ 10 million to the UN Secretary General's Multi-Partner Trust Fund on Ebola. The United Nations System Response to the Ebola Outbreak was launched by the Secretary General in September 2014 to unite efforts of all concerned UN entities and act as a platform for global control of Ebola Outbreak. In addition, India made a financial contribution of US\$ 0.5 million to the World Health Organisation to assist it in its efforts to prevent the spread of Ebola. On a bilateral basis, in August 2014 India provided immediate financial assistance worth US\$ 150,000 for purchase of medical supplies to three of the affected countries including Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Republic of Guinea.

India participated in the Special Meeting of the Economic and Social Council on "Ebola- A threat to sustainable development" on 05 December 2014.

The UN General Assembly on 29th December 2014 adopted a resolution among others acknowledging the significance of Diwali and Gurpurab at the instance of India. In addition the

resolution also called on the UN bodies at headquarters and other stations where these days are observed to avoid holding official meetings on these days every year.

### **Legal and Treaties Division United Nations And International Law Terrorism:**

Terrorism and issues related thereto remained subject of discussions at the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-terrorism Strategy conducted in May-June 2014, and in the Sixth Committee under the agenda item Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism in October 2014. The review of Strategy resulted in the adoption of an outcome document by the United Nations General Assembly as resolution 68/276 on 13 June 2014. The Sixth Committee adopted draft resolution on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism for consideration by the General Assembly for adoption towards the end of December 2014. India participated actively in both the review of Strategy and at the Sixth Committee.

At both the forums, terrorism was strongly condemned indicating that terrorist acts committed wherever, by or against whomever, for whatever purposes, causes or considerations cannot be justified. The outcome documents deny safe haven to terrorists and provides for extraditing or prosecuting the terrorists including those who support, facilitate, participate or attempt to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts.

The international community, through the outcome documents of the two forums, has expressed grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, namely, individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in terrorist acts or providing or receiving terrorist training.

In addition to the practical measures, the importance has been recognized of further strengthening the legal regime to deal with the perpetrators of terrorist acts. The States are called upon to make every effort to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In this regard, the Sixth Committee took into account the recommendation of its Working Group and has further recommended to the General Assembly that as more time was required to achieve substantive progress on the outstanding issues on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, the Working Group of Sixth Committee should be established at

the seventieth session of the General Assembly to finalizing the process on the draft convention. The Sixth Committee also has encouraged all Member States to redouble their efforts during the inter-sessional period.

## Oceans and the Law of the Sea:

Issues relating to oceans and the law of the sea are discussed at various forums including at the meeting of States parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982; Informal Consultative Process; Working Group on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction; regular process for assessment of marine environment; Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf; and meetings of International Seabed Authority.

During the 24th meeting of States Parties to the Convention (9-13 June 2014), India's candidate Dr Rasik Ravindra got elected as Member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to fill the vacancy arisen out of the resignation of India's previous member Dr Rajan to serve his remainder until June 2017.

The Informal Consultative Process held its fifteenth meeting from 27-30 May 2014 and, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/70 and focused discussions on the topic entitled "The role of seafood in global food security". Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction had meetings from 1-4 April and 16-19 June 2014. This Division had actively participated and contributed on various legal aspects which came up during the meetings.

At the 20th annual session of the International Seabed Authority, held in Kingston, Jamaica in July 2014, India's Application for Plan of Work for Exploration of Polymetallic Sulphides in the Central Indian Ocean was approved. It involved hectic negotiations with Germany, whose Plan of Work overlapped with the areas proposed by India. Finally, having been convinced by legal arguments by India, Germany had to amend its Plan of Work by excluding the overlapping areas.

## Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization held its fifty-third annual session in Tehran, Iran from 15-18

September 2014. India was represented by a delegation composed of Dr Neeru Chadha, AS(L&T)-Leader; and Dr V.D. Sharma, Director (L&T)-Member.

Mr Danesh Yazdi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran and Ms. Agimba Christine Anyango, Deputy Solicitor of Kenya, were elected President and Vice President respectively for the fifty-third session, who on the invitation of Dr Neeru Chadha, the outgoing President assumed their positions.

The subjects deliberated upon during the session included: law of the sea; status and treatment of refugees; deportation of Palestinians and other practices of Israel including the settlement of Jews in the Palestine territory; extra-territorial application of national legislations, including the imposition of unilateral sanctions.

Discussion was held on certain items on the agenda of the International Law Commission including Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction; Protection of Persons in the event of Disasters and; Protection of Atmosphere and; Identification of Customary International Law.

The Indian statements/interventions covered a wide range of issues concerning these subjects. Additionally organizational issues of AALCO with specific reference to the diminishing number of Legal Officers in the Organization were flagged.

China proposed the inclusion of a new item "International Law in Cyberspace". The Indian delegation supported it, in view of a gap of international rules and regulations on the use of cyberspace and security, and suggested for the Secretariat to conduct a study on this subject based upon which discussion could commence in the next AALCO session. Iran requested for discussions on a new topic "violent extremism & terrorism", with the suggestion that AALCO formulate principles on combating violent extremism & terrorism leading to the conclusion of an AALCO treaty on this subject. The Indian delegation however pointed out that terrorism and issues related thereto are highly sensitive and complicated, particularly given the different view point of different member States on these issues. There are a number of existing international instruments to deal with different aspects of terrorism and the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism is pending consideration of the UN General Assembly. In such a situation, it may not be possible for AALCO member States to come to a common position so easily and to conclude a binding treaty on terrorism within AALCO.

It was therefore suggested to request the Secretariat to hold inter-sessional meetings and seminars to understand the issues related to violent extremism and terrorism that may lead to certain AALCO guidelines on this subject in future. Five States namely Comoros, Mali, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Vietnam; and four international organizations namely the UN, UNODC, UNHCR and ICRC were admitted as observers to AALCO at its 53rd Session.

### **Special Committee on the UN Charter**

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations meets annually in New York. Its reports are considered in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly. The last meeting of the Special Committee was held in February 2014, in which the important proposals considered related to the question of the maintenance of international peace and security; the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter and; issues concerning relationship between organs of the United Nations.

The Indian delegation maintained that maintenance of the international peace and security is paramount. The Security Council has the primary responsibility to maintain the peace and security in the discharge of its duties on behalf of all UN member States. The sanctions could be important tool in the maintenance of peace and security only when issued and applied as a last resort, having exhausted all other options, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. Further, support was expressed for efforts to examine and strengthen the relationship between organs of the United Nations, in particular, the General Assembly and the Security Council. In this regard, attention was drawn to the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at the High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels held on 24 September 2012, which stresses the importance of the continuing efforts to reform the Security Council.

During the main part of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, the L&T Division prepared briefs on issues under consideration of the Special Committee for use by the Indian delegation in the Sixth Committee discussions. The Sixth Committee has recommended to the General Assembly that the Special Committee continue to consider the subjects/issues on its agenda in its next meeting, which will be held from 17-25 February 2015.

### **United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)**

The Indian delegation 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 47th Annual Session was held in New York from 7- 18 July 2014. At this session the Commission finalized and recommended to the UNGA the draft convention on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration. The 30th Session of the Working Group on Online Dispute Resolution was held in Vienna from 20- 24 October 2014. The Working Group considered Track I of the draft Rules for resolution of online dispute, and also took into consideration the importance of different outcomes and enforcement mechanisms particularly for developing countries and those facing post-conflict situations including arbitration, and issues of consumer protection. Progress was made on the draft text of this Track of the Rules, also on the basis of proposals submitted during the session. 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)**

This Division participated in the 3rd Session of the Preparatory Committee Meeting for the establishment of the International Registry for Space Assets that took place on 11-12 September 2014 at the seat of UNIDROIT in Rome. The International Registry was set up in accordance with Resolution 1 of Diplomatic Conference which adopted the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets. During the Meeting, the draft Regulations for the Establishment of International Registry for Space Assets as well as the issue of the request for proposals for the selection of a Registrar were considered.

### **Hague Conference on Private International Law (Hcch)**

This Division has participated in the Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference held in 'The Hague on

8-10 April 2014. Council among other things welcomed the completion of work by the Working Group and the consequent text of the Hague Principles and the draft commentary on the Choice of Law in International Contracts which would be finalized and submitted to Members for approval. The Council appreciated the work carried out by the Permanent Bureau on the issues surrounding the status of children, including issues arising from international surrogacy arrangements and agreed that work should continue to further explore the feasibility of drawing up a multilateral instrument in this area.

Malta Process: The working Party on Mediation has developed the Principles for the establishment of mediation structures in the context of Malta Process and calls among others for the establishment of a Central Contact Point for international family mediation in each state. The Council appreciated the importance of 'judgments project' including a suggested plan for further steps to be taken towards the development of Convention in this field.

Technical Assistance Working Group Meeting was attended by this Division at Permanent Bureau, The Hague on 30-31 October 2014. The meeting was held to finalize its work on the draft Strategic Framework for Post-Convention Assistance for the benefit of Member States and Contracting States to Hague Conventions (or those considering membership and /or ratification of or accession to Hague Conventions), their government officials, judiciary and practitioners. After having Working Group's final endorsement on the revised draft of the Strategic Framework, the Permanent Bureau shall put up the draft for final approval of Council of General Affairs and Policy to be held in 2015.

### **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**

This Division has attended the Open Ended Working Group Meeting on the Financial Committee Election Procedure held at Peace Palace on 9 October 2014. The mandate of the Working Group was to determine how in practice the rotational system for regional groups would work to ensure equitable geographic representation in the Financial Committee. Two rounds of discussion took place and a mutually acceptable outcome of the debate could not be reached. Since the Financial Committee members had been recently elected and the next election will take place in 2016, the meeting was postponed to January 2015.

Budget Committee Meeting of Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) takes place twice a year and recently it was

held on 5 November 2014 and was attended by this Division. Chairman of the Budget Committee presented the budget performance report for the first and second quarter of the year 2014. It was highlighted that at the end of the first quarter, both income and expenses were below budget. Expenses were maintained at a level lower than income. The budget for 2015 was proposed on the basis that it allows PCA to deal with the foreseen increased demand for services and at the same time minimize the chances for the Bureau to revert to the Administrative Council for additional meetings for approval of revised/supplementary budget in the course of the year. Contributions to Reserve Fund, Educational Assistance Fund, Conference Fund and Printing and Translation Fund were proposed to be funded by variable income from registry services and at no cost to Member States.

### **Antarctica**

This Division participated in the XXXVII Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Committee (ATCM) held at Brasilia, Brazil from 28 April to 7 May 2014. The meeting was attended by 30 Consultative Parties, including India, and 12 other non-consultative Contracting Parties and other observer organizations. The work of the ATCM was conducted by different Groups, namely, (a) Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) of Antarctica, (b) Working Group on Legal and Institutional matters, (c) Working Group on Tourism and Non-Governmental Operations and (d) Working Group on Operational Matters. The Legal and Institutional Working Group vetted the outcome resolutions adopted by the CEP and the other Working Groups before their adoption by the ATCM Plenary. Besides, the Legal and Institutional Working Group discussed three main issues namely, (a) operation of Antarctic system; (b) liability: Implementation of ATCM Decision 4 (2010) and (c) International Maritime Organization's Polar Code.

### **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. This 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. 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.

The Arbitral Tribunal rendered its Award on 7 July 2014 at The Hague. Through this Award, maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh in the territorial sea, Exclusive Economic Zone, Continental Shelf and Continental shelf beyond 200 NM is concluded. Arbitral Award is legally binding and final on the Parties.

## Free Trade Agreements

MEA Division participated in negotiations with the Europe Free Trade Association and Canada.

## Bilateral Investment Agreements

This Division was involved in the initiation of bilateral negotiations on investments promotion and protection agreements (BIPA) with UAE.

## Extradition and other International Judicial Assistance

This 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. This Division examined

counter drafts of Extradition Treaties with Lebanon and Malawi are being negotiated. This Division also examined extradition requests and other requests for international cooperation received from the domestic as well as foreign jurisdictions and rendered legal advice thereon. This Division participated in the negotiations for conclusion of Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons between India and Australia. Cases pertaining to inter-country adoption pending before the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development were decided on the basis of our legal inputs.

Arrangement on Gainful Occupation/Employment of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts was finalized with Germany, Iceland, Chile, Switzerland, South Africa and Slovenia.

## Social Security

This Division examined the counter draft of the Social Security Agreement with Spain and with Japan was finalized.

## Vetting

This Division has examined a number of defence co-operation agreements and also agreements on international co-operation on Health, bio-technology, 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 2014 is at **Appendix II** and the list of Instruments of Ratification processed during the year 2014 is at **Appendix III**. ■ ■

# Disarmament and International Security Affairs

10

During the year, India continued to play an active role in various multilateral forums on disarmament and international security affairs in pursuance of its commitment to the goal of universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament as well as general and complete disarmament. India's stand on disarmament issues was guided by India's national security interests and its tradition of close engagement with the international community to promote cooperative efforts in dealing with these challenges.

India participated actively in the meetings of the UN First Committee, UN Disarmament Commission, Conference on Disarmament, Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA on SALW)

## United Nations General Assembly

India highlighted its commitment to the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament at the 2014 UN General Assembly.

As a Member of the Non-Aligned Movement, India supported the Group's resolution "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament" at the 2014 First Committee. The resolution inter alia called for urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a Nuclear Weapons Convention, welcomed the commemoration and promotion of September 26 as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and recalled its decision 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 2014 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 2014 by 90 countries, which was thirteen more than 2013. The resolution called upon UN Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and to support international efforts in this regard. The strong support for the resolution highlighted the continued unanimity in the international community on this issue.

India's resolution on "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 has acquired even more pertinence in the context of the current discussions in the international community on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The resolution reflected the belief that a multilateral, universal and legally binding instrument prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons would create a favourable climate for negotiations on an agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in the Conference on Disarmament. The resolution was adopted by a majority vote by the First Committee, and was co-sponsored by 40 countries as against 34 in 2013. 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, and witnessed an increase in the number of co-sponsors from 27 in 2013 to 33. 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”.

### **UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC)**

The UN Disarmament Commission held its substantive session for 2014 from 07-25 April 2014. 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 achieve consensus recommendations in 2014. India stressed the high importance attached by it to the work of the UNDC as the specialized deliberative leg of the UN Disarmament machinery in taking forward multilateral disarmament agenda, especially underlining the universal nature of UNDC.

### **Conference on Disarmament (CD)**

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). India also actively participated in the structured informal debate in the CD on its agenda items. India reaffirmed the value attached by India to the Conference as the world community’s single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. It highlighted that nuclear disarmament continues to be the highest priority for the international community. India also conveyed its support for negotiations in the Conference of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable 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 India does not favour reopening that mandate. India also expressed its conviction that the Conference has the membership, the credibility and the Rules of Procedure to discharge its mandate.

### **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)**

At the annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the CCW held on 13-14 November 2014 in Geneva, India outlined its support to the CCW as an important instrument

of international humanitarian law within the UN framework that brings together all the main users and producers of certain conventional weapons. India supported continued discussion on issues relating to lethal autonomous weapons systems in the CCW in 2015, on the basis of the mandate agreed in the Meeting of High Contracting Parties in 2013. At the 16th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol-II(AP-II) held on 12 November 2014, 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 8th Annual Conference of Protocol V held on 10-11 November 2014, 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 2014. India attended the Third Review Conference of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention (Ottawa Convention) held in Maputo from 23-27 June 2014 as an Observer.

### **Biological Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)**

India made substantial contributions to BTWC’s annual Meeting of Experts held from 4-8 August 2014 and Meeting of States Parties held from 01-05 December 2014. At the 2014 Meeting 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. At the December 2014 Meeting of State Parties, India submitted a ‘Report on Implementation of Article-X of the Convention’. 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 (Assistance and Cooperation under Article VII) as decided by the 7th Review Conference.

### **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**

India was re-elected as member of the Executive Council (EC) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for the period 2015-17. It’s one year term as Vice-chair in the Bureau of Executive Council representing the

Asian Group came to an end in May 2014. As in previous years, India continued to play an active role by engaging with States Parties during the regular sessions (08-11 July 2014) and (07-10 October 2014) of the Executive Council, numerous special meetings of the Executive Council and the Conference of States Parties (CSP) on issues related to chemical weapons destruction, industry inspection, national implementation and international cooperation and assistance.

India was also involved actively in grouping like the Asian Group and the NAM Group in the context of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and also made its contribution in various subsidiary bodies of the Organisation, including the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and the Advisory body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF). India continued to associate itself with activities of the OPCW and hosted the “Twelfth Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Asia” in July 2014 and the “Regional Basic Course on Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons” in August 2014 in New Delhi.

### **Small Arms and Light Weapons**

The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPOA) adopted in July 2001 provides for a comprehensive set of national, regional and global measures to achieve its goal. India participated in Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) held in New York from 16-20 June 2014, which adopted a substantive document for implementation of UNPOA and the International Tracing Instrument.

### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

India ratified a ‘Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the Government of India and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities’. The Protocol entered into force on 25 July 2014. Two reactors at Narora-NAP 1 & 2 were voluntarily placed under IAEA Safeguards in December 2014 as per India’s Safeguards Agreement. This completes the implementation of India’s Separation Plan of 2006.

### **Civil Nuclear cooperation**

The Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Australia on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses

of Nuclear Energy was signed on 05 September 2014. The scope of cooperation inter alia covers supply of uranium, production and application of radio isotopes for civilian uses in non-energy fields like agriculture/medicine, nuclear safety and any other areas of cooperation as may be mutually determined.

The 2nd meeting of Joint Committee on India – Canada Nuclear Cooperation Agreement was held in Ottawa on 25 November 2014. The meeting discussed national operations relevant to the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and status of bilateral R&D and industry collaboration, among others. A Contact Groups on advancing the implementation of civil nuclear cooperation with the US was set up during Prime Minister’s visit to Washington DC on 30 September 2014.

### **Nuclear Security**

India participated in the first meeting of Sherpas at Washington D.C during 27-28 October 2014 in the run up to the Nuclear Security Summit in 2016. At the meeting, India emphasized the need for a succinct and persuasive document to emerge from the preparatory process which would be adopted by the leaders to highlight the achievements of the NSS process and to look ahead at the work to be accomplished in the field of nuclear security.

An India-Canada Joint Workshop on nuclear security ‘Towards Universal Adherence of International Legal Instruments for Nuclear Security’ took place in New Delhi during 16-17 October 2014. The workshop was attended by a broad spectrum of experts from IAEA, India, Canada and participants from 15 countries of Asia/Central Asia.

### **Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a 26-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 held in Yangzhou, China during 04-06 November 2014. India underlined its support to the implementation and further consolidation of confidence building measures (CBMs) in the existing agreed areas based on consensus and a step-by-step approach rooted in Asian realities.

## **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and Related Fora**

Our increasing engagement in the Asia-Pacific region, both in the politico-security and economic spheres underlines our participation in the ARF. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation at the 21st ARF Ministerial Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 August 2014. There was consensus for advancing the process from the confidence building stage to the preventive diplomacy stage including coordination and complementarity between various ASEAN led regional security mechanisms. On the issue of an Asia-Pacific security architecture which is gaining considerable importance during discussions in various political and security related fora of the region, we articulated our support for a dialogue-centred architecture based on an open, transparent, inclusive and evolutionary process. India participated in ARF's Senior Officials Meeting, two Inter-Sessional Group meetings on CBMs and Preventive Diplomacy, Inter-Sessional Meetings on disaster relief, maritime security, counter-terrorism & transnational crimes, non-proliferation & disarmament, Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting and ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue and various cooperation activities and seminars. India has also actively participated in the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) Expert Working Groups (EWG) on HADR, Military Medicine, Maritime

Security, Peace keeping Operations, Counter Terrorism and is Co-Chairing the EWG on Humanitarian Mine Action in the current cycle from 2014-2017.

A Concept Paper on the Regional Security Architecture was presented by India at an East Asia Summit (EAS) workshop on the subject held in October 2014 at Jakarta.

## **Export Control**

India is engaged with the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the three other multilateral export control regimes, namely, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Australia Group (AG) and Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) as well as the individual members of these four regimes with a view to our membership. Membership of the regimes is, inter-alia, expected to ease India's access to dual-use and high technology items as well as strengthen global non-proliferation efforts.

In the Joint Statement issued on 30 September 2014 during Prime Minister's visit to United States, U.S. affirmed that India is ready for NSG membership and meets MTCR requirements. During the year, India participated in NSG Outreach workshop held in Vienna in April 2014, MTCR Outreach Workshop held in Paris in May 2014 and in the Technical Experts meeting of Wassenaar Arrangement held in Vienna in June 2014. Foreign Secretary led a delegation for the Outreach Meeting with NSG Troika at Vienna in November 2014. ■ ■

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

### **6th BRICS Summit**

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, led the Indian delegation to the 6th BRICS Summit held in Fortaleza and Brasilia, Brazil on 15-16 July 2014. Overarching theme of the Summit was, 'Inclusive Growth: Sustainable Solutions'. The Leaders discussed a wide range of issues covering reform of global governance – both political and economic, trade, finance, regional political issues as well as global issues including WTO, terrorism, transnational organized crime, climate change, post-2015 development agenda, etc. as well as issues relating to intra-BRICS cooperation. The Fortaleza Declaration issued at the conclusion of the 6th BRICS Summit captures the discussions and consensus among the BRICS countries.

Major outcomes of the 6th BRICS Summit include signing of an Agreement setting up a New Development Bank – with its headquarters located in Shanghai, the first President from India, the first Chair of Board of Governors from Russia, the first Chair of Board of Directors from Brazil and the first Regional Centre to be set up in South Africa concurrently with its headquarters – and signing of a Treaty setting up the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) – with initial total size of US\$ 100 billion and individual commitments of China at US\$ 41 billion, Brazil, Russia and India at US\$ 18 billion each and South Africa at US\$ 5 billion – which will work as a multilateral currency swap arrangement amongst BRICS Countries.

An MoU on technical cooperation amongst Export Credit Guarantee Agencies of BRICS countries aimed at improving environment for increasing trade opportunities among BRICS countries and an Inter-Bank Cooperation Agreement on Innovation to support financing of innovation projects of mutual interest were also signed at the Summit.

BRICS Finance Ministers and Trade Ministers also met prior to the Summit in Fortaleza on 14 July 2014. MoS (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry represented India at both these ministerial meetings. BRICS Trade Ministers also issued a Joint Communiqué after their meeting. On 16 July 2014 in Brasilia, the BRICS Leaders met Heads of State/Government of 11 South American countries invited by Brazil. No Joint Statement/Declaration was issued after this meeting.

### **BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting**

External Affairs Minister attended the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting on 25 September 2014 hosted by the Russian Foreign Minister in New York on the margins of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly. The Ministers discussed the regional and global issues, UNSC reforms, economic cooperation and other issues of mutual interest. A press release was issued after the meeting. The Ministerial meeting was preceded by BRICS Sherpas' meeting hosted by Brazil.

### **IBSA Dialogue Forum**

#### **IBSA Foreign Ministers meeting**

External Affairs Minister hosted a meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers on 24 September 2014 on the margins of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly. The Ministers reiterated their commitments towards further deepening and strengthening of the IBSA Dialogue Forum. The Ministers stressed the importance of close coordination and cooperation among IBSA countries in various multilateral fora including the UN, WTO, WIPO, G20, G24, BRICS, etc. A Joint Communiqué was issued after the meeting.

#### **Group of Twenty (G20)**

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the 9th G20 Summit held in Brisbane, Australia on 15-16 November 2014.

For India, important issues on the G20 Summit agenda included reducing the cost of remittances, commitment to raise the G20 GDP by 2% over the 2013 level by 2018, commitment to increase women's participation in workforce by 25% by 2025, cooperation in increasing energy efficiency, and commitment to finalize the work on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting including transparency of taxpayer specific rulings found to constitute harmful tax practices by 2015. India's principled stand on public stockholding for food security was also appreciated and a commitment to implement all the decisions of the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Bali in December 2013 was explicitly expressed in the Leaders' Communiqué.

On the margins of the G20 Summit, Prime Minister also attended a meeting of BRICS Leaders. The Leaders shared views on the current state of world economy, IMF Reform and other issues on the G20 Summit Agenda. They agreed to nominate the President (by India) and Vice-Presidents of the New Development Bank before the next BRICS Summit in Ufa, Russia in July 2015.

### **Group of Fifteen (G-15)**

On the sidelines of the 69th UN General Assembly, Sri Lanka, the current Chair of G-15 hosted the 37th meeting of Foreign Ministers on 26 September 2014 in New York. Secretary (ER & DPA) represented External Affairs Minister at the meeting and delivered the country statement.

### **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**

#### **CSO Meeting**

4th Bi-Annual meeting of Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of Indian Ocean Rim Association took place in Phuket, Thailand on 19-20 June 2014. The Indian delegation was led

by Smt Sujata Mehta, Secretary (ER & DPA). The meeting, inter alia, discussed the agenda and programme for the 14th meeting of Council of Ministers (COM) of IORA that subsequently took place on 09 October 2014 in Perth, Australia under Australia's Chairmanship.

#### **The 14th meeting of Council of Ministers (COM)**

The 14th meeting of the Council of Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim was held in Perth, Australia on 9 October 2014. Smt Sujata Mehta, Secretary (ER & DPA) led the Indian delegation to the meeting. Issues on the agenda of the meeting included: developing the blue economy, women empowerment, maritime cooperation, human resource development and capacity building, tourism promotion, enhanced engagement with Dialogue Partners and IORA cooperation in regional economic development. India's initiatives since the last Ministerial Meeting in Perth on 01 November 2013 including the IORA Workshop on Fisheries Management, IORA Poetry Festival, the 2nd meeting of Core Group on Cultural Promotion, Indian Ocean Dialogue, and IORA Workshop on Women Empowerment & Poverty Alleviation were very well received and widely appreciated by all IORA members. India announced a contribution of US\$ 100,000 to the IORA Special Fund. India reiterated its commitment to depute a Research Analyst to the IORA Secretariat.

Somalia's request of seeking membership of IORA status was unanimously accepted by the Council of Ministers. The meeting welcomed South Africa as the next Vice-Chair during 2015- 17 when Indonesia will take over the Chair from Australia. The meeting also welcomed UAE's offer to become Vice Chair during 2017-19.





*Prime Minister with leaders of BRICS countries in Brisbane, Australia on 15 November 2014.*



*Prime Minister with other leaders in a family photo at the 9th G-20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia*



*EAM in IBSA meeting*



*Prime Minister at the First Plenary Session of the G20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia on 15 November 2014*

# South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation(SAARC)

12

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu (26-27 November 2014). He reiterated India's commitment to the SAARC process and announced several unilateral initiatives including a satellite dedicated to SAARC countries, business visa for 3-5 years and Business Traveller Card for SAARC businessmen, monitoring/surveillance of polio-free region, provision of polio and pentavalent vaccines and immediate medical visas for citizens of SAARC countries. These initiatives were welcomed by other SAARC member states. Preceding the Summit, External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj (EAM) and Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh respectively participated in the 36th Session of the Council of Ministers and the 41st Session of Standing Committee from 23-25 November 2014. EAM signed the SAARC Framework Agreement on Cooperation in Energy (Electricity) during the Summit.

India has been supporting and sustaining several regional and sub-regional projects focused on economic integration, connectivity and energy. India's proactive, asymmetrical and non-reciprocal approach has been a transformative factor in enhancing the effectiveness of SAARC.

During April - November 2014, SAARC Division facilitated the following SAARC activities:

- Training Programme on “Damage, Loss and Recovery Needs and on Resilient Recovery Developing South Asia Framework” by SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) from 07 - 11 July 2014 in New Delhi.
- Training Programme on Office Automation by SAARC Documentation Centre (SDC) from 04 August -0 5 September 2014 in New Delhi.
- Course on “Bibliometric Tools and Techniques” by SDC from 25 - 29 August 2014 in New Delhi.
- 3rd Meeting of the Expert Group to negotiate the “Draft SAARC Motor Vehicles Agreement” on 07- 08 September 2014 in Rajasthan.
- 5th Meeting of the SAARC Inter-Governmental Group on Transport to finalize the text of the draft SAARC Motor Vehicles and the draft SAARC Railways Agreement, on 30 September 2014 in New Delhi.
- 3rd Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Culture from 24- 25 September 2014 in New Delhi. The Meeting declared Bamiyan (Afghanistan) as SAARC Cultural Capital for year 2015. It agreed to create a SAARC Heritage List and also endorsed the revised SAARC Agenda for Culture for 2015-17.
- 4th Meeting of Sectoral Technical Committee on Food and Agriculture (21-22 September 2014), 1st Meeting of Sectoral Technical Committee on Chemical and Chemical Products (23-24 September 2014) and 1st Meeting of Sectoral Technical Committee on Electrical, Electronics, Telecoms (25-26 September 2014), by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in New Delhi.
- 5th Meeting of SAARC Energy Ministers on 16-17 October 2014 in New Delhi, to discuss various issues of regional cooperation in the energy sector. It also finalized the SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity) which was signed at the SAARC Summit in Kathmandu.
- 2nd Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Education / Higher Education held in New Delhi on 30-31 October 2014 to discuss cooperation in secondary and higher education, which adopted the “Delhi Declaration” for equitable and inclusive access to quality education for all.
- 7th Governing Board meeting of SAARC Food Bank in New Delhi from 10-11 November 2014 which considered working guidelines for SAARC Food Bank.
- 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu (Nepal) from 26-27 November 2014, where Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian Delegation and its preceding meetings of Council of Ministers and Standing Committee represented respectively by EAM and Foreign



*Leaders of SAARC countries at the concluding session of 18th SAARC Summit on 27 November 2014.*

Secretary. SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity) was signed at the Summit. “Kathmandu Declaration” called for reinvigoration of regional cooperation and revitalisation of SAARC as an effective vehicle to fulfill developmental aspirations of the peoples of South Asia.

- Apart from the above, SAARC Division extended financial assistance to the following:
  - i. Publication of 2 special issues on South Asian Literature by the Book Review Literary Trust.
  - ii. 8th South Asian Band Festival in November 2014 at Rashtrapati Bhawan and Purana Qila (in collaboration with ICCR).

- iii. 7th South Asian Economic Summit in New Delhi in November 2014 and A Study on “Regional Cooperation in the Indian sub-continent and beyond” (by RIS).

The following events are scheduled in March 2015.

The 4th Meeting of the Working Group on Telecommunications & ICT, in March 2015.

SAARC-PTB Review Meeting for SEGA-III in New Delhi, in March 2015, with financial and technical assistance of PTB.

SAARC Transport Ministers Meeting in New Delhi in end March 2015.



## Development Partnership Administration

The Development Partnership Administration (DPA) in the Ministry of External Affairs was established in January 2012 for ensuring speedy and efficient implementation of Government of India's external economic assistance programmes. The reach and scope of India's external development assistance programmes have grown substantially over the years. DPA has been tasked with establishing procedures for efficient handling of Indian development projects through the stages of concept, launch, execution and completion. It aims to streamline and upgrade the processes involved in the delivery of the key facets of India's Development assistance viz. the capacity building programmes under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation and other schemes, Lines of Credit and Grant assistance projects. The DPA functions in close coordination with the Territorial Divisions concerned of the Ministry, which continue to be the main interlocutors with partner countries on the prioritization and selection of projects for coverage under India's development assistance initiatives.

The DPA is progressively developing the expertise required to handle projects in varied sectors and regions through the stages of project appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In the initial years, DPA has concentrated on coverage of key projects under the Lines of Credit to various developing countries and on development projects in Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and African countries. The demands for technical assistance and capacity building programmes, involving civilian and military personnel, have continued to rise in the past few years from partner countries.

### Lines of Credit (LoCs)

Lines of Credit (LoC) on concessional terms have emerged as one of the main instruments of India's development assistance to least developed and developing countries in recent years.

Lines of Credit continue to be an important component of India's development cooperation policy in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Primarily aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation, the LoCs enable borrowing countries to import goods and services from India and undertake projects for infrastructure development and capacity building as per their developmental priorities.

During the last decade, 214 LoCs aggregating US\$ 13280.12 million have been allocated, of which US\$ 7538.39 million were allocated for African countries and US\$ 5741.73 million was sanctioned to non-African countries. During the period 01 April – 31 January 2015, 14 LoCs amounting to US\$ 2272.61 million have been sanctioned. The allocation to Africa during this period is US\$ 881.17 million, including US\$ 200 million for Mauritius for equity participation in a Special Purpose Vehicle for the Light Rapid Transit project, US\$ 184 million for an Hydroelectric Project in Burkina Faso, US\$ 150 million for strengthening Agriculture mechanism in Ghana, US\$ 65.68 million to Mauritania for Solar diesel hybrid rural electricity project, US\$ 62.95 million to Senegal for Rice self-sufficiency programme and US\$ 45 million to Gambia for Electrification expansion and replacement of asbestos water pipe of US\$ 1000 million to Nepal for hydropower, irrigation and various other infrastructural development projects, US\$ 100 million to Vietnam for procurement of specialised equipment from India, US\$ 140 million to Myanmar for development of two road projects, US\$ 70 million to Fiji for a co-generation power plant, US\$ 50 million for Road project in Guyana and US\$ 26.24 million to Nicaragua for an Electric Transmission line and substations project.

In 2010, the Government of India had announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 1 billion to Bangladesh. Of this, US\$ 200 million was converted into a grant in 2012 for utilisation in projects prioritised by Govt. of Bangladesh. The balance US\$ 800 million available under the LoC, has been earmarked for 15 projects aggregating US\$ 751.95 million. These include supplies as well as infrastructural projects. Procurement of

supplies has been completed. The infrastructural projects covering construction of Rail bridges, rail lines etc. are in different stages of implementation. The progress of the LoC projects is monitored through periodic Review meetings with the Government of Bangladesh and other stakeholders.

An LoC of US\$ 1000 million has been extended to Nepal for hydropower, irrigation and various other infrastructural development projects, in addition to the two LoCs of US\$ 100 million and US\$ 250 million extended in 2007 & 2010 respectively. The LoC of US\$ 100 million has been fully utilised for road projects, rural electrification projects, power transmission and hydro power projects. The US\$ 250 million LoC covering power transmission and road projects is progressing well. 19 Road projects totalling US\$ 69.37 million have been approved for coverage under this LoC.

As part of the monitoring of on-going projects, Review Missions visited Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. 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**

A number of projects in the areas of infrastructure development, hydroelectricity projects, power substations, agriculture-related projects, education, health, etc., are being implemented in Afghanistan in accordance with the priority areas identified by the Government of Afghanistan. The reconstruction of Salma Dam (42 MW) in Herat province is likely to be completed in the next financial year. The two substations at Doshi and Charikar are expected to be completed during the current year. The construction of the Afghan Parliament is progressing though at a slower pace due to difficulties in identification of implementing agencies. The work of supply and transportation of 2.5 million tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan was completed in April 2014 and supply and commissioning of medical equipment to the Indira Gandhi International Children's Hospital in Kabul has commenced. The restoration of Stor Palace is proceeding in a meticulous manner so as to bring the Palace to its original splendour. The students of the Afghanistan National Agricultural Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU) at Kandahar were trained at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. Support is also being extended to ANASTU through supply of books for library and equipment for laboratories. The training of Afghan officials in various areas of mining has been conducted at the Indian School of

Mines. The proposals for establishment of an Institute of Mining, supply of buses and development of associated depot infrastructure and other requirements are at various stages of consideration/implementation.

An important area of focus of India's development partnership with Afghanistan is the education sector. Cooperation in this area includes 1000 university scholarships annually for Afghan nationals implemented by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and 674 Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) scholarships. Another area of significant progress is the implementation of Small Development projects in two phases focussing on community-based projects in vulnerable border areas in agriculture, rural development, education, health and vocational training that have direct and visible impact on community life, with focus on local ownership and management. The third phase of Small Development Projects (launched in November 2012) will include additional projects of US\$ 100 million and cover all the provinces of the country.

With the aim of enhancing connectivity to raise economic growth and accelerate development, a number of cross-border projects are at various stages of planning and implementation. These include the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project (which will provide connectivity between ports on India's eastern sea board and Sittwe Port in Myanmar, and thereafter to the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram); the Trilateral Highway between India, Myanmar and Thailand wherein India would undertake construction of bridges in the Tamu - Kalewa - Kalemmyo section and upgradation of 120 km road in the Kalewa-Yagyi section. Other road projects for implementation include the Rih - Tiddim road. With the aim of enhancing agricultural yield and quality, an Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education and a Rice Bio-Park are being set up in Nay Pyi Taw. The establishment of the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT), a world class IT institute in Mandalay is at an advanced stage of consideration. The supply and commissioning of state-of-the-art medical equipment to Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital is being undertaken. The supply of desktop computers to Land Records Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is expected to be completed during the current year. The setting up of Language Labs and an e-resource centre in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw was completed in April 2014.

Important cross border projects to enhance connectivity between India and Nepal include construction of Integrated Check Posts on the India-Nepal border and cross-border

railway links. A 200-bed Emergency and Trauma Centre in Kathmandu was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Nepal for the SAARC Summit. Proposals for the construction of electric cross-border transmission lines, the setting up of a Polytechnic at Hetauda, supply of Fire Engines to Municipalities of Nepal, construction of Dharmashala near Pashupati Nath Temple premises, upgradation of Dakshinkali-Kulekhani road, etc. are at advanced stages of consideration/implementation.

India's development partnership with Sri Lanka is based on a consultative approach, factoring in the priorities of that Government. The multi-sectoral partnership includes building the Jaffna Cultural Centre and restoration of Thirukatheswaram temple. The construction of a 150-bed Hospital at Dickoya was completed during the year.

India is assisting in the resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka through a major housing project involving construction of 50,000 houses. An MoU was signed between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka on 17 January 2012 affirming India's commitment to the project. The Pilot project of construction of 1000 houses was completed in 2012. The second phase for construction and repair of 45,000 houses under an owner-driven process in the Northern and Eastern provinces is currently in progress. 10,250 houses were completed by end 2013, another 16000 houses are expected to be completed by end 2014 and the remaining are expected to be completed by 2015-16. The owner driven model has the direct involvement of beneficiaries in the construction of their houses; the funds are released into their bank accounts in four installments linked to the completion of the defined four stages of construction. The project is proceeding well as per the set targets.

The third phase of the project viz. construction of 4,000 houses under the agency-driven model in the Central/Uva provinces for the Indian Origin Tamils employed in the plantation sector has also commenced following the completion of the process of identification of land by the Sri Lankan Government. The Consultant appointed for the project has begun the preliminary design and development work for the project.

The bilateral projects completed during the year include the India-Maldives Friendship Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism Studies, built with assistance from the Government of India in Male, Maldives and Phase-I of the Rajiv Gandhi School of Production and Art in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

## **Development Projects in Africa and other regions**

India's partnership with Africa is based on a consultative model of cooperation, sharing of development experiences and is geared towards addressing the priorities and needs of the African countries. The engagement with African countries in capacity building through development partnerships and contributing to their economic development has intensified in the last decade. The two India-Africa Forum Summits [IAFS I & II] in 2008 and 2011 have further reinforced the development partnership with the continent.

The notable support extended to countries in Africa under Grant assistance includes supply of 15 buses to Liberia and a pilot research project on tomato production and processing in Ghana for US\$ 2.088 million. In addition, grant assistance was extended for supply of Information Technology-related equipment, hospital equipment, medicines, ambulances, vehicles, tractors and other agricultural equipment and other assorted items to several other countries in Africa.

## **Humanitarian Aid for Disaster Relief**

Humanitarian assistance was rendered by India to countries affected by natural catastrophes. Assistance was provided to Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Philippines, Croatia, Syria, Nepal, Solomon Islands and Burundi. In addition, medicines were supplied to Nicaragua; Foot & Mouth Disease vaccines were supplied to Algeria; and aerial ropeways were supplied to Nepal.

## **Capacity Building through Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC, SCAAP and Technical Cooperation Scheme under Colombo Plan)**

As in earlier years, capacity building continued to be an important strand of India's development partnership programme in 2014-15. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) and the Technical Cooperation Scheme under Colombo plan (TCS) continued to strengthen in scope and outreach, with the inclusion of new partner institutions and courses in emerging areas.

The ITEC programme, instituted on 15 September 1964, completed 50 years in 2014. The Golden Jubilee celebrations

held on 21 October 2014 at ITC Maurya Sheraton in New Delhi were inaugurated by External Affairs Minister (EAM), Minister of State for External Affairs, Ambassadors and High Commissioners from ITEC partner countries, Heads/Representatives from ITEC partner institutions and hundreds of ITEC participants currently attending courses in India were also present. At the Golden Jubilee function, EAM pre-launched a new ITEC web portal which would simplify the processing of ITEC applications and create a platform for ITEC alumni to interact and provide feedback. EAM also released the ITEC brochure (a compendium of ITEC civilian courses offered) for the year 2014-15 and a film titled 'Lessons in Friendship', which highlights ITEC's journey during the last 50 years and the bonds of friendship created through the programme. The documentary was commissioned by DPA in collaboration with XPD Division of MEA. Indian Missions/Posts abroad and the ITEC partner institutions in India are also organizing their own functions throughout the year to mark ITEC reaching this important milestone.

During 2014-15, over 8300 civilian scholarship slots were offered under the ITEC/SCAAP programme to 161 partner countries (List of partner countries is given in **Appendix IV**) for various short-term and medium-term courses in institutions spread all over India. Participants also undertook study tours to national monuments/heritage sites as part of their training. The civilian training programme under ITEC, which is fully sponsored by the Government of India, encompassed over 280 training courses for working professionals in diverse subjects such as IT, public administration, election management, SME, entrepreneurship, rural development, parliamentary affairs and renewable energy in 47 training institutions (List of institutes offering civilian training courses under ITEC/SCAAP programmes is given in **Appendix V**.)

500 slots were also offered under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative and Economic Social Development in Asia and Pacific. The areas of training include human resource development, audit and accounts, commerce, information technology, textiles, financial management, insurance, etc. Ten officers from Bhutan are trained in premier training institutions of India i.e. NADT-Nagpur, LBSNAA-Mussoorie, IGFA-Dehradun, NAAA-Shimla and NACEN-Faridabad under this plan every year. In addition, India has been deputing lecturers to various colleges affiliated to the Royal University of Bhutan and also providing Indian faculty on secondment to Colombo Plan Staff College [CPSC], Manila.

## Defence Training Programme

During 2014-15, 1600 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, and also foundation courses for young officers in the three services. Courses at premier institutions like the National Defence College (NDC) New Delhi and the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington continued to be hugely popular and also attracted officers from developed countries on self-financing basis.

## Special courses

In addition to the regular ITEC/SCAAP/TCS-Colombo Plan courses, special courses tailored to suit the demands of the partner countries were also conducted in diverse disciplines as per details given below:

- Special Training Programme for Hansard Reporters from Fiji was conducted by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies & Training, New Delhi from 25- 29 August 2014.
- Special training Course on 'Essential Oil, Fragrance and Flavour' for the young Rwandan trainees was conducted at the Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Kannauj from 01 May - 30 July 2014.
- 3rd Special Course on 'Election Management- Principles & Practices' was conducted by the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management from 09-23 April 2014.
- Special Training Programme on 'South-South Development Partnership' was conducted by Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) from 17-28 November 2014.
- Special Training Course on 'Social Enterprise for Sustainable Development' was conducted by The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI) from 15 September - 03 October 2014.

## Deputation of Experts

Deputation of experts under the ITEC programme has served as a very important tool for sharing Indian expertise with the developing world. During 2014-15, 34 experts in various fields were on deputation to partner countries in areas of Forensic Science, Ayurveda, Rice Production and as Advisers to Governments and State Counsels. Defence training teams have been deputed to partner countries. ■ ■

The Investment & Technology Promotion (ITP) Division gives a definite direction and focus to the economic diplomacy efforts 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 ITP Division provided support to the promotion efforts of Missions/Posts for increasing exports and investment. In 2014-15, ₹ 5 Crores have been disbursed to missions and posts under this budgetary head. 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 scheme funds participation of Export Promotion Councils in specific promotion activities and trade fairs.

ITP division continued to represent the Ministry in Foreign Investment Promotion Board of Department of Economic Affairs dealing with Foreign Direct Investments not covered by the automatic route and 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 Agreement.

ITP division is the nodal division in MEA for all matters relating to Air Services agreements with foreign countries/airlines and works closely with Ministry of Civil Aviation on these matters. In 2014, ITP division represented MEA in the bilateral Air Services talks held with Egypt,

Seychelles, Republic of Korea and New Zealand. ITP Division also participated in International Civil Aviation Negotiations (ICAN) conference held in Bali, Indonesia during November 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 worked with the Working Committees of the Project Exports Promotion Council and the Engineering Export Promotion Council. 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.

ITP Division provided budgetary support to Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to organize 4th India-Arab Partnership Conference on 26-27 November 2014 in New Delhi. PHD chamber of Commerce in collaboration with ITP division hosted 'Conference on Africa – A Land of Opportunities' on 04-05 December 2014.

The 'Make in India' campaign was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 25 September 2014 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Indian Missions/Posts abroad organised substantive events around the live telecast of the programme. They were asked to involve the apex chambers of commerce, Indian and foreign industrialists, NRIs, members of industrial associations in the event. The ITP Division extended support to Missions/Posts by coordinating with DIPP to provide information, data etc for organising the event.

ITP Division on behalf of MEA has been actively involved in the negotiations for setting up of the China-proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in conjunction with the nodal department, Ministry of Finance.

ITP Division participated in the Re-Invest road shows organized in Hamburg and Paris to attract investment in the

renewable energy sector. ITP Division was also a part of Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) delegations to Germany to hold one to one bilateral meetings and road-shows for promotion of mutual cooperation in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector.

ITP Division's website India in Business ([www.indiainbusiness.nic.in](http://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 Missions/Posts which provided them timely updates on economic and commercial issues.

ITP Division's annual publication India in Business was distributed to Missions/Posts abroad. The publication provides an update on various aspects of Indian economy including investment opportunities, the regulatory framework and also information on states and union territories of India.



## Energy Security

Energy Security Division was established in 2009 in the Ministry of External Affairs and coordinates India's energy diplomacy and serves as the nodal point for Government's international energy related engagements in various multilateral and bilateral fora. It supports international engagements of Government's energy ministries [Petroleum and Natural Gas, Power, New and Renewable Energy, Coal] through diplomatic interventions. It handles India's interaction with energy related international organizations such as International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Partnership For Energy Efficiency and Cooperation (IPEEC), International Energy Forum (IEF), International Energy Agency (IEA), Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) etc. and on energy related matters in G-20, East Asia Summit, UN, BRICS, IBSA etc. It is envisaged that it shall handle matters of Food Security, in coordination with Ministries such as Agriculture and Fertilizers.

### Participation in meetings with International energy organizations

Energy Security Division engaged with the work of various international energy organizations by actively participating in the following meetings:

- 5th Clean Energy Ministerial meeting held in Seoul, South Korea during 12- 13 May 2014;
- International Energy Agency (IEA's) Standing Group on Long-Term Cooperation (SLT)/Committee on Energy Research and Technology (CERT) meetings held in Paris during 02-03 June 2014;
- IRENA - 7th and 8th Meeting IRENA Council held in Abu Dhabi (UAE) during 2- 3 June 2014 and 03-04 November 2014 respectively.
- International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) – 9th and 10th Meeting of Policy Committee (PoCo) held in Mexico during 16-17 June 2014 and held in Shanghai, China during 24-25

November 2014 respectively. It also participated in Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting held in Paris during 10-11 September 2014.

- G-20 Energy Sustainability Working Group- In continuation of 1st Meeting of G20 ESWG held in Melbourne, Australia during 10-13 February 2014, 2nd Meeting held in Sydney during 28-30 May 2014 and 3rd Meeting held in Brisbane, Australia during 25-27 August 2014. The ESWG deliberated upon Global Energy Architecture, Strengthening Gas Market, Market Transparency and Investments, Energy Efficiency and Phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) - 1st High Level Group, Energy Club meeting on 05 June 2014 held in Astana, Kazakhstan and discussed key developments in renewable energy and energy efficiency sector in their respective countries.
- Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) - Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on developing Energy Data and Policy Information Portal held on 26- 27 August 2014 and 2014 Policy Dialogue held on 26-28 November 2014 at Bangkok, Thailand. Portal on energy related data and policy of member countries is under development.
- Energy Security Division is proposed to participate in the 5th Session of IRENA General Assembly and 8th World Future Energy Summit to be held Abu Dhabi (UAE) during 17-22 January 2015.

### Bilateral energy meetings/ other meetings

The Energy Security Division participated in the 11th India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 24-25 April 2014 and 2nd India – Saudi Energy consultations on 28 October 2014 in Riyadh on matters of mutual cooperation in oil and gas sectors.

Kazakhstan is organizing EXPO-2017 whose theme is FUTURE ENERGY. As a preparatory meeting of EXPO-2017, a meeting of Future Energy Forum and International Planning Meeting have been organized in Astana during 22-24 October 2014. Energy Security Division attended the meeting of Future Energy Forum.

3rd LNG Producer-Consumer Conference organized by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) and the Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APEREC) was held in Tokyo on 06 November 2014. The purpose of the conference was to share global perspective on the LNG market as well as to facilitate an international collaboration.

The Energy Security Division is organising Joint Informal Working Group meeting on 14 January 2015 with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, its Public Sector Undertakings and Private Sector companies of hydrocarbon sector.

The next meetings of Technical Working Group and Steering Committee on TAPI pipeline project are likely to be held in February 2015.

The Energy Security Division is associated with the Energy Security Conference being organised by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) on 09 January 2015.

## **TAPI pipeline project**

The Energy Security Division coordinated closely with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and GAIL on TAPI pipeline project. 26th Technical Working Group followed by 18th Steering Committee meeting was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan during 06-08 July 2014. 27th meeting of the Technical Working Group followed by 19th meeting of Steering Committee on TAPI Pipeline Project was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan during 18-20 November 2014. TAPI Ltd was incorporated on 11 November 2014. TAPI gas pipeline project is being actively pursued and negotiations for the same are at an advance stage.

With the renewed thrust of the Government to increase the capacity of renewable energy in India's energy mix, the first Renewable Energy Global Investors Meet and Expo (RE – INVEST) is being organised in February, 2015. As a preparatory action, Energy Security division is closely coordinating with Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and has participated in International Road Shows in Hamburg and Paris during November 2014 to attract potential global investors and coordinated Road Shows in Amsterdam, London and Shanghai.



## Counter Terrorism and Policy Planning

### Counter Terrorism (CT)

India has condemned all acts of terrorism and is committed to international cooperation for rooting out the scourge of terrorism globally and in all its manifestations.

India continued its structured dialogue through Joint Working Groups (JWGs) with partner countries on Counter Terrorism (CT) during the year. India held JWG on CT with the following countries (during the period April-November 2014):

Sl.	Name of the Country/ Organization	Date	Venue
1.	Germany	15-16 May 2014	New Delhi
2.	Australia	04 August 2014	Canberra

India is scheduled to have a JWG on CT with UK in London from 15-16 January 2015. This is expected to further enhance CT cooperation between India and UK. JWGs on CT with Turkey, Indonesia and EU are proposed to be held during February-March 2015.

India is one of the 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.

India has been actively participating in various international/ multilateral fora like the UN, GCTF, SCO, ARF etc.

### Global Cyber Issues Cell

The increasing use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in international affairs has resulted in MEA's involvement in the projection and safeguarding of Government of India's interests in the various international fora. Global Cyber Issues Cell in the CT-GCI, PP&R Division, MEA handles all matters relating to Global Cyber Issues.

MEA led an inter-Ministerial delegation to the Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance (also known as NET Mundial) in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 23-24 April 2014.

In various multinational fora, MEA continues to build consensus and support for a transparent, democratic and representative Internet Governance and to actively participate to strengthen India's cyber security through bilateral dialogues on Global Cyber Issues with key countries and organizations such as the EU.

Forthcoming Events: Bilateral dialogues on Global Cyber Issues with Republic of Korea (RoK) in January, 2015 and with UK and France in February, 2015.

### 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. Set up in 2007, it has the requisite communication connectivity and display panels needed for management of any crisis situation. Besides its primary role as a Crisis Management Cell of the Ministry, the complex has been effectively utilized by all Divisions for various purposes such as presentations & conferences including telephone /video conferences etc. Video conferencing facility has now been installed in 17 Missions. The new Situation Room in JNB was completed and taken over from the Contractor after carrying out a detailed testing of all equipment.

### **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 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

Protocol Division of MEA coordinated 30 incoming and 14 outgoing visits at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister during April – November 2014. A list of Calendar of Visits during this period is given below.

During the period under reference, Honduras and Chad opened their Embassies in New Delhi; Republic of Korea

opened its Trade Office in Bangalore; Bangladesh its Assistant High Commission in Agartala, UK its Deputy High Commission in Ahmedabad. 27 Honorary Consulates were opened in the cities of Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram and Goa. 29 Heads of Mission presented their Credentials to the President. 59 new posts were created in the Diplomatic Missions/ International Organisations in New Delhi.

### Calendar of Visits for 2014

#### State Visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Prime Minister of Australia	3-5 September 2014
2.	President of China	17-19 September 2014
3.	Prime Minister of Vietnam	27 & 28 October 2014

#### Official / Working Visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	President of Afghanistan	26 & 27 May 2014
2.	President of Maldives	26 & 27 May 2014
3.	President of Sri Lanka	26 & 27 May 2014
4.	Prime Minister of Bhutan	25-28 May 2014
5.	Prime Minister of Mauritius	26 & 27 May 2014
6.	Prime Minister of Nepal	25-28 May 2014
7.	Prime Minister of Pakistan	26 & 27 May 2014
8.	Speaker of Bangladesh	25-28 May 2014

#### Private/Transit visit of Heads of State/Government/Vice President and First Ladies and equivalent level

1.	Vice President of Ghana	3-7 November 2014
2.	President of Rwanda	3-7 November 2014

3.	Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire	3-7 November 2014
4.	Vice President of Nepal	8-11 November 2014

### Official visits by Foreign Minister and equivalent level

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Foreign Minister of Oman	3 & 4 June 2014
2.	Foreign Minister of China	8-10 June 2014
3.	Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation	18 & 19 June 2014
4.	Foreign Minister of France	9 June – 2 July 2014
5.	Foreign Minister of Singapore	30 June - 5 July 2014
6.	Foreign Minister of UK	7-9 July 2014
7.	Foreign Minister of Uganda	27-31 July 2014
8.	Secretary of State, USA	30 July – 1 August 2014
9.	Foreign Minister of Germany	8 September 2014
10.	Foreign Minister of Bangladesh	18-21 September 2014
11.	Foreign Minister of Canada	12-14 October 2014
12.	Foreign Minister of Guatemala	14-16 October 2014
13.	Foreign Minister of Mexico	19-22 October 2014
14.	Foreign Minister of Nepal	19-21 October 2014
15.	Foreign Minister of Mozambique	23-30 November 2014

### Outgoing Visits of President/Vice President/Prime Minister of India

Sl.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Prime Minister to Bhutan	15 & 16 June 2014
2.	Vice President to China	26-30 June 2014
3.	Prime Minister to Brazil (BRICS Summit)	13-18 July 2014
4.	Prime Minister to Nepal	3 & 4 August 2014
5.	Prime Minister to Japan	31 August – 3 September 2014
6.	President to Vietnam	15-18 September 2014
7.	Prime Minister to USA (UNGA combined with Bilateral visit)	25-30 September 2014
8.	Vice President to Afghanistan	29 September 2014
9.	President to Norway and Finland	12-17 October 2014
10.	President to Bhutan	7 & 8 November 2014
11.	Prime Minister to Myanmar (East Asia Summit/ASEAN-India Summit)	11-13 November 2014
12.	Prime Minister to Australia (G20 Summit combined with Bilateral visit)	14-18 November 2014
13.	Prime Minister to Fiji	19 & 20 November 2014
14.	Prime Minister to Nepal (SAARC Summit)	25-27 November 2014

### **Outgoing Visits of External Affairs Minister during April-November 2014**

<b>Sl.</b>	<b>Dignitary</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	Bhutan	15 & 16 June 2014
2	Bangladesh	25-27 June 2014
3	Nepal	25-27 July 2014
4	Myanmar	8-11 August 2014
5	Singapore	15 & 16 August 2014
6	Hanoi	25 & 26 August 2014
7	Bahrain	6 & 7 September 2014
8	Kabul and Dushanbe	10-12 September 2014
9	USA	24 September – 2 October 2014
10	London	16 & 17 October 2014
11	Mauritius	1-3 November 2014
12	UAE	11 & 12 November 2014
13	Nepal	24 & 27 November 2014

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; 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 the most noticeable statutory and citizen service rendered by the Ministry of External Affairs. In the recent years, the Ministry has made many quantitative and qualitative improvements in the delivery of passport services in the country. Indian passports (together with other travel documents such as Identity Certificates 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 all-India 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 Passport Seva Kendras in PPP mode and functional/upcoming additional 18 Passport Seva Kendras 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 183 Indian Missions/Posts.

## Huge Growth in Passport services

Over the past decade, there has been considerable expansion in both the scope and volume of passport related services. During January- December 2014, the Ministry processed an astounding number of approximately 1.01 crore passport and related services applications compared to 86.88 lakhs in 2013, thereby registering an increase of approximately 16% (inclusive of Passport Offices in India and Indian Missions/Posts abroad). 37 Passport Offices, Headquarters

and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands received 87.37 lakh passport service related applications including Police Clearance Certificates, against which 85.07 lakh passports and related documents were issued (inclusive of 2648 Diplomatic passports, 17560 Official passports, 2,595 Surrender Certificates (SC), 7,641 Identity Certificate(IC) and 4,278 Line of Control (LoC) applications). 183 Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 13.73 lakh passports, EC and other passport related miscellaneous services. Thus, the Government of India, in total, issued 98.80 lakh passport and other related services in a year. This is an all time high and amounts to over threefold increase since 2000. As on 31 December 2014, 5,70,35,943 citizens held valid passports. India today is placed third behind China and the United States in terms of global passport issuance.

The revenue of the Government on account of passport fees has more than doubled since 2010-11. The total revenue expected to be accrued from all passport services in 2014-15 is ₹ 2100 crore. An amount of ₹ 560.33 crore was allocated to Central Passport Organization in the financial year 2014-15.

## Central Passport Organization

The Central Passport Organization 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 31 December 2014. In addition, 21 posts including 15 Technical and 6 supporting staff were created by the Union Cabinet decision in 2007 to man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project.

The Ministry has taken several steps to improve the service conditions of the CPO personnel by re-structuring and expanding of the CPO cadre, to ensure that vacant posts

available 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 21 March 2013, having retrospective effect, to financially incentivize individual performance measured against pre-set and mutually agreed upon norms. This is a unique scheme for the GOI employees. With a view to recognize meritorious services rendered by CPO employees and thus, contribute to improving governance in the country, Passport Seva Puraskars have been instituted. The Puraskars are given away annually to the selected employees and Passport Offices on Passport Seva Divas, the 24 June of every year.

In total, 5 DPCs were held in 2014 for promotion of (in total 287 officials): DPC for 17 APO to DPO on 9.5.2014, DPC for 108 officials for confirmation (LDC and Office Assistant) on 30 May 2014, DPC for Assistant to Superintendent (downgraded post of PGO) on 25 August 2014 for 49 officials, MACP for 26 officials (Stenographer, LDC and Office Assistant) on 03 September 2014 and DPC for 87 officials from Passport Granting Officer to Assistant Passport Officer held on 10 September 2014.

## Physical Infrastructure

Out of 37 Passport offices, 18 are operating from own buildings, 4 are running from Government of India (GOI) 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. The Ministry has so far acquired plots of land at 8 places viz. Srinagar, Amritsar, Dehradun, Mumbai, Pune, Bhopal, Guwahati and Jalandhar. The construction work is in progress at Jalandhar and in Amritsar. The occupancy certificate for newly constructed Passport Office building, Mumbai is being obtained. The opening of Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) was focused upon. The PSKs at Shillong and Karim nagar have been opened. The opening of PSKs in Tripura, Sikkim & Manipur is in advance stage. The sites for opening of PSKs have been identified in Itanagar, Dimapur, Siliguri and Indore.

## Successful Implementation of Passport Seva Project

The Passport Seva Programme, an ambitious Mission Mode Project, is being successfully run in Public-Private Partnership

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 14 June 2012 and has completed two and half years of successful operations.

Seventy seven Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) with best-in-class amenities have been set up across the country as extended arms of the 37 Passport Offices, 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 22,000 calls per day. The portal <http://passportindia.gov.in> also provides up-to-date real time information. The Project is integrated with the States/UTs' Police system for verification of applicants' personal particulars, with India Post for postal delivery and with 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 183 Missions and Posts abroad as well as the Immigration authorities.

As on 31 December 2014, over 2.24 crore passport service related applications have been processed and over 2.09 crore services have been rendered through the new system. Daily footfall across 77 PSKs is nearly 50,000 citizens.

With the view to secure greater outreach and providing speedier passport services to applicants, in addition to the 77 PSKs in operation, the Ministry is committed to setting up 18 more Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) across the country including the North Eastern States. A PSK each is already functional in Aizwal, Gulbarga, Karimnagar and Puducherry in Passport Application Collection Centre Mode. The PSK in Shillong is fully functional since 14 November 2014.

## Passport India Portal

An online portal [passportindia.gov.in](http://passportindia.gov.in) has been created to offer passport services, giving comprehensive and latest information on passport services, appointment procedure, documentation, status enquiry and other related issues, thus enabling anytime-anywhere access. This portal is regularly monitored and upgraded to make it more user- friendly and simpler. The portal is bilingual with information displayed prominently in Hindi as well. It is kept updated with Public Notices, Advisories and Press Releases related to passport services developments from time to time.

## Noticeable Improvements in service delivery

Thanks to the implementation of the Passport Seva Project, there has been noticeable improvement in passport service delivery in the country. Countrywide during January – December 2014, 21% of normal passports are issued within 3 days; 47% within 7 days; 64% within 14 days; 75% within 21 days and 77% within 30 days (excluding the time taken for police verification). In case of Tatkaal passports, 28% are issued on the same day; 60% within 1 day and 84% within 3 days and 98% within 7 days.

## Volume of Applications

- Top 5 States in terms of number of passport applications received were Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, accounting for more than 51% of total applications.
- Top 5 Passport Offices in terms of number of applications received: Hyderabad, Lucknow, Bangalore, Delhi and Kolkata
- Top 5 districts in terms of number of applications received(excluding metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai): Mallapuram, Pune, Thane, Ahmedabad and Khozhikode
- 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 plays an important role in the timely issuance of passports. The Ministry engaged closely with the Police Departments across States/UTs to speed up police verification. The all-India average for the number of days taken to complete the police verification is 42 and about 47% of the PVs get completed within the desired time limit of 21 days. Some States/UTs have consistently maintained low Police Verification processing times. For example, under the new system, Delhi completed police verification in 12 days on an average, followed by Andhra Pradesh (15 days), Goa (16 days) and Chandigarh (17 days each). Constant efforts by the Ministry have resulted in more and more Districts switching over to the preferred District Police Headquarters Verification Model. So far, 528 of the 726 Police Districts have adopted the new system and are working on the District model.

## Functional Enhancements/ Simplification of Procedures

- As of 31 December 2014, the number of appointment slots released per day is more than 50,000. This is an increase of 30% over last year.
- 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.
- To extend the reach of Passport services to remote areas where application volumes are less, additional Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) are being set up. 18 PSKs are planned to be set up – the PSKs at Aizwal, Shillong and Karminagar have been made operational in 2014.
- The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs' eMigrate System has been integrated with PSP system. It validates Passports submitted by prospective workers seeking employment abroad online from the Passport database. This has resulted in increased security and reduced risk of Passport misuse/identity theft.
- 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.
- With a view to simplify passport application submission procedure, it has been decided to accept registered rent agreement as proof of address.
- Ministry has also decided w.e.f. 01 August 2014 to do away with ink signatures on passports and replace these with stamped signatures to save time and manpower.
- The Ministry has also introduced the system of self-attestation of documents replacing the requirement of attestation by gazetted officers.

## Passport Melas

To meet increased demand for passport services, 384 passport melas were organized from time to time in the weekends/holidays by Passport Offices for the period in 2014. During these melas, 1.99 lakh passport applications were received.

## Passport Seva Camps

With an aim to cater to the ever increasing demand of passports and at reaching out to people located far away from PSKs, Passport Seva camps were organized at multiple locations. The first ever Passport Seva Camp was launched on the 14 December 2013 at Fatehgarh (U.P.). Subsequently, more than 16,000 applications have been received through 61 Passport Seva camps, organized in remote locations for the benefit of citizens. These were held at Agra, Agartala, Allahabad, Amethi, Belgaum, Berhampur, Bhavnagar, Bikaner, Bhimavaram, Bhuj, Cuddalore, Daman, Dhanbad, Gangtok, Gwalior, Gaya, Guntur, Imphal, Itanagar, Indore, Jamshedpur, Kakinada, Karwar, Karimnagar, Kharagpur, Kolhapur, Kota, Kohima, Lakshadweep, Moradabad, Mahabubnagar, Muzaffarnagar, Muzaffarpur, Mysore, Nainital, Nellore, Pathanamthitta, Puducherry, Rourkela, Solapur, Siliguri, Siwan, Shillong, Srinagar, Srikakulam, Udaipur, Virar and Warangal.

## Common Services Centres

With a view to address the challenge of digital divide, especially in the rural hinterland, the Ministry in association with M/s CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. promoted by DeitY, launched on 19 March 2014, online filing of passport related services applications in pilot mode at 15 select CSC locations in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand through the vast network of over one lakh Common Services Centers (CSCs) to take citizen-centric services closer home. The passport related services has been added as part of their bouquet of services. The CSCs facilitate filling and uploading of Passport application form, payment of applicable fee (through debit/credit card or through SBI internet banking/challan mode) and scheduling of appointment for visit to the PSK, at nominal charge not exceeding ₹100/-. As per the appointment schedule, applicants visit the PSK for completion of application submission process (including collection of digital photographs/biometrics, verification of supporting documents and approval). The services through CSCs are available throughout the week, including during the weekend. More than 37,000 applicants have used these services during the year.

## Passport Services Overseas

During 2014, 183 Indian Missions/Posts abroad rendered 13.73 lakh passport and other related services. Two countries,

namely UAE and Saudi Arabia contributed to 33.60% of total services abroad (Location-wise, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Kuwait, Muscat, Doha accounted for 48.33% services). Top ten countries from the perspective of passport services were: UAE, Saudi Arabia, US, Kuwait, Doha, Muscat, Singapore, Bahrain, UK, and Canada. They collectively contributed to 65% of total passport services abroad.

A team comprising representatives of the Ministry, NIC and M/s. TCS, visited Missions in Paris, Tashkent and Dubai to study the technical and logistical challenges involved in integration of Missions/Posts abroad with Passport Seva. Integration is likely to be completed during 2015-16.

## Awards & Recognition:

The Project has received recognition at the highest level in the Government; has been the subject of case studies; and won several awards:-

- Skoch Challenger Award, given away by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission (March 2014)
- Certificate of Recognition in the area of "Information Security on Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under NeGP Central Projects" by M/s Elets Technomedia Pvt. Ltd. (March 2014).
- Case study: On the Case: TCS-Indian Passport Office: Transforming public sector services through process re-engineering and digitization, Ovum, London (January 2014)
- In January 2014, a research paper titled- High Performance e-Governance websites- A Game changer in efficient Public Service delivery, won the best paper award in National Conference on e-Governance organized by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeiTY)
- mBillion Special Mention award for 'mPassport' mobile application, July 2014
- Featured as one of the achievements of UPA Government in the compilation '10 years of Progress and Growth (2004-2014)' (January 2014)
- National Award for e-Governance (Gold) for Outstanding Performance in Citizen-Centric Service Delivery (January 2015)

## Passport Seva Divas and Passport Officers Conference

External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the second Passport Seva Divas and a three- day Passport Officers' Conference (23-25 June 2014) in New Delhi. The 24 June is the day on which Passports Act 1967 was enacted, which lays down the foundation of a sound legal framework for issuance of Passports and other travel documents in the post-independent India. Addressing the conference, the Minister exhorted Passport Officers to perform their citizen-centric roles with a sense of seva(service) and not merely as work. The agenda of this Conference was to review Passport Seva Project operation of last year and to set agenda for the next year. In recognition of the outstanding services rendered to citizens, the Minister gave away Passport Seva Puraskars to the selected employees, police authorities and Passport Offices.

## Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Under the Passport Seva Project (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 an email - based helpdesk has been set up which can be accessed by citizens through the [passportindia.gov.in](http://passportindia.gov.in) portal and where suggestions and grievances can be sent and also monitor its status online. It presently handles approximately 22, 000 calls per day (out of which 48% are in Hindi and 23% 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. He is also designated as the Director of Public Grievances for the Ministry. It deals with grievances received through telephone, e-mail and post, as also references from various Government offices such as President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, Central Vigilance Commission and Parliament Secretariat. In addition, all Passport Offices handle public grievances through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAM) website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, in which 8370 grievances were received during the period 01 January 2014 to 31 December 2014, (inclusive of pending 1045 of 2013), out of which 7934

cases have been disposed off. During the period 1.1.2014 to 31.12.2014, 34,402 public grievance petitions (inclusive of 23,423 email related to grievances/enquiries and CPGRAMS as mentioned above) were received, out of which 33,521 have been disposed of. The latest position on their applications, alongwith directions for further action, is posted on this website, which can be easily accessed by the public for its benefit. The number of complaints/grievances have steadily gone down in the last 3 years.

All Passport Offices handle public grievances through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAM) website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Information and Facilitation Counters, Public Grievance Cell and Help Desks have been set up 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 Passport Seva Kendras. The names, addresses and phone number of the Public Grievance Officer are also displayed in the Passport Offices. There is a Public Grievance redressal mechanism in all Passport offices to enquire into and redress any complaints from citizens in a timeframe.

## Passport Adalats & Melas

Passport Offices hold Passport Adalats regularly to redress the grievances of passport applicants. These Adalats have been very useful in disposing of some 7000 old and complex cases.

With the view to address difficulties faced by citizens in obtaining appointments and to meet increased demand for passport services, weekend passport melas are organized from time to time by Passport Offices. In 2014, 384 Passport Melas (compared to 203 in 2013) were organized from time to time during the weekend/holidays by various Passport Offices during which 1.99 lakh 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. It is a matter of satisfaction that the issuance of passports to prospective Haj pilgrims was again a very smooth affair in 2014. 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.

### **Inspection of Passport Offices**

Passport Offices in various States are inspected regularly. Apart from this, vigilance inspection of these offices is also done on regular basis. During these inspections, there is exchange of views to improve procedural efficiency. The vigilance inspections concentrate on corruption and malpractice cases in the Passport Offices. After the inspections, Passport Offices are advised to take suitable follow up actions for better operational efficiency to improve the service by clearing pendency and other bottlenecks in providing better services to the public. Passport Seva Kendras, in operation all over India, are also inspected under the Non-technical Serviced Level Agreements(SLA) on regular basis.

### **Right to Information Act (RTI)**

A Central Public Information Officer and Assistant Public Information Officer have been appointed in every Passport Office to provide information to applicants under the RTI Act. A Central Public Information Officer has also been appointed in the CPV Division. Joint Secretary (PSP) & CPO is the First Appellate Authority in respect of all Passport Offices and also for the CPV Division. From 01 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. From 17 June 2014, a CPIO portal has been created online in all Passport Offices. From 02 July 2014 onwards, CPV division has started uploading online RTI application received through post. A total of 4948 online and postal RTI applications were received and disposed off by the Division during the period 01 January to 31 December 2014(out of this 3816 applications transferred to RPOs for action at their end and 984 replies sent from CPV Division). During the same period, 891 postal and online First Appeals were also received and disposed of.

### **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. In 2014, 7 appeal sessions took place in the month of February, March, May, June, August, September, December

2014, whereby 143 appellants attended the proceedings. In pursuance of decision taken during the hearing, 164 Speaking Orders (including ex-parte decisions) were issued.

### **Manufacturing and Personalization of Travel Documents**

All Indian travel documents are manufactured by India Security Press, Nashik. In order to improve the overall quality, functionality and security of Indian passports, various measures have been taken. All Passport Offices, Headquarters and select Missions/Posts abroad have been provided with machine readable passport printers. All Passport Offices issue machine-readable passports as per the guidelines laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

For 160 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 1,62,848 passports during the period 01 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 (inclusive of 3529 for Andaman and Nicobar Islands) .

### **E-Passports**

In accordance with ICAO recommendations to incorporate biometric data in the Machine Readable Travel Documents, India has also decided to upgrade its existing passports to electronic category of e-passports. The e-passports provide greater protection against fraudulent practices and tampering. These e-passports also prevent issue of multiple passports to a single person, thus, ensuring high level of security in passport issuance. Indian Security Press (ISP) Nashik, has floated a global PQB for procurement of electronic contactless inlays.

### **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

India served as a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTD) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and has been implementing the ICAO guidelines on MRTD. The ICAO, in terms of Document 9303 as the central reference, has established ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD), on cost sharing basis, to promote a globally inter-operable e-passport validation scheme for electronic travel documents to support ICAO's strategic objectives to improve civil aviation security. The PKD Board members are nominated by PKD

participating countries and appointed by the ICAO Council. India was admitted to ICAO PKD in February 2009.

Joint Secretary (PSP) & CPO participated in the 19th PKD Board meeting held at Paris on 31 March- 01 April 2014, and at Regional Seminar on Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs) and Traveller Identification meeting on 08-10 April 2014 at Tashkent. He also represented India at the 22nd Travel Advisory Group (TAG) - MRTD meeting on 21-23 May 2014 at Montreal and at 20th PKD Board Meeting & IInd Borders Day held in Oslo on 28-30 October 2014. India was also represented by Ministry officials at 10th Symposium & Exhibition on MRTDs, Biometrics & Security Standards in Montreal on 07-09 October 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 5 and in second phase, in another 34 Missions/Posts, out of which work has already finished or is under progress in 31 Missions/Posts. As on 31 December 2014, nearly 15 crore consular 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 PQs, examination and inspection/study visits by several Parliamentary Committees:

- (a) The First Subcommittee of the Committee of Parliament on Official language made visit to PO, Bhubaneswar on 16 January 2014, to review the implementation of Official language in the Ministry of External Affairs and its offices. The Committee is scheduled to visit PO, Goa, Raipur and Dehradun in January-February 2015.
- (b) The First meeting of 2014 of the Consultative Committee for Ministry of External Affairs, was held on 05 December 2014, on the agenda item ” Passport Services”.

## Public outreach

As part of expanding its outreach, the CPV Division is bringing out a half-yearly bulletin “Passport Patrika”, containing information on various passport related issues, in association with Service Provider. Media road shows were also organized in many Passport Offices, whereby media was briefed on improvements in delivery of passport services. 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 Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 4.37 million visas in 2014. 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 64 Missions/Posts abroad.

In order to enhance the security environment of the visa issuance system, Government has decided to introduce biometric enrolment procedure for foreigners seeking visa to visit India in 2012, which was a part of the IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking) project. This is a joint project of MHA, NIC and MEA with MHA being the nodal authority and MEA as the implementing authority in Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The biometric enrolment procedures consist of ten fingerprint and facial biometrics. The implementation of this entire scheme in all the Indian Missions/Posts is expected to be completed by 2015. At present (as on 31 December 2014), IVFRT scheme (without biometrics) has been introduced in 155 Indian Missions/Posts abroad (61 are without biometrics). The

introduction of biometrics procedures is related to implementation of IVFRT system in Indian Missions and 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 7823 visas (as on 31 December 2014) to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders. The CPV Division also issued 7725 visa notes (as on 31 December 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**

The Ministry introduced outsourcing of visa services in Missions and Posts abroad during 2006-07. Subsequently, passport and consular services were also outsourced. As on now, 64 Indian Missions/Posts abroad have outsourced passport/visa/consular services and collection work as on 31 December 2014. The objective of outsourcing is to facilitate prompt and efficient visa, passport and consular services to the public.

### **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 2014, such a visa free agreement was signed with Norway.

### **Attestation and 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 ₹ 50/-

per document/per page, as the case may be, is charged by way of Postal Order for affixing Apostille stickers.

The work of collection and delivery of documents for attestation/apostille by Ministry of External Affairs has been outsourced to five Companies since July 2012 for a period of 2 years and extended up to 31 March 2015. These companies charge a service fee of ₹ 22/- (Personal), ₹ 18/- (Educational) and ₹ 16/- (Commercial) per document. For period from January to December 2014, Attestation Cell in the CPV Division attested 3,83,651 personal and 1,69,534 Commercial documents and apostilled 3,57,864 documents for use in the Apostille member countries. In addition, 34,305 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 Mission/Post for Indian citizens living abroad.

### **Consular Matters**

#### **Extradition and Legal Assistance**

The Ministry of External Affairs has been actively pursuing with various countries for negotiating bilateral consular Agreements to provide a legal and institutional framework to combat international terrorism, organized crime including financial frauds and drugs trafficking. These Agreements include Extradition Treaty, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Civil and Commercial Matters and Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

During the period from January and December 2014, six extradition requests- one each from USA, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Australia, Iran and Kenya were received. In addition, India received 32 requests for local prosecution (30 from UAE and 2 from Saudi Arabia). India sent 4 extradition requests- 1 to UK, 2 to Saudi Arabia and 1 to Thailand. Further, India extradited one person to USA and UAE extradited to India one person.

#### **Consular Issues**

There are about 28 million Overseas Indians spread over 183 countries across the globe. Out of these, some 10 million people living abroad are estimated to be Indian citizens. The vast majority of these Indian nationals are temporary migrants, including women workers and 90% of them work in the Gulf region. These Indian workers go abroad to make a better

living for themselves and their families back in India. However, once they reach abroad, they face a host of problems since working and living conditions abroad may not be according to their expectations.

The prime concern of the Consular Section in the CPV Division relates to looking after the welfare of Indian nationals who are living and working abroad. Besides the above, Consular Section also deals with cases of arrest and deaths of foreigners in India, including provision of consular access to foreign diplomatic missions in India. The Section also coordinates with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs regarding the welfare of Indian nationals abroad. Consular Section also provides assistance to the general public in finding out the whereabouts and welfare of missing Indian nationals. Issues relating to adoption of Indian children by Persons of Indian Origin, payment of salary dues and death-compensation to the families of deceased Indian workers, issue of PIO/OCI Cards, liaison with the Ministry of Shipping regarding the arrest of Indian crew members and Indian vessels, cases of marriage and divorce of Indian nationals under Foreign Marriage Act, 1969, registration of births and deaths of Indian nationals abroad, etc are also being looked after by the Consular Section.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad advise and guide the Indian community in an impartial manner in a variety of matters

affecting the existence of the community as a whole. 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. Apart from this, the Indian Missions/Posts render Consular services viz. attestation of various documents, registration of birth and death of Indian nationals, sending of mortal remains of Indian nationals back to India, registration/solemnization of marriage of Indian nationals, consular access for Indian nationals lodged in foreign jails, serving of summons of Indian courts to Indian nationals etc.

### **Bilateral Consular meetings**

During the period, meetings of Joint Working Groups on Bilateral Consular issues took place with Iran at Tehran on 18-19 May 2014, Australia at Canberra on 25-29 August 2014, Brazil on 16 July 2014 during Prime Minister's visit and at New Delhi with USA on 10 September 2014, Russian Federation on 28 October 2014, Switzerland on 17 November 2014 and Indonesia on 15-16 December 2014. During the meetings, deliberations covered on issues related to consular, visa and passport matters.



## Administration and Establishment

The Administration Division bears the responsibility for the optimal utilisation of manpower resources to meet the requirements of the Ministry both at Headquarters and in 182 Indian Missions/Posts abroad. To achieve these objectives, the Division oversees cadre management exercises which involve recruitment, training, postings/transfers, deputations and career progression among others. In addition, the Division also deals with formulation, amendments and reforms of all the relevant rules and regulations relating to personnel. The Division also obtains approval for setting up new Missions/Posts abroad.

In order to step up India's engagement with the world and to meet the increasing manpower demand, a comprehensive MEA Expansion Plan was started in 2008 and is to continue till 2018, under which every year around 50 posts are added at different levels. To better manage the human resources in the Ministry the Indian Foreign Service 'B' Cadre Review Proposal was also approved in 2011-12 and is currently under implementation. This Cadre Review apart from enhancing career prospects of officers will also bring about efficiency in the delivery of services. In keeping with these initiatives, a comprehensive exercise to review Recruitment Rules of the Ministry in consultation with DOPT and UPSC is also currently underway and is expected to be finalised during the next few months.

The current sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4024 (details in **Appendix IX**). Personnel posted against these posts are deployed in India and in 182 Missions/posts abroad. This includes officials from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Foreign Service, Branch 'B' (IFS 'B'), Interpreters Cadre, Legal and Treaties Cadre and Library Cadre, but excludes Group 'D' and ex-cadre posts.

Recruitments were made to various groups in the Ministry from 01 April – 30 November 2014, through Direct Recruitment (DR), Departmental Promotions (DP), and Limited Departmental Examination (LDE). (Details in **Appendix X**).

Given the nature of its functioning, the Ministry of External Affairs has always places great stress on appropriate training and development of linguistic skills. Over the years, this has resulted in the creation of a sufficiently large and diverse pool of those with foreign language skills within the Service, enabling officers to discharge their diplomatic responsibility more effectively. (Details in **Appendix XI**).

The Ministry continues its policy of ensuring adequate opportunity to persons with disability and to have suitable representation of persons with disability among its personnel in line with GOI rules. Towards this goal, the Ministry has identified posts suitable for appointment of persons with disability, including in the Indian Foreign Service.

The year under review witnessed further expansion of India's global diplomatic presence with the Government of India opening a new Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta.

The Ministry 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 text books, 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.

Implementation of Official Language Policy of the Government of India continues to be accorded a very high priority by the Ministry. The Ministry had organized Hindi Pakhwara on the occasion of Hindi Diwas in September 2014. Prizes were given away to the winners of Hindi Competitions by Minister for External Affairs Smt Sushma Swaraj, during the prize distribution function. World Hindi Day is celebrated every year in all our Missions/Posts abroad on 10th January as well as at the Headquarters. Besides this, the Ministry coordinates work relating to grant of 100 scholarships to

foreign students to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra.

## Vigilance Unit

Vigilance Awareness Week was observed from 27 October 2014 to 01 November 2014. All Indian Missions/Posts abroad and various departments in Ministry of External Affairs administered the pledge prescribed by the Central Vigilance Commission. During this week, the Ministry has launched an online filing facility of Vigilance case on the Ministry's portal. Vigilance complaint pertaining to the Ministry, diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad, Passport Offices in India, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Research and Information System, Indian Council for World Affairs can be filed through this online system.

Ministry of External Affairs has w.e.f. 01 January 2013 introduced signing of a Pre-contract Integrity Pact between the Ministry and the prospective bidders/sellers for all procurements/projects of the value of ₹ 50 crores and above. This would be applicable to all attached/subordinate offices and autonomous bodies of the Ministry including Foreign Service Institute, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and Indian Council of World Affairs.

The Integrity Pact would be implemented through a panel of two Independent External Monitors (IEMs) to be appointed by the Ministry in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission. Eminent persons of high integrity and reputation will be appointed as IEM by the Ministry.

The details of cases handled by Vigilance Unit of CNV Division in the Ministry for the year 2014-15 are as under:

- No of cases pending as on 31 March 2014: 75
- No of cases received for examination during the period 01 April 2014 to 30 December 2014: 39
- Total number of cases as on 30 November 2014: 114
- Number of cases closed with imposition of formal penalty during the period form 01 April 2014 to 30 December 2014: 06
- No of cases closed without penalty, on account of death, VRS, etc. during the period from 01 April 2014 to 30 November 2014: 37
- Total of cases closed during the period 01 April 2014 to 30 September 2014: 43
- No of cases pending as on 30 November 2014: 71

## Welfare

Welfare Division looks after general welfare of all employees of the Ministry of External Affairs. During the ongoing year, we lost 08 employees of the Ministry of External Affairs for whom all assistance was rendered by the Division for funeral and ex-gratia payment from staff Benefit fund. External Affairs Spouses Association (EASA) also provided 08 scholarships to the children of MEA Staff Benefit Fund through Welfare Section.

3 wards of MEA officials were accorded admission to MBBS courses and 76 wards were accorded admission to Engineering courses for whom the Division carried out formalities with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resources Development.

52 seats in Kendriya Vidyalayas were utilized by the children of the officers/staffs of the Ministry of External Affairs.

During the year, other welfare measures undertaken by the Division were arrangements for collection of funds for Flag Days for Communal Harmony and Armed Forces.

Welfare Division also assisted Indian Missions/Posts abroad to set up recreational clubs by providing grant-in-aid.

As and when officers and members of the staff return from Missions to Headquarters, they face difficulties in getting admission in various public/private schools, gas connection, ration card and telephone connections etc.

## Establishment

Establishment Division looks after the maintenance and upkeep of offices and residential complexes of the Ministry; allotment of office space and housing; and purchase and supply of furniture and office equipment for Ministry's offices. It also processes matters relating to allowances and special grants for officials posted in Missions and Posts abroad; purchase and supply of special procurement items and official vehicles; as well as renting of Chancery and residential accommodation for Missions and Posts abroad. Further, the Division takes care of selection and purchase of Objects d'Art (Od'A) 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 Ministry's offices in South Block, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan (JNB), Patiala House, Shastri Bhawan and ISIL Building. Several Divisions of the Ministry were shifted to JNB from South Block, thereby reducing congestion in that building and

enabling steps to retain its heritage character. A new library as well as a Rare Books Library are now functional in JNB. Efforts are underway to shift the remaining offices of the Ministry in ISIL Building to JNB to reduce rental liabilities. 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 enhance the eco-friendly nature of the building and further develop its landscape.

Living conditions at Ministry's housing complexes at Chanakyapuri, KG Marg, Gole Market and Dwarka were upgraded through provision of additional facilities with regard to maintenance, landscaping and gardening. Civil work for improving the overall condition of the KG Marg and Gole Market residential complexes are at completion stage.

Various proposals from Missions and Posts abroad were processed expeditiously. Foreign Allowance review for years 2012-13 and 2013-14 has been finalized with the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

Based on the recommendations of the Od'A Committee, several art works were procured for use in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad. An online Od'A Portal is being created to enable easier access to all users and effective tracking of Od'A items. Information about gifts received in the Toshakhana is being published on Ministry's website on a quarterly basis.

Several activities were undertaken in the Ministry as well as in our Missions and Posts abroad in pursuance of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' aimed at highlighting the need for officials to pay due attention to cleanliness as well as to be personally involved in fostering clean surroundings. These included weeding out of obsolete files/ papers/ furniture etc., and keeping the work place and toilets at the offices neat, tidy and clean. On 02 October 2014 the 'Swachh Bharat' pledge was administered to the Ministry officials; followed by shramdaan. Another shramdaan was undertaken by the Ministry officials on 6 December 2014. All Indian Missions/Posts abroad have also taken similar measures to ensure that their premises are maintained at enhanced levels of cleanliness befitting representational nature of our Missions/Posts abroad.

## Projects

The Division continued to closely monitor the progress of various constructions/renovation projects with the objective to ensure their timely commencement/completion. Construction project in Abuja has been completed and work has been awarded on construction of the Chancery and Residences for High Commission in Dar-es-Salaam. Major renovation projects at Kuala Lumpur, Dublin, Colombo, Sydney, Cultural Centre in Paris and Cultural Wing in Embassy of India, Washington are on various stages ranging from appointment of Consultant and preparation of architectural drawings to actual ongoing renovation.

Renovation in Chancery in Cairo is under submission for approval and Renovation of Chancery, India House and staff residences in Kuwait is under process. Many projects presently at the design and tendering stage are expected to move to the construction stage in the current financial year including Nicosia, Port of Spain and Port Louis (Chancery and WHS), Tashkent and Wellington.

The Projects Division is also handling the project related construction of Torana Gate at Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). Notable acquisition of plot/built-up properties during the period of the report are Helsinki, Bangkok, Kabul and Zagreb. Apart from this, the acquisition of property is on the cards in Guangzhou (land for Chancery and residences), Suva (Plot of land for Chancery and ICC) and a built up property for Chancery at Tel Aviv.

An allocation of ₹ 300 crores has been made under Capital Outlay Budget of the Ministry for the financial year 2014-15. A substantial enhancement in the budgetary allocation to the tune of ₹ 437 crores has been sought for the financial year 2015-16 to meet the projected expenditure on acquisition/construction projects in hand and for those likely to materialise in the financial year 2015-16.

A panel of 16 retired Ambassadors were engaged by PD Division with active assistance of A&RM Division. They studied old classified files with the sole intention for recommending 'Declassification'. They were able to recommend Declassification of 6468 files. Out of which 2797 files have been handed over to National Archive of India for appraising after obtaining due approval from concerned HODs. Apart from these, 2122 ordinary files have been destroyed.



## Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office

20

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 the provisions of the Act. In keeping with instructions of Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) on suo-motu disclosure, uploading of RTI applications/ appeals/ responses on public domain has been implemented.

The Ministry has implemented the system of online acceptance of RTI applications introduced by DOP&T in April 2013. The scheme of e-IPO (electronic Indian Postal order) introduced by DOP&T for purchasing postal orders electronically towards payment of RTI fees for obtaining information from Ministries/Departments of Government of India has been extended to all our 183 Missions/Posts abroad.

A total of 1206 applications seeking information under the RTI Act 2005 have been received in the Ministry during the period from 01 April 2014 to 30 November 2014 and have been dealt with successfully. Applications in general covered subjects such as foreign relations, administrative issues, Haj pilgrimage, bilateral visits and expenditure incurred on the same. CPV Division, Missions and Posts abroad, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Indian Council for World Affairs maintain their own records as independent public authorities under the Act.

All CIC hearings have been attended to by the Chief Public Information Officers (CPIOs) concerned and a representative of the RTI Cell. Quarterly returns have been filed with Central Information Commission (CIC) as required, on schedule.



## e-Governance and Information Technology

E-Governance & Information Technology Division (EG&IT) 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.

E-Office was launched in the Ministry on 03 July 2014 with an objective to move towards less paper and more efficient office. EG&IT Division is taking steps to implement “e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology”, a part of Digital India Programme. Integrated Mission Accounting Software (IMAS) has been implemented in all Missions/Posts abroad, which has led to uniformity in the accounting method followed by Missions/Posts abroad. Ministry is in the process of developing next version of I-MAS, which will be web-based and will lead to better financial planning and expenditure management in the Ministry. A web-based Library Management Software with browser based access for users has been implemented in the Ministry’s Library.

Ministry’s e-services such as Passport and online visa services have been integrated with e-Taal (Electronic Transaction and Aggregation Layer), a Mission Mode Project under National e-Governance Plan. Ministry has also implemented Comp DDO software and e-Procurement Mission Mode Project. Online visa component of the IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigner’s Registration & Tracking), spear-headed by the Ministry of Home Affairs has been operationalised at 155 Indian Missions/Posts, whereas Biometric enrolment has been implemented at 59 Missions/Posts.

In view of the growing incidence of cybersecurity threats, the EG&IT Division continued to provide special emphasis on cybersecurity training to its officers and staff at Headquarters and officers going on posting abroad.



Coordination Division processes all proposals for the grant of no objection from political angle for foreign visits of Governors, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, 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 2014–November 2014, Coordination Division issued 2268 political clearance for such visits.

The Division handles work relating to the grant of diplomatic clearances for foreign non-scheduled military flights and visits by foreign naval ships. During April 2014–November 2014, the Division issued 490 clearances for foreign non-scheduled military flights and 47 clearances for visits of foreign naval ships.

Coordination Division processed approvals for the participation of Indian Sports teams and sportsmen in international events abroad, and visits of foreign sports persons/teams to India. 203 such cases were processed for clearance during April 2014 – November 2014.

The Division also examines requests for grant of no objection for holding international conferences, seminars, workshops etc., grant of Amateur W/T Licence under the Indian Telegraph Act (1885), clearances for Name/Emblem registration and grant in aid to Indo-foreign cultural friendship and cultural societies located in foreign countries. During April 2014 – November 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.

45 references received from Ministry of Home Affairs for conversion of student visa into research visa were examined

and no objection to Ministry of Home Affairs conveyed. Cases related to exemption of income tax u/s 11(1) (c) of Income Tax from NGOs/Trusts and acquisition of immovable property by foreigners in India received from Ministry of Finance were also examined and response was sent to Ministry of Finance.

Coordination Division coordinates work relating to the grant of Padma Awards to foreign nationals. Nominations are obtained from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and recommendations of the Ministry are conveyed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The observance of Anti-Terrorism Day (21 May), Sadhbhavana Diwas (20 August), Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (31 October) and Communal Harmony Week (19-25 November) in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad is also coordinated by the Coordination Division.

The Division also undertook monitoring and updating of E-Samiksha website of the Cabinet Secretariat on follow-up to decisions taken during presentations to PM and during meetings of Committee of Secretaries.

VIP Cell processed references received from Ministers, Members of Parliament and other dignitaries.

The Students Cell deals with selection, nomination and admission of foreign students in respect of applications solicited from 65 friendly neighbouring and developing countries for MBBS, BDS, B.Engineering and 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. Besides this, cases of no objection for short-term elective training in respect of foreign students forwarded by M/o Health & FW are also dealt with.

Details of applications in respect of foreign nationals received/processed in the Students Cell for selection for nominated seats during the academic year 2014-15 are given below:

- Of the 49 applications received from Missions/Posts, candidates for 23 MBBS seats and 2 BDS seats were selected. Actual admissions are pending on account of a pending Supreme Court judgement.
- Of the 60 applications received from Missions/Posts, candidates for 41 B. Engineering seats and 8 B. Pharmacy seats were selected.
- Of the 21 applications received from Missions/Posts, candidates for 5 seats for PG medical courses at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University,

Varanasi were selected. Actual admissions are pending on account of a pending Supreme Court judgement.

During the period April-November 2014, 763 cases of no objection for foreign students were handled by the Section for short term elective training (for 3 months or less) in Government medical colleges referred by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and cases of no objection for appearing in PG medical entrance examinations conducted by AIIMS, PGI Chandigarh and JIPMER, Puducherry forwarded by Indian Missions/Posts abroad. ■ ■

## External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division

In order to better address the challenges of effective out-reach in the 21st century, in January 2014, the Ministry decided to merge XP and PD Divisions into a single division- (XPD). In the year 2014, the External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division (XPD) of the Ministry of External Affairs continued its mandated task of effectively articulating the position of the Government of India on various foreign policy issues to the 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. Over the past few years, alongside an active engagement with the electronic and print media, the Ministry has simultaneously increased its public diplomacy initiatives, especially of the digital variety, resulting in a magnified impact in shaping public opinion and reaching out to a wider audience.

### Press Coverage

Beginning with the swearing-in ceremony of the new Government in May 2014, where leaders from SAARC countries and other international dignitaries were special invitees, XPD Division has been in the forefront of ensuring wide-spread international and domestic press coverage of the new initiatives; particularly with regard to foreign policy and diplomatic out-reach. XPD Division, in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision, has ensured that catch-phrases like "Neighbourhood First" and "Act East" foreign policy are widely disseminated; in print, electronic as well as various social media platforms. President of Bangladesh Mr Abdul Hamid and President of Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Putin visited India in the month of December 2014. President Mr Barack Obama visited India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations.

VVIP Visits- All logistical arrangements, including setting up and operating fully equipped Media Centers, organizing media briefings and other facilitation for the media accompanying the President, Vice President, Prime Minister

and the External Affairs Minister on their visits abroad as well as efforts ensuring suitable media coverage of the visit, are all made by the XPD division.

- a. During the year, the Division continued to facilitate media delegations that accompanied President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on his visits to Vietnam, Norway, Finland and Bhutan, Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari's visit to China and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on his visits to Bhutan, Brazil, Nepal, Japan, USA, Myanmar, Australia and Fiji.
- b. Publicizing the speeches and statements delivered by the External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj, on various diplomatic occasions during the year notably during her visits to Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Singapore, Vietnam, Bahrain, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, USA, UK, Maldives, Mauritius, UAE and ROK.
- c. XPD Division has also played a critical role in disseminating information about incoming visits by various world leaders; including Heads of States/Government of China and Australia. XPD Division has arranged joint press conferences with the visiting dignitaries (like for the visiting US Secretary of State) and assisted the visiting media persons and foreign media personnel based in India in the suitable coverage of these visits.

### Publicising New Government Initiatives

- a. On 02 October 2014, at the launch of the Swachh Bharat Campaign, XPD Division played a key role in ensuring press coverage of all related events at MEA in Delhi and at Missions abroad.
- b. On 25 September 2015, when Prime Minister formally inaugurated the 'Make in India' campaign, XPD Division worked closely with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion to ensure that this campaign acquired a global foot-print.

## Press Briefings

XPD Division, over the past year, has arranged for regular press briefings by the JS(XP) and Spokesperson to the Government that happen at least once every week.

- i. Whenever there are significant events or important diplomatic challenges, like during the Iraq hostage crisis or on the eve of important visits; press briefings have taken place at far greater frequency.
- ii. In order to ensure speedy and timely dissemination of information, new features like 'SMS Alerts', 'Live Streaming on Youtube' and 'Putting up of Full Transcript on the MEA website on a real-time basis' have been introduced.
- iii. Reaching out to regional language media: While translation of press releases and Official Spokesperson's response to media queries in Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, Tamil, Bengali, Assamese, Malayalam continues, the scope has been widened further to include Telugu during the period.

Beyond press coverage and briefings, XPD is also the nodal division in charge of the Ministry's social media and digital media outreach efforts as well as bringing out new publications and documentaries that assist India's diplomatic endeavours. Some important new features/policies/programmes in these fields are enumerated below:

## New Digital Outreach

Launch of Arabic and Spanish language versions of MEA website: While the Hindi version of the Ministry's website, launched previously, is garnering public appreciation, XPD has launched new versions in Arabic and Spanish as well.

- i. New ASEAN-India website- In keeping with our 'Act East' foreign policy; a newly revamped ASEAN-India website (<http://www.mea.gov.in/aseanindia/index.htm>) has also been incorporated on the MEA website.
- ii. MEA Online: Modelled on the MEA Community Forums, this discussion forum aims to be an online platform where officers can interact, share and discuss on a wide range of issues that are of common concern to all.
- iii. India Global on Radio- All the episodes of the popular programme 'India Global', prepared in consultation with Indian Missions abroad, are now available for broadcast on AIR FM channel as well as Podcasts on MEA's dedicated channel (<http://mea.gov.in/mea-campaigns.htm>)

and MEA's SoundCloud page (<https://soundcloud.com/meaindia>) and YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/meaindia>). Users can also listen to the latest episode of India Global on the 'MEAIndia' mobile app.

- iv. Interactive World Map MEA website (<http://www.mea.gov.in/indian-missions-abroad.htm>) A user can visit all the integrated web pages of Indian Missions abroad through a single interface, Indian Treaties Database (<http://www.mea.gov.in/treaty.htm>). This Database, strives to provide an accessible and searchable link or series of links to the Treaties/Agreements/MoUs etc. which have been entered into by India with Foreign Countries. Vigilance complaint (<http://www.mea.gov.in/lodge-complaint.htm>) module has also been added to the MEA website.

## Social Media Platforms

MEA's presence on all major social media platforms has registered sizable and impressive activity (almost doubling from the previous year) during the course of the year.

- i. The Indian Diplomacy facebook page ([www.facebook.com/indiandiplomacy](http://www.facebook.com/indiandiplomacy)) and the MEA India facebook page ([www.facebook.com/MEAIndia](http://www.facebook.com/MEAIndia)) have more than 2,25,000 and 6,00,000 followers respectively from countries around the world.
- ii. The number of people adding the MEAIndia G+ page to their inner circles is fast expanding crossing 100,000. Similarly, the Indian diplomacy twitter account (@indiandiplomacy) and the Official Spokesperson's twitter account (@MEAIndia) have a combined followership of 400,000. The platforms are used to tweet on India and its India's foreign policy.
- iii. Videos of press briefings and other media events are regularly uploaded on MEAIndia Youtube channel ([www.youtube.com/user/MEAIndia](http://www.youtube.com/user/MEAIndia)).
- iv. The full length documentaries and films commissioned by the division have found an exclusive online presence through the Indian Diplomacy YouTube Channel ([www.youtube.com/user/Indiandiplomcy](http://www.youtube.com/user/Indiandiplomcy)) having more than 10,000 subscribers and the cumulative viewership of more than a million.
- v. The Flickr account (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/meaindia>) has come to serve as a useful and popular online repository of photographs of all major events in the Ministry.

- vi. MEAIndia Mobile App: 'MEAIndia' is the first mobile App launched by any Government of India organisation. The 2.2 version of 'MEA India' has also been launched which introduces Telephone Directory and configuring "What's New from Indian Missions" on My MEA Screen.

## Visual Outreach- Films and Documentaries

This year, XPD Division, working alongside our private partners, successfully completed work on several documentaries that were well received across the world.

- i. Prominent ones include- "Bridging worlds, A Meeting of Minds: The Story of Indians in the United Kingdom", "Bridging worlds, A Place in the Sun, The story of Indians in the United States", "Hindu Nectar: Spiritual Wanderings in India", "Natyانبhava: Yatra & Darshan", "Handmade in India", "Lessons in Friendship", "Qissa-e-Parsi" and "Sulh-e-Kul". "The Quantum Indians" produced by the Public Service Broadcasting Trust and Public Diplomacy Division won the National Film Award for Best Educational Film of 2013.
- ii. The Division also organized special screening of documentaries: Fire in the Blood, Natyanubhava, Qissa-e-Parasi and Hindu Nectar-Spiritual Wandering in India which were very well received.

## Books, Magazines, Lectures and Speeches

This year, XPD Division published the Encyclopaedia on India China cultural contacts which is the product of joint efforts of Indian and Chinese experts.

- i. During EAM's first press interaction in September 2014, XPD Division had launched a booklet (in print as well as digital version) titled 'Fast Track Diplomacy'; enumerating the foreign policy achievements of the new government, that was very well received. On 31 December 2014 EAM launched the e-book titled 'Break Through Diplomacy'; enumerating India's foreign policy achievements under the new Government.
- ii. In order to make our youth more well aware of the diplomatic challenges facing the country and to bring our students closer to the foreign policy decision-making process, XPD Division has worked to take the MEA 'Distinguished Lecture Series' to all corners of the

country. Thirty two lectures have already been conducted under the Distinguished lecture Series.

- iii. India Perspectives, the Division's flagship magazine, is now available on mobile platforms in 14 languages – Hindi, Arabic, English, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Pashto, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Sinhalese, Spanish, Tamil. Moreover, the magazine can now be read on hand-held digital devices such as mobile phones with high resolution.
- iv. The Division has brought out a New Calendar for 2015 on the theme of a 'Girl Child'. Woven around a collection of pictures of young girls, full of life and energy, from across India, they reflect our goal of striving for an environment where girls feel safe, secure and equal.
- v. XPD Division has ensured that new initiatives by our Consular and Passport Divisions, including celebration of Regional Passport Days have been widely covered in national and regional media.
- vi. In the wake of United Nations decision to celebrate 21 June as International Yoga Day, wide-spread publicity was given to the initiative through advertising campaign in the month of December 2014.

## Familiarization Visits

In order to enhance awareness of India amongst our friendly countries and to encourage friendly diplomatic exchanges, XPD Division has organised familiarization visits by foreign journalists from Myanmar, Thailand, Small Island Developing States, African Countries, Latin American and Russian Federation. As part of the outreach programme to enhance awareness and understanding of contemporary India and reach heritage of Indian Literature, XPD Division invited five Eminent Illustrators and Literary Personalities from Australia, Costa Rica, Iran and Canada from 26 December 2014 to 6 January 2015. Two delegations of senior German journalists are slated to visit India soon. On the other hand, familiarization visits by Indian journalists to ASEAN countries were also organised.

## Bilateral Media Forums

In order to encourage media dialogue and exchanges, after the inaugural India-China Media Forum in September 2013 in New Delhi, in August 2014, the first ever India-Arab League Media Forum with participation from fourteen Arab League member states was organised in New Delhi. This prestigious event, with participation from senior journalists from English, Arabic, Hindi and Urdu press, was inaugurated by EAM herself on 21 August 2014.



## Foreign Service Institute

### Officer Trainees

The Foreign Service Institute conducted training programmes for Officer Trainees of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). 2012 batch of 36 IFS Officer Trainees completed their training and their valedictory function was organized at FSI on 18 June 2014. Foreign Secretary Smt Sujatha Singh was the Chief Guest. The External Affairs Minister (EAM)'s Gold Medal for the Best Officer-Trainee of the 2012 Batch was awarded to Ms. Priyanka Sohoni. The Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Dissertation was awarded to Ms. Gitanjali Brandon. The Best Sportsman Trophies were awarded to Shri Richhpal Singh and Ms. Nidhi Chaudhary.

Officer Trainees of the 2013 batch joined FSI for a week's Orientation Course in August 2013 before proceeding for Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in September 2013. The batch returned to FSI in December 2013 for a nine-month long training. Their training included subjects such as international relations and foreign policy, international law, defence and security, trade and economic diplomacy, hydro diplomacy, media relations, cultural diplomacy, right to information, social development, minority and human rights issues etc. 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.

Training was delivered through interactive lectures, group discussions, case studies, role playing and simulation and presentations on topical issues to develop creative thinking. Special modules on Consular Work and on Public Speaking to develop effective communication skills were also included. 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 Officer Trainees with the work of Indian Missions abroad, the Officer Trainees visited the Indian Missions in Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh in four separate groups.

The Officer Trainees were sent on attachments with the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and with Centre for Science and Environment. They also visited Mazagon Dockyard Ltd., BARC in Mumbai, and had interactive sessions with leading financial institutions and industrial establishments. A three-week long 'Bharat Darshan' tour was organized for the Officer Trainees to acquaint them better with the rich cultural diversity, heritage, and economic and tourism potentials of the country. The training programme included a month-long District Attachment in various States across the country where the Officer Trainees got an opportunity to learn about administration at the grass roots level and functioning of State and district administration. After their District attachment, the Officer Trainees made a detailed presentation in the presence of FSI faculty and State Resident Commissioners. On completion of their training at FSI, the 2013 batch proceeded on desk attachment in the Ministry in October 2014.

The 2014 batch of IFS Officer Trainees had one week orientation course at FSI in August 2014 before proceeding to LBSNAA, Mussoorie for Foundation Course. The 32 Officer Trainees of the 2014 batch and one OT from 2013 batch will begin their training at FSI on 15 December 2014.

### Mid-career training

FSI conducted MCTP Phase II for Grade IV officers (Director-level), of the 1997 and 1998 batches, for a period of three weeks distributed at FSI, Fletchers School of Law and Diplomacy, Massachusetts and the Indian Institute of Public Administration from 22 June to 11 July 2014.

A flexible program for MCTP – I (Mid Career Training Programme Phase I), meant for officers who return to the headquarters after completing the first round of postings abroad typically having 5-8 years of service, was put in place wherein officers could complete this training at their pace and as per their convenience.

System for non-mandatory training has been put in place so that interested officers can avail of this facility for advanced

training in specific subjects of their specialization / interests at reputed Indian and international universities/centres of excellence.

Other training modules: Joint training programmes were organized for IFS Officer Trainees and Deputationists / US/ DS level and other officers for wider exposure and cross fertilization of ideas, including on such subjects as trade and economic diplomacy, media management, hydro diplomacy etc.

### **Inter Service Training**

An orientation capsule on Economic and Commercial Training for the Indian Trade Services Officers was conducted for the first time, from 19-23 May 2014. Some of the MEA officers also attended the capsule.

### **Training for Branch B of IFS**

Training courses for Section Officers/ Private Secretaries, Assistants/PAs and Clerks were revamped. Apart from existing training courses in GoI Rules & Office Procedure, and MEA-specific subjects like IFS (PLCA) Rules, IMAS (Integrated Mission Accounting System), Protocol, Economic & Commercial work, Consular, Passport & Visa work, etc., new training capsules were introduced in areas such as personality development, basic Computer & IT Skills, Website management, Finance and Budget work, MEA Overview, Foreign Policy, Trade Promotion, Cultural Diplomacy, media handling, VVIP Visits, etc. A two-day training capsule was introduced for MEA's multi-tasking staff and drivers for the first time.

### **Linkages with counterpart Foreign Embassies / Diplomatic Institutes Abroad**

Dean FSI attended the 41st Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations held in Pretoria from 23-28 September 2014. A four-member delegation led by Mr K.E Mahoi, Deputy Director General, Republic of South Africa visited Foreign Service Institute (FSI) on 21 October 2014. Many Embassies in New Delhi (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Libya, Serbia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam) interacted with FSI during the year. In September and November 2014, FSI organized lectures on India's Foreign Policy for ASEAN students under Exchange Programme.

FSI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Government of the Republic of Fiji on 19 November 2014.

### **Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan**

FSI joined the call by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. Apart from cleanliness of its own premises and incorporating the message / lessons as part of its training content, FSI expanded its campaign to its neighbourhood viz, the Ber Sarai area. It convened a meeting of all stake holders namely the Ber Sarai Merchants Association, Resident Welfare association, CPWD, MCD, other institutions in the area - ISTM, as also experts / NGOs - Sulabh Sauchalaya. A Ber Sarai Swachh Bharat Committee has been formed to discuss plans of action including organization of monthly cleanliness and awareness campaigns.



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

The Ministry 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 Regional Hindi Conferences in different countries by the Ministry is one of the initiatives to promote and propagate Hindi abroad. These 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 Regional Hindi Conferences were held at New York, Moscow and Mauritius. In addition, a World Hindi Conference (WHC) is organized every three years. Last WHC was organized in 2012 in Johannesburg. The next WHC is scheduled to be held in India in September 2015.

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 Ministry of External Affairs and its Mauritian counterpart in the Govt. 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.

Implementation of Official Language Policy of the Government of India continued to be accorded a very high priority by the Ministry of External Affairs. Ministry had organized Hindi Pakhwara on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. Prizes were given away to the winners of Hindi Competitions by Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj, during the prize distribution function.

Regional Passport Offices as well as our Missions abroad organized various Hindi competitions on the occasion of Hindi Diwas, 2014. Special grants were sanctioned to Missions/Posts abroad for organizing these activities.

World Hindi Day is celebrated every year in all our Missions/Posts abroad on 10th January as well as at the Headquarters. This year all the Missions that requested for grants for celebrating World Hindi Day were provided the same. World Hindi Day was celebrated by the Ministry in New Delhi. Hon'ble EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

A Hindi Advisory Committee is working in the Ministry under the Chairpersonship of External Affairs Minister.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, Official Language Implementation Committees are being set up in Indian Missions abroad. In compliance with the annual program issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry in association with the Department of Official Language regularly conducts inspection of Indian Missions abroad and Regional Passport Offices in India, to take stock of the progressive use of Official Language in Official Business.



The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was founded on 09 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 activities of ICCR could be broadly divided into: Academic and Intellectual; Arts and Culture; and Other Activities.

## Academic and Intellectual

ICCR administers scholarships under various schemes of the Government for foreign students to pursue under-graduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes in various fields, including art and culture, humanities, as well as professional courses such as engineering, pharmacy, accountancy, business administration and management. For the academic year 2014-15 there are over 6200 ICCR scholars studying in India in over 20 States and 120 Universities/Institutions across India. To ensure smooth functioning of the scholarship programme the annual meeting of International Students Advisors was held on 22 April 2014 at ICCR Headquarters in New Delhi to work out modalities and resolve issues so that foreign scholars have a comfortable and useful stay in India.

ICCR implements various welfare measures, lectures by eminent Indians, cultural events and summer and winter camps to give foreign scholars an opportunity to explore India and get an understanding of its rich and varied cultural heritage and its industrial and scientific capabilities. As part of these activities the 4th International Scholars Meet (ISM-2014) was organized at National Institute of Technology Rourkela from 07-09 March 2014, which was well attended by scholars. ICCR also held an International Students Meet at Pune on 29 November 2014. It also supported SPIC MACAY's International Convention for Students at IIT,

Chennai from 08-14 June 2014.

On the eve of Maulana Azad's birth anniversary, a call by international students on External Affairs Minister was organized on 10 November 2014. Many Regional Offices arranged interaction of students with the Governors/ Chief Ministers in their respective States.

ICCR is encouraging Indian Missions abroad to establish ICCR Alumni groups and many have already been established. EAM launched the ICCR Alumni Group in Mauritius during her visit on 02 November 2014.

ICCR in consultation with Indian Missions abroad, has established Chairs of Indian Studies in various foreign universities. The purpose of these Chairs, apart from educating foreign students about India, is to become a nucleus around which Indian Studies could develop in academic institutions abroad.

The number of Chairs as on 30 November 2014 is 77 which includes 11 positions of school level Hindi teachers. Of the 77 Chairs, 29 are for teaching of Indian languages [22 Hindi Chairs (11 Professorial + 11 Teacher level), 4 Sanskrit Chairs, 2 Tamil Chairs and 1 Bengali Chair) while the remaining cover other India related subjects.

During the period April 2014 to November 2014, MoUs were signed with Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada and University of Dar-es-Salaam, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania for establishment of new Chairs of Indian Studies. Five more MoUs were signed during this period for continuation of ICCR Chairs at Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka, Mauritius; Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan; Lagos Business School, Lagos, Nigeria; Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark; and University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland. Another significant development during this period was signing of a MoU between ICCR and Export Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) to jointly operate the short-term Chair at Lagos Business School, Lagos, Nigeria.

In addition to Chairs abroad, ICCR also operates two Chairs in India i.e. SAARC Chair and Nelson Mandela Chair for which scholars from abroad are invited to India. While African

scholars are invited for the Nelson Mandela Chair which is permanently based in JNU, scholars from SAARC countries are invited for the SAARC Chair which rotates between different universities.

ICCR awards Senior and Junior Research Fellowships to international scholars specializing in Indian studies in various fields particularly culture and social sciences. Under this programme, ICCR received one Junior Fellow from Croatia in June 2014 and one Senior Fellow from Indonesia in October 2014. One Senior Fellow from Spain who joined the fellowship in 2012-13 is also continuing his second phase of fellowship which started in July 2014 in affiliation with University of Pune.

Under its Outgoing Visitors Programme, ICCR sponsored visits of 17 eminent scholars to various parts of the world, including Brazil, Columbia, Croatia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Mauritius, Russia, Turkey, UK and USA.

Under its Academic Visitors Programme, ICCR invited 4 eminent Academicians/ Scholars from Kazakhstan, Germany and Tunisia.

## Art and Culture

Presently, ICCR is maintaining 34 full-fledged Centres and 1 Sub-Centre abroad spread on all the continents. The Centres are hubs for promoting Indian culture and soft power through not only classes in dance, music, Yoga and Hindi but also by organizing exhibitions of art & sculpture, events on philosophy, history, sociology, economic trends, cinema in India etc. by both local experts and visitors from India. To promote public-private partnership models for Cultural Centres an MoU was also signed on 03 July 2014 between ICCR and Casa de la India, Valladolid, Spain towards financial assistance by ICCR upto Euro 75,000 or 25% of the expenditure, whichever is lower, to Casa de la India, for a period of five years. An Indian Cultural Centre, mainly funded by local organizations, was inaugurated in Busan, Republic of Korea. Through regular interaction and guidance for the Indian Cultural Centres, ICCR has been able to increase both the number of programmes being organised, as well as the range and diversity of events.

ICCR sponsored/provided travel grants to 55 Indian cultural groups/artistes to visit various countries to present their performances, including at prestigious international festivals. It also organized Indian participation in the "Celebrations of 180th Anniversary of Arrival of Indian Indentured Labour" in Mauritius from 31 October to 09 November 2014 and in the "2nd Indo-Arab Cultural Festival" in Algeria from 20-27 November 2014.

ICCR coordinated the inauguration of India-MGC Museum on 07 April 2014 at Siem Reap, Cambodia where an exhibition "Vastram – Splendid World of Indian Textile" is being displayed. It also Co-chaired and coordinated the Museum's Governing Board meeting from 29-30 September 2014.

ICCR sent 24 exhibitions abroad from its own collection to various countries covering a broad spectrum including photography, paintings and textiles. It also provided support to 4 artists for participating in the Indian contemporary art and photo exhibitions abroad. ICCR organized an India-China Women Artists' Residency called 'Maitri' from 05-09 November 2014 in Jaipur. The exhibition of these paintings was inaugurated in Jaipur on 9 November 2014. It would be displayed in various places in India and China.

Under its Horizon Series, ICCR organized 27 Painting exhibitions of paintings and sculptures in its Azad Bhavan Art Gallery.

As Chairperson of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)'s Core Group on Promoting Cultural Cooperation, ICCR hosted the meeting of the Core Group on 29-30 August 2014 at Kochi. The recommendations made by the Group were considered and approved at the IORA Ministerial meeting in Perth.

To promote cultural interaction with other countries, ICCR regularly organized cultural events with foreign participation in India. Important among these are Begum Akhtar Centenary celebration in Delhi from 10-12 October 2014 in which one group from Pakistan, two groups from Bangladesh and three Indian groups participated; "International Folk Dance and Music Festival" in Delhi from 13-15 October 2014 with participation of groups from Hungary, Israel, Poland, Russia, UK and from India; "International Dance and Music Festival" from 28-30 October 2014 at Delhi with participation of groups from Israel, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Russia, Spain and India; and the "8th South Asian Bands Festival 2014" from 07-09 November 2014 at Purana Qila, New Delhi on behalf of SAARC Division, MEA with participation of band groups from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, France, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In addition to its own events, ICCR supported Krishna Prerna Charitable Trust for organizing "5th World Flute Festival 2014" at Delhi from 22-24 August 2014 in which five foreign groups participated from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Belgium & South Korea. ICCR, the Times of India group & Krishna Prerna Charitable Trust organized "2nd World Percussion Festival" at Nehru Park, Delhi from 21-23 November 2014 in which groups from El Salvador, Hungary, Israel, Jordan, Korea, Netherlands, Spain and India participated. ICCR collaborated with Forum

of Art Beyond Borders (FABB) and Prasiddha Foundation, New Delhi to organize the “8th Delhi International Arts Festival 2014” from 28 October to 11 November 2014 in which groups from Austria, USA, two groups from Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel and Pakistan participated.

Besides the above Festivals, ICCR hosted performances of foreign cultural groups from Afghanistan, El Salvador, Mauritius and Russia. In addition to these, ICCR supported Embassy of Turkmenistan by hosting a cultural event in Delhi based on the poetry of Magtymguly Pyragy, the national poet of Turkmenistan and also provided support for photographic exhibition on him in New Delhi. ICCR also supported the Embassy of Turkmenistan in organizing performance of a 30-member folk group from Turkmenistan on 16 October 2014. ICCR supported Embassy of Tajikistan in New Delhi for organizing a seminar to celebrate the “600th Birth Anniversary of Tajik-Persian Poet Abdurrahman Jami” on 27 November 2014. It supported Embassy of Indonesia in New Delhi for organizing Ramayana Shadow Puppet titled ‘the fall of Kumbhakaran’ performance featuring Dalong Suniwo Tejo, renowned Indonesian Shadow Puppet Master, on 29 November 2014 at ICCR’s Azad Bhavan Auditorium.

ICCR organized eighteen cultural evenings under the “Horizon Series” presented by India artists/groups at Azad Bhavan, Auditorium, New Delhi. “Horizon Series” programmes are also organized in Regional Offices of the Council.

## Other Activities

Under the “Distinguished Visitors Programme”, ICCR hosted visit to India of eminent personalities from Costa Rica and Germany.

An Orientation Programme for IFS Officer Trainees (2013 Batch) from 26 - 30 May 2014 was conducted by ICCR during which the officers were exposed to various facets of India’s rich cultural heritage through lectures, performances and presentations by experts.

ICCR brings out 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-annual) and “Thaqafat-ul-Hind” (Arabic Quarterly), for distribution in India and abroad.

To promote and propagate Hindi, ICCR organizes various activities such as Hindi Seminars and release of books in India and abroad. ICCR appoints Hindi teachers/professors in its Cultural Centres, Missions and various universities abroad to propagate Hindi language. It also sends Hindi books,

dictionaries and its Hindi publication “Gagananchal” to Indian Missions and Indian Cultural Centers abroad. During the period from April to November 2014, ICCR published “Gagananchal” Volume 37 No.1, 2 and 3. It sponsored Smt Roop Rani to Shanghai International Studies University in China, Ms. Shirin Qureshi at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in Sri Lanka and Smt Kavita Singh to Yerevan State Linguistic University in Armenia as Hindi Teachers. Two Hindi Officers from ICCR attended one-day Hindi Training Camp organized by Prasar Bharati in May 2014. ICCR organized Poetry Conference in its Auditorium on 19 June 2014 in collaboration with ‘Sarvabhasha Sanskruti Samanway Samiti’ and also organized “Hindi Pakhwada” in September 2014. ICCR also provided books for students learning Hindi in Bangkok and Turkmen National Institute of World Language, Ashgabat.

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. ICCR continued to administer the British Council Libraries and coordinate the activities of the Foreign Cultural Centres in India.

ICCR initiated Maulana Azad Memorial lecture in 1958 in fond memory of its founder Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of India. The lecture is intended to foster promotion of better understanding among the different people of the world and eminent speakers from India and abroad are invited every year to speak on subjects of importance to humanity at large, and, in particular, to the people of India. This year’s lecture was delivered by Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India on “A Century of Turmoil in Western Asia: Some Pitfalls of Nationalism” at Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi on 11 November 2014.

During this period, ICCR sent three busts of Mahatma Gandhi to Hungary, Tanzania and Zimbabwe for installation at University of Pecs in Budapest, University of Dar-es-Salaam and Central Park in Harare respectively.

(During December 2014 to March 2015, it is expected that 8 new Chairs [3 in Australia (Macquarie University, Monash University and University of Melbourne), one each in Canada (McGill University), Jamaica (University of West Indies), Thailand (Chulalongkom University), Ukraine (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev) and USA (Rutgers State University of New Jersey)], will be operationalized for which MoUs have already been signed in the previous years). ■ ■

## INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (ICWA)

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) has been playing a pro-active and purposeful role in interpreting the world to India and India to the world. With the new Government in place, this mission has become even more important and is being pursued with utmost vigour. ICWA's three-fold vision, as delineated below, continues to guide its work:

- i) To facilitate the study and research of India's role in international affairs for developing a body of informed opinion on policies and policies option;
- ii) To promote India's relations with other countries through research, collaboration, institutional dialogue and knowledge-sharing in a mutually beneficial manner; and
- iii) To serve as a clearing house of information and knowledge regarding world affairs.

While discharging its responsibilities, ICWA has been pursuing the 4-point External Strategy approved by its Governing Body and the Governing Council. This strategy focuses on the following:

- i) SAARC countries and Myanmar;
- ii) Ten priority countries namely, China, Russia, US, Iran, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Turkey, Germany and Brazil;
- iii) Regional approach towards West Asia, Central Asia, East Asia, European Union, Africa and Latin America; and
- iv) Thematic issues (e.g. energy security) and relevant regional groupings (e.g. BRICS and IBSA.)

### Research and Publication

The core part of the institution is its compact but talented Research Faculty, comprising the Director (Research), 16 Research Fellows (all Ph. D holders) and 3 Research Interns. The Research Faculty is supervised by the Deputy Director General, a serving joint secretary-level officer from MEA and the Director General.

The Research Faculty undertakes various study and research projects, apart from helping in the organization of outreach

activities. On the research and publication side, its outputs during the period were as follows:

- i) View Points: 24((12 with Hindi translation)
- ii) Issue Briefs: 07(2 with Hindi Translation)
- iii) Policy Briefs: 10 (8 with Hindi translation)
- iv) Sapru House Papers: 03
- v) Books and other publications: 07

Members of the Research Faculty published 09 articles in national journals and 09 articles in foreign journals. Faculty members participated in a total of 19 international conferences during the said period.

### Core Groups

Besides the Research Faculty, ICWA's Core Groups of scholars represent the second channel through which research and publication activities are conducted. During the report period, Core Groups on Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives, Afghanistan, China and Myanmar held their meetings, thereby facilitating scholarly exchanges among our experts. In this process, they regularly reviewed and evaluated developments in their target countries and shared their assessments with the authorities concerned. In addition, they contributed to the process of producing books on their chosen themes.

Package of research projects by outside experts represents the third channel for our research and publication activities. The Research Committee evaluates research proposals received from outside experts. After its approval is accorded, experts are given book and travel grants for undertaking their projects. A total of 15 projects are under current implementation.

### Outreach

Organising a series of seminars, lectures, conferences, Roundtables etc. continues to be a core activity. This attracts a mix of scholars, diplomats, media representatives and

members of strategic community and civil society to our events. During the said reporting period, a total of 51 events were organized. These events have generally proved useful not only to the audiences, but also to members of our Research Faculty in multiple ways. The following events of special importance and were held successfully to secure the stated goals:

- i) Address by Mr Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on 18 September 2014
- ii) ICWA-SIS, JNU Dialogue 2014 on "India in the Emerging Global Order: Political, Strategic and Economic Dynamics"
- iii) 28th Know India Programme for Youths of Indian Origin on 27 June 2014
- iv) Address by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mozambique under the Sapru House Lecture Series.
- v) Address by Minister of Human Settlement of the Republic of South Africa in the Panel Discussion on "South Africa's Africa Agenda: Changing Perspectives on Africa's Development" on 03 November 2014.
- vi) Roundtable on "National Security: The Key Challenges Ahead for India" in collaboration with The Tribune National Security Forum with keynote address by Minister of Railways and special address by Governor, Jammu and Kashmir on 02 December 2014.

A new activity i.e. Roundtable with senior foreign diplomats as keynote speakers and panelists has been started at ICWA. On 10 June 2014, 15 African Ambassadors and High Commissioners took part in useful discussions on India-Africa Relations, attended by some of the foremost Africa experts. On 24 June 2014, discussion on a book produced by ICWA led to an interesting interaction among scholars where the Ambassador of Poland was a notable speaker. This was followed on 27 June 2014 by the Roundtable on 'Canada's Worldview - and Relations with India' where the High Commissioner of Canada was the keynote speaker. A Roundtable on presidential elections in Indonesia was also organized. These Roundtable discussions have been found to be very useful for our Research Faculty and other friends and supporters of ICWA.

## External Dialogues

ICWA takes its mission of conducting Track-II diplomacy quite seriously. At present it has 37 MoUs with Think Tanks

in foreign countries and 06 MoUs with universities within India. As the Table on our outreach activities shows, dialogues with external partners were held, both here and abroad. We received delegations from 07 countries and we sent our delegations of scholars to 09 countries. Visits of our delegations enable us to connect with important stake-holders in the target countries; to project our perspectives; and to assess their view points. Reports are regularly shared with the authorities concerned.

## National Discourse on Foreign Policy

ICWA has been actively working to dispel the perception that English had a primacy on foreign policy and international relations issues. Vernacular languages and national languages are being used to contribute to the national discourse and foreign policy issues. ICWA has been encouraging its research scholars to undertake writing and publication in Hindi. Recently published issue briefs, viewpoints and policy briefs of ICWA have been translated into Hindi and published on the website. The activities of ICWA has been involving young people to foster interest on foreign policy and global issues. The ICWA has a role to play in spreading awareness of these issues in other parts of India. To fulfil the role, ICWA has organised essay-writing, paper reading, debates and panel discussions in the central and state universities in Gaya, Lucknow and Moradabad and has plans for organising similar events in Varanasi, Ranchi and Kurukshetra Universities during report period. Efforts have been made to involve academics, journalists and researchers in Hindi in the activities and research programmes of the ICWA. ICWA has selected books published by it for translation into Hindi for distribution to libraries in universities in various states of India. Efforts are being made to generate interest in the younger audience to participate in ICWA events. ICWA plans to progress from writing shorter essays to books in Hindi so that there will be an incremental process commencing from writing national discourse and foreign policy issues.

Governing Council (GC) Governing Body (GB) and Committee Meetings:

During the period of Report, the following GB,GC and Committee meetings were held:

- i) Programmes Committee on 17 April 2014.
- ii) Research Committee on 24 April 2014,
- iii) Finance Committee on 29 May 2014,
- iv) Governing Council on 19 August 2014

- v) Governing Body on 19 August 2014
- vi) Finance Committee on 21 November 2014.

## Communication

ICWA is guided by the conviction that its research products should be placed in the public domain to the extent possible, and that its outreach activities should also receive maximum dissemination. This is secured by placing our research products (other than books) on ICWA website, by issuing press releases regularly, and by suitably publicizing our website, Facebook and Twitter facilities.

ICWA website was completely revamped recently. It is being used widely. It receives over half a million hits every month. During last one year period, the cumulative hits amounted to 5908657 hits. This represents an increase of over 25% as compared to the previous year. Besides, ICWA's Delhi Dialogue website and the Video Gallery received 385,954 and 282,509 hits respectively. Finally, our Facebook has at present 825 'likes' from 23 countries and twitter account has 1108 followers.

A new feature of our website is 'ICWA Guest Column'. This was launched on 02 June 2014, with an Op-ed article on

'Tapping the Potential of the EU-India Relationship', which was co-authored by Dr Antonio Missiroli, Director and Dr Eva Gross, Senior Analyst of the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS). Subsequent to this, Op-ed articles by eminent scholars/ former diplomats etc have been appearing regularly, thereby enhancing the value of our website.

## India Quarterly

India Quarterly is the prestigious journal on foreign affairs, published by ICWA. It holds a record of 69 years of uninterrupted publication. It is published in collaboration with SAGE, which has reported that the journal continues to do well on the market. Consequently, it has become a self-sustaining publication.

## Library

The Library is a major asset of this institution. At present, it has a total of 1,41,343 books, many of them rare and very old books. Since 01 April 2014, the Library has acquired nearly 350 new books.



# Research and Information System for Developing Countries

28

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specializes in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

Highlights of the work programme of RIS since April 2014 to November 2014 are presented below.

## Policy Dialogues, Conferences and Capacity Building Programmes

### Seventh South Asia Economic Summit

RIS jointly with the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organised the 7th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) in New Delhi on 05-07 November 2014. Co-organisers of the SAES include the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh; South Asia Watch on Trade, Environment and Economics (SAWTEE), Nepal; South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Nepal; Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), and Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS). Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), The World Bank and UNESCAP were the partners in the Summit. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of India inaugurated the Summit. The theme of the Summit was Towards South Asia Economic Union. In the inaugural session Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the Welcome Address; Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS

delivered the Opening Address; Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka delivered the Special Address and Prof. Prabir De, RIS extended Vote of Thanks. The three day summit saw book releases, presentations and panel discussions by renowned academics and policy makers.

Ambassador Shri Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and NSAB chaired the Plenary Session on South Asia Regional Integration: Past, Present and Future in which Mr Mohammad Mustafa Mastoor, Deputy Minister for Finance, Afghanistan; Mr Gowher Rizvi, Adviser for International Affairs to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh; Mr Lyonpo Namgay Dorji, Finance Minister, Bhutan; Mr Ram Sharan Mahat, Finance Minister, Nepal and Mr Sarath Amunugama, International Monetary Cooperation Minister, Sri Lanka participated. Apart from having media interaction, the agenda of the Seventh SAES included intensive discussions on South Economic Union: Challenges and Tasks Ahead; South Asia Connectivity; Cooperation for South Asia Investment Bloc and parallel sessions on Non-tariff measures including standards and regulations, macroeconomic performance, prospects and policy coordination, financial and monetary cooperation, trade facilitation including customs cooperation, service trade, mutual recognition and trade reforms.

### Seminar on Issues before Brisbane G-20 Summit

RIS organised a seminar on Issues before Brisbane G-20 Summit in New Delhi on 30 October 2014. Dr Suresh Prabhu, G-20 Sherpa, delivered the Keynote Address. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (ER and DPA), Ministry of External Affairs chaired the seminar. Prof. Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD chaired first session on Global Trading and Financial System, Energy and Development Issues. The panelists in this session included: Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS; Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, Adjunct Fellow, RIS; and Dr Leena Srivastava, Vice-Chancellor, TERI University. Dr Ram

Upendra Das, Professor, RIS chaired the second session on Fiscal Action for Global Growth and Infrastructure Financing. The panelists in this session included Prof. Rathin Roy, Director and Chief Executive, NIPFP; and Dr R. Kavita Rao, Professor, NIPFP. The sessions were followed by open discussions.

### **Third Round Table on ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT)**

RIS, jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, ASEAN Secretariat, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and Vietnam Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS) organised the Third Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) on the theme ASEAN-India: Integration and Development in Hanoi, Vietnam on 25-26 August 2014. H.E. Mr Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam delivered the Keynote Address. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India delivered the Inaugural Address. Shri V.S. Seshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS and Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, Government of India also delivered the Special Address.

### **ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Lectures**

As part of ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Lecture Series, two lectures were organised. The first lecture was organised by RIS jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, and ASEAN Secretariat in New Delhi on 12 August 2014. Prof. Dr Nguyen Xuan Thang, President, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) delivered the lectures. Shri Shyam Saran, Chairman, AIC and RIS made the Welcome remarks.

The second lecture was organised by RIS jointly with CII, ICCR and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies in Kolkata on 13 August 2014. Shri Krishnan Srinivasan, Former Foreign Secretary of India made the opening remarks and Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS made the Welcome Remarks. Mr Aloke Mookherjee, Former Chairman, CII Eastern Region, Kolkata also addressed.

Transforming Connectivity Corridors between India and Myanmar into Development Corridors

RIS Report on 'Transforming Connectivity Corridors between India and Myanmar into Development Corridors' by Shri V.S. Seshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS, was launched in New

Delhi on 14 August 2014. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (ER & DPA), MEA, Government of India released the report. Shri Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS delivered the Welcome Address. Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS extended the Vote of Thanks.

### **International Conference on Cross-Border Connectivity**

RIS, jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organised the International Conference on Cross-Border Connectivity in New Delhi on 12 May 2014. The inaugural session was chaired by Shri Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address. Eminent policymakers, academics and representatives from international organisations like the World Bank participated in the deliberations. The conference also had notable speakers like Mr Henry Steingass, Regional Director for South and Southeast Asia at the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), Washington, D.C., Ms. Fatema Sumar, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington D.C.; Mr Katsuo Matsumoto, Deputy Director General and Director for India and Bhutan, South Asia Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Tokyo among others.

### **Round Table on ASEAN-India Transit Transport Agreement**

The ASEAN-India Centre at RIS and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India organised a Round Table on ASEAN-India Transit Transport Agreement (AITTA) at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 16 April 2014. Ambassador Shri V.S. Seshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS made the Opening Remarks and Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS made the lead presentation. Senior policymakers from the MEA, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, North Eastern Council, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Information Technology and the Planning Commission participated in the consultations. The Round Table was also attended by senior officials representing states of Assam, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal.

## **Round Table on Governance of Regenerative Medicine and Patients' Needs in India**

RIS and the University of Sussex and the Department of East Asian Studies jointly organised a Round Table on Governance of Regenerative Medicine and Patients' Needs in India in New Delhi on 02 July 2014. Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi (DU), New Delhi chaired and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, RIS gave the Welcome Address. Dr Prasanna K. Patra, University of Sussex, UK presented the theme of the session. Dr Vasantha Muthuswamy, former Senior Deputy Director General, ICMR; Dr Nandini Gokulchandran, Deputy Director, Neurogen, Mumbai; Prof. P.B. Seshagiri, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, among others, were the discussants. Dr Ravi Srinivas, RIS extended the Vote of Thanks.

## **Brainstorming Session on India-China Economic Engagement**

RIS organised a Brainstorming Session on "India-China Economic Engagement" on 27 September 2014. Shri Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS chaired the session. It had discussion on RIS study, "India-China Bilateral Trade Relationship". The panelists were Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS; Prof. Sunanda Sen, JNU and Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, RIS.

## **Consultative Meeting on Developing Guidelines and Methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment of LMOs**

RIS and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change jointly organised the Consultative Meeting on Developing Guidelines and Methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment of LMOs in New Delhi on 15 July 2014. Shri Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made the Welcome Remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, RIS, presented an overview. Dr P.G. Chengappa, National Professor of ICAR, ISEC, Bangalore; Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, DG, NSAI; Prof. Pranav N Desai, CSSP, JNU; Dr Nidhi P Chanana, TERI; Mr Aniket Aga, Yale University; Dr K. Ravi Srinivas, RIS, among others participated in the discussion.

## **Seminar on Climate Change and the Premises for a New Society**

RIS organised a Seminar on Climate Change and the Premises for a New Society in New Delhi on 15 November 2014. Prof.

Ajit Singh, Professor Emeritus of Economics at Cambridge University was the main speaker. Ms. Lydia Powell, Head, Centre for Resources Management, Observer Research Foundation was the discussant. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the Welcome Address and Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS chaired.

## **Special Lecture on G. Parthasarathi and RIS**

RIS organised a Special Lecture on 'G. Parthasarathi and RIS' in his birth centenary year in New Delhi on 16 October 2014. Prof. V.R. Panchamukhi, founder Director General of RIS and former Chairman, ICSSR delivered the memorial lecture. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made special remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi, former S&T Advisor to PM Indira Gandhi and Secretary of several major S&T Departments; Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS also addressed the participants.

## **Round Table on India-ASEAN Connectivity**

The ASEAN-India Centre at RIS jointly with the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the North-Eastern Council organised a two-day conference on "India-ASEAN Connectivity: Challenges and Opportunities for the North Eastern Region" in Shillong, on 29-30 September 2014. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS made the Welcome Remarks. Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA delivered the Keynote Address. Mr Rizali Wilmar Indrakesuma, Indonesian Ambassador in India delivered the Special. The ASEAN Heads of Missions, diplomats, senior bureaucrats from the North East, senior officials of the Government of India and scholars participated in the conference.

## **Panel Discussion on ASEAN-led Integration Process, RCEP, TPP and Possibility for an FTAAP**

RIS organised a Panel Discussion on "ASEAN-led Integration Process, RCEP, TPP and Possibility for an FTAAP" in New Delhi on 21 October 2014. Shri V.S. Seshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS chaired the discussions. Dr Sanchita Basu Das, Coordinator, APEC Study Centre, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore and Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS were the panelists. Mr T.C. James, Consultant, RIS was the Discussant.

## **FIDC Seminar Series**

RIS launched the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) for facilitating discussion and informed debate on various facets of Indian development cooperation policy as in the recent past. As part of the work programme of FIDC monthly seminar series has been launched and under this Seminar on “South-South Cooperation Reflections from the Past” was organised in New Delhi on 17 October 2014. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the Welcome Remarks. Mr Dominik Bartsch, Chief of Mission, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, New Delhi chaired the seminar. Dr V.R. Panchamukhi, former Director General, RIS gave the lecture. Dr Milindo Chakrabarti, Director, International Academic Facilitation and Professor, School of Law and School of Business Studies, Sharda University was the discussant. Mr Pratyush, Research Assistant, RIS extended the Vote of Thanks. On 03 September 2014 seminar was organised on “New Development Bank and South-South Cooperation” in New Delhi. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, presided. The eminent panelists were Dr Rathin Roy, Director NIPFP; Mr Charanjeet Singh, Joint Secretary (MEA); and Ms. Pooja Parvati, Oxfam India. Mr Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, National Foundation of India, proposed the vote of thanks. On 11 April 2014 seminar was organised on “Post 2015 Development Agenda: An Indian Perspective” under the FIDC Seminar Series in New Delhi. Prof. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, RIS chaired. The key panelists included Mr Tanmay Lal, Joint Secretary (UNES), MEA, Government of India and Mr Tuhin Kumar, Joint Secretary (DPA-II), MEA, Government of India.

## **RIS Breakfast Seminar Series**

RIS has launched a Breakfast Seminar Series. As part of this series, so far the following seminars have been organised: (a) “Status of Social Sectors in IBSA: A Decadal Assessment” on 09 October 2014 by Dr Beena Pandey, Research Associate, RIS. Dr Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi chaired the session and Mr Vijay Naresh Mehta, Consultant (MER), MEA was the discussant. (b) “Reserve Management in Asia: Changing Contours and Challenges” on 11 November 2014 by Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Research Associate, RIS. Prof B.B. Bhattacharyya, Member, Governing Body and Governing Council of RIS and former Vice-chancellor, JNU chaired and Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS was the discussant. (c) “Industry Interface and

Technology Transfer: The Indian Context” of 26 November 2014 by Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS. Dr Ashwani Gupta Adviser/Scientist G, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology chaired and Dr Nitya Nanda, Fellow, TERI were the discussants.

## **Capacity Building and Training Programmes**

“Learning South-South Cooperation (LSSC)” Capacity Building Programme on Development Partnership

RIS under the ITEC/SCAAP Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organised a two-week Capacity Building Programme on Development Partnership in New Delhi from 17-28 November 2014.

## **Building Trade and Investment Capacity in Myanmar**

RIS jointly with CEES Myanmar organised a One Week Intensive Training Programme on Trade Policy and Analysis at the UMFCCI Building, Yangon on 26-30 May 2014 in association with TRADE SHIFT, UNESCAP, ARTNeT, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, UMFCCI, Calcutta University, Jadavpur University and University of Sussex; and five-day programme at Jadavpur University, Kolkata from 16-20 September 2014.

## **Establishment of Network of Think-Tanks**

RIS has also taken lead in establishing the following networks of think-tanks like, establishment of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT); SAARC Network of Research Institutes for organizing the SAARC Economic Summits; Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST), and Asian Biotechnology Innovation Development Initiative (ABIDI).

## **RIS Publications**

A list of RIS publications is given in the **Appendix XII**.

## **Budget**

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, sanctioned the budgetary support of ₹5.35 crore to RIS for 2014-15.



MEA Library is performing normal duties of a Library as well as a Resource and Information Center for the officers of Ministry of External Affairs at Head Quarters and Indian Missions and Posts abroad. Library has over one hundred thousand books, rich resource material and a large collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. It is also equipped with modern facilities to support policy planning and research in the Ministry. MEA library subscribes/receives and maintains about 300 Periodicals/Journals and Newspaper titles (including on-line journals and databases).

A Library Committee manages library activities including purchase of books and subscription of journals/periodicals and databases. Foreign Secretary constitutes/ re-constitutes the Library Committee. The current Library Committee comprises of Joint Secretary (CT, GCI and PP & R) as Chairman, Three Director/ DS from territorial divisions as Members and Director (Lib & Info) as Member Secretary. Books submitted on approval by vendors are first screened by library officers before it is put up to the library committee meetings. 2 to 4 library committee meetings are held every year for selection of books for the library. Requested / recommended books are procured on priority on day-to-day basis. Books are also procured through Inter-library-loan.

Library readership is mainly restricted to MEA officers and staff, but we regularly provide library services to Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Vice President's office, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), NSCS, National Development Council (NDC) and various other offices and also to research scholars' of international relations because of its rich and specialized collections on international relations and allied subjects.

All Documentation/ Bibliographic Services as well as other library operation and services have been computerized, using integrated library management software "LibSys". Information about all books and documents as well as selected articles from periodicals/ journals received in the library are available through Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

Library recently upgraded the library management software to "Web Centric LibSys 7" for use in Patiala House and JNB libraries. Library's information can also be accessed through Internet on MEA Library's *website: <http://mealib.nic.in>*

All new documents received in the library i.e. books, maps, microfilms, selected articles from periodicals and journals are being fed on a regular basis in the database on foreign affairs. Library provides online/ web based services, online journals/ periodicals and databases services, e-mail services, book alert and article alert services as well as all kind of most modernized computerized services to its users. These online databases and journals/ periodicals can be accessed on Internet via username and passwords. A list of such titles is regularly circulated at HQ as well as Indian missions and posts abroad and also available on MEA Library's *Website: <http://mealib.nic.in>*

To provide Documentation, Bibliographic, Current Awareness/ SDI and Reference Services to its users, Library regularly issue various bulletins, i.e. Recent Additions, Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin, and Chronicle of Event. In addition to this, library has started providing services through various online databases /online services: i.e. EIU online services(including energy briefing and forecast), Business Monitor International, Marketline Advantage, Newspaper Direct, JSTOR Archival database, PROQUEST ABI informa Complete, Janes'online services, Keessing's World news archives, etc.

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].

MEA Library has very good collection of rare books. A catalogue of some selected rare books has already been prepared and printed as per instructions of former FS. These books are also kept in a separate rare books library at JNB.

Library recently completed a project to publish/ re-print "India's Bilateral Treaties and Agreements including joint

declarations and communiqués” from 1947 to 2014 and this publication is likely to be released very soon.

Library also provides practical training to the student of Library Science studying in various Institutions of Delhi from time to time.

MEA Library is an institutional member of Indian Library Association (ILA) Indian Association of Special Libraries and

Information Centre (IASLIC), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Special Libraries Association (SLA). Director (Lib & Info) and other officers regularly attended/ participated in International and National Conferences/ Seminars/ Meetings of ILA, IASLIC, IFLA, SLA, etc. from time to time.



The total budget outlay (at the budget estimate stage) for the Ministry of External Affairs for 2014-15 was ₹ 14730.39 crore which was 25.70 % more than the budget allocated for 2013-14 (₹11719 crore). 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 being 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 2014-15 were Bhutan (₹ 1350 crore), Bangladesh (₹350 crore), Afghanistan

(₹550 crore), Sri Lanka (₹ 500 crore), Nepal (₹ 450 crore), Myanmar (₹180 crore) and African countries (₹300 crore). Some other beneficiaries include Maldives, Mongolia, countries from Latin America, Eurasia and other regions.

The Ministry had revenue receipts from issuance of passports, visa fees and other receipts to the tune of ₹ 2391.06 crore upto 31 October 2014. The Revenue receipts were as follows:

Minor Head	Revenue Receipt (in crore)
Passports	1182.90
Visa Fees	975.86
Others	232.30
Receipts from Govt. Hostels, Guest Houses etc.	-
RTI	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2391.06</b>

A sectoral analysis of the budget allocation as per the Budget Estimates of 2014-15 show that out of a total allocation of ₹ 14730.39 crore, 64.05 % (₹ 9434.82 crore) of the budget was allotted on projects under Technical and Economic cooperation (₹ 6268.81 crore) and as loans and advances to Foreign Governments (₹ 3166.01 crore). The Missions and Posts were allocated 12.44 % (₹ 1832.31 crore) of the budget. The rest of the allocation was on Special Diplomatic Expenditure (10.83 %), Passport & Emigration (3.69 %), International Organisations and Grant to Institutions (4.18 %), Capital Outlay (2.03 %), MEA Secretariat (1.92 %) and others (0.86 %).



# Appendices

## APPENDIX I

### Treaties/Conventions/Agreements Concluded or Renewed by India with other countries during the period 01 January 2014 – 31 December 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.	<u>BRICS</u> Agreement on the New Development Bank.	15 July 2014.		
2.	<u>Inter-American</u> Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminals Sentenced Abroad	09 June 1993	14 March 2014	
3.	<u>International Atomic Energy Agency</u> Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the Government of India and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities.	15 May 2009.	25 July 2014	25 July 2014
4.	<u>Kala-Azar</u> Memorandum of Understanding among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Thailand on the Elimination of Kala-azar from the South-East Region.	09 September 2014		09 September 2014
5.	<u>Marrakesh Treaty</u> Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or otherwise Print Disabled	27 June 2013	23 May 2014	
6.	<u>Nagoya Protocol</u> Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	11 October 2011	28 November 2014	
7.	<u>Nalanda University</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the Socialist Republic of Korea on the Establishment of Nalanda University.	16 January 2014		16 January 2014
8.	<u>Nalanda University</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the Establishment of Nalanda University.	20 September 2014		20 September 2014
9.	<u>Nalanda University</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the Establishment of Nalanda University.	28 October 2014		28 October 2014
10.	<u>Nalanda University</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan on the Establishment of Nalanda University.	07 November 2014		07 November 2014

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
11.	<u>Tea Producers Forum</u> Constitution of the International Tea Producers Forum	21 January 2013	25 March 2014	

### ***B. TRILATERAL***

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
	Nil			

### ***C. BILATERAL***

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
1.	<u>Australia</u> Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of India on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.	05 September 2014.		
2.	<u>Australia</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Sports between India and Australia.	05 September 2014.		
3.	<u>Australia</u> Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Water Resources Management between India and Australia.	05 September 2014.		
4.	<u>Australia</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) between India and Australia.	05 September 2014.		
5.	<u>Australia</u> Agreement on Social Security between India and Australia.	18 November 2014.		
6.	<u>Australia</u> Agreement concerning Transfer of Sentenced Persons between India and Australia.	18 November 2014.		
7.	<u>Australia</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Combating Narcotics Trafficking and Developing Police Cooperation between India and Australia.	18 November 2014.		

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
8.	<u>Australia</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Arts and Culture between India and Australia.	18 November 2014.		
9.	<u>Australia</u> Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Tourism between India and Australia.	18 November 2014.		
10.	<u>Azerbaijan</u> Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan.	04 April 2013	18 April 2013	20 June 2014
11.	<u>Azerbaijan</u> Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	04 April 2013	03 May 2013	20 June 2014
12.	<u>Azerbaijan</u> Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters	04 April 2013	12 August 2014	
13.	<u>Bahrain</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs and the Diplomatic Institute of Bahrain. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Bahrain.	19 February 2014		19 February 2014
14.	<u>Bhutan</u> Memorandum of Understanding between CAG & Auditor General of Bhutan.			Renewed in 2014
15.	<u>Brazil</u> 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	15 October 2013	23 January 2014	
16.	<u>Brazil</u> Agreement between the Republic of India and the Federative Republic of Brazil on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	15 October 2013	01 January 2014	
17.	<u>Brazil</u> Implementing Arrangement Establishing Cooperation in Augmentation of a Brazilian Earth Station for Receiving and Processing Data from Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellites.	16 July 2014		
18.	<u>Brazil</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India on the Establishment of a consultation mechanism on consular and mobility issues.	16 July 2014		

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
19.	<u>Brazil</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the Republic of India and on cooperation in the field of environment.	16 July 2014		
20.	<u>Belgium</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India and the Federal Public Service Economy of Belgium on a Pilot-Project for the Sharing of Kimberly Process Certificates based Data	25 November 2013		25 November 2013
21.	<u>Canada</u> Audiovisual Co-production Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Canada.	24 February 2014	25 March 2014	
22.	<u>China</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China on Strengthening the Exchange & Cooperation between Cultural Institutions.	18 September 2014		
23.	<u>China</u> Five year Trade and Economic Development Plan between Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Commerce of the Government of the People's Republic of China	18 September 2014		
24.	<u>China</u> Agreed Minutes of the Tenth Session of India-China Joint Economic Group	18 September 2014		
25.	<u>China</u> Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways of the Government of Republic of India and the Government of People's Republic of China on strengthening cooperation in Railways	18 September 2014		
26.	<u>China</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on Opening a New Route for Indian Pilgrimage (Kailash Mansarover Yatra) to the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.	18 September 2014		
27.	<u>China</u> Work Plan on Drug Administration and Cooperation between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India and China Food and Drug Administration of the People's Republic of China.	18 September 2014		

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
28.	<u>China</u> Agreement on Audio-Visual Co-Production between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Republic of India and the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China.	18 September 2014		
29.	<u>China</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Mutual Administrative Assistance and Co-operation in Customs Matters	18 September 2014	28 November 2014	
30.	<u>Croatia</u> 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	12 February 2014	12 August 2014	
31.	<u>Czech Republic</u> Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic	08 June 2010	22 July 2014	01 September 2014
32.	<u>Czech Republic</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and Czech Railways (Ceske Drahy) of the Czech Republic and Association of Czech Railway Industry (ACRI) of the Czech Railways on Technical Cooperation in the Field of Railway Sector.	08 June 2010	22 July 2014	01 September 2014
33.	<u>Fiji</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Fiji for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	13 January 2014	26 February 2014	
34.	<u>Fiji</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Foreign Service Institute of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Fiji on exchange of information on structure and content of training programs for diplomats between India and Fiji	19 November 2014		
35.	<u>Fiji</u> Memorandum of Understanding between India and Fiji on earmarking of land for the Diplomatic Missions in respective capitals.	19 November 2014		
36.	<u>Fiji</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Fiji for extending a Line of Credit for establishing a Co-generation plant in Fiji.	19 November 2014		19 November 2014

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
37.	<u>Finland</u> Arrangement for cooperation between the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India and the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority of Finland.	16 October 2014		
38.	<u>Finland</u> Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and Republic of Finland.	12 June 2012	25 June 2012	01 August 2014
39.	<u>Finland</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Renewable Energy Cooperation between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the GOI and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy of the Government of the Republic of Finland.	16 October 2014		
40.	<u>Finland</u> Agreement on Scientific, Educational and Cultural Cooperation between Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, India (IISER Bhopal) and University of Turku, Finland.	16 October 2014		
41.	<u>Israel</u> Agreement on Protection of Classified Materials and Information between Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel.	27 February 2014		27 February 2014
42.	<u>Israel</u> Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	27 February 2014	25 April 2014	
43.	<u>Israel</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in Homeland and Public Security Issues.	27 February 2014		
44.	<u>Israel</u> Agreement between Israel and India on Cooperation in Homeland and Public Security issues.	27 August 2014		27 August 2014
45.	<u>Jamaica</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and Government of Jamaica for providing Indian grant assistance of US\$ 2.1 million for installation of flood lights at the Sabina Park.	March 2014		
46.	<u>Japan</u> Memorandum between Japan Tourism Agency, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Government of Japan and the Ministry of Tourism, Republic of India in the field of Tourism.	25 January 2014		

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
47.	<u>Japan</u> Implementing Arrangement between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology of Japan and the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology of India.	25 January 2014		
48.	<u>Japan</u> Memorandum of Cooperation between the Bureau of Indian Standards and Japanese Industrial Standards Committee	25 January 2014		
49.	<u>Japan</u> Memorandum of Understanding among New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) Japan and Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India on a Model Project for Energy Management Systems in Telecommunication Towers in India	25 January 2014		
50.	<u>Japan</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan in the field of Healthcare.	01 September 2014		
51.	<u>Korea</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the Protection of Classified Military Information	16 January 2014	18 September 2014	29 October 2014
52.	<u>Korea</u> Implementing Agreement Between Indian Space Research Organization and Korea Aerospace Research Institute For Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Outer Space.	16 January 2014	16 January 2014	16 January 2014
53.	<u>Korea</u> Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Ministry Of Science, ICT And Future Planning Of The Republic Of Korea And The Ministry Of Science And Technology Of The Republic Of India On A Joint Applied Research And Development Programme In Science And Technology.	16 January 2014	16 January 2014	16 January 2014
54.	<u>Korea</u> Cultural Exchange Programme Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Korea For The Years 2014-2017.	16 January 2014	16 January 2014	16 January 2014
55.	<u>Korea</u> Agreement On Cooperation Between Doordarshan And Korea International Broadcasting Foundation (Arirang Tv)	17 January 2014	17 January 2014	17 January 2014
56.	<u>Korea</u> Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Communications And Information Technology Of The	17 January 2014	17 January 2014	17 January 2014

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
	Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Science, ICT And Future Planning Of The Republic Of Korea On Cooperation In The Field Of Information And Communications Technology.			
57.	<u>Korea</u> Memorandum Of Understanding Between Controller Of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Of The Republic Of India Of Ministry Of Communications And Information Technology And Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA) Of The Republic Of Korea On Cooperation And Information Exchange For Development Of An Arrangement For Mutual Recognition Of Certifying Authorities.	17 January 2014	17 January 2014	17 January 2014
58.	<u>Korea</u> Memorandum Of Understanding Between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) Of Department Of Electronics & Information Technology Of Ministry Of Communications And Information Technology Of The Republic Of India And Korea Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Center (Krcert/Cc) Of Korea Internet & Security Agency (Kisa) Of The Republic Of Korea On Cooperation In The Field Of Cyber Security.	17 January 2014	17 January 2014	17 January 2014
59.	<u>Korea</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation in the field of Railway between the Ministry of Railways of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Government of Republic of Korea.	17 January 2014	17 January 2014	17 January 2014
60.	<u>Kuwait</u> Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the State of Kuwait on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	08 November 2013	07 January 2014	
61.	<u>Liechtenstein</u> 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	08 March 2013		18 January 2014
62.	<u>Maldives</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives on cooperation in the field of health.	15 September 2014		
63.	<u>Mexico</u> Memorandum of Understanding between ISRO and Mexican Space Agency concerning to Space Cooperation for Peaceful Purposes.	16 July 2014		

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
64.	<u>Myanmar</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Language Laboratories and E-Resource Center in Myanmar.	08 May 2014		08 May 2014
65.	<u>Myanmar</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Border Cooperation.	08 May 2014		08 May 2014
66.	<u>Macedonia</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	17 December 2013	05 February 2014	
67.	<u>Morocco</u> Agreement on Environmental Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco.	01 February 2014		01 February 2014
68.	<u>Mozambique</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development.	23 April 2014		
69.	<u>Morocco</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco on Cooperation in Marine Fisheries.	01 February 2014		01 February 2014
70.	<u>Nepal</u> Agreement between Doordarshan and Nepal Television.	03 August 2014		03 August 2014
71.	<u>Nepal</u> Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between Press Council of Nepal and the Press Council of India.	22 September 2014		
72.	<u>Nepal</u> Agreement between the Government Of Nepal and the Government Of the Republic Of India on Electric Power Trade, Cross-Border Transmission Interconnection And Grid Connectivity.	21 October 2014		
73.	<u>Nepal</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Motor Vehicle Agreement between India and Nepal	26 November 2014		
74.	<u>Nepal</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Nepal Police Academy (NPA) between India and Nepal.	26 November		

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
75.	Agreement between India and Nepal on providing \$1Bn. Line of Credit to Nepal	26 November		
76.	<u>Nepal</u> Memorandum of Understanding on PDA for ARUN III between India and Nepal	26 November		
77.	<u>Nepal</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Traditional Medicines between India and Nepal.	26 November		
78.	<u>Nepal</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Exchange between India and Nepal.	26 November		
79.	<u>Nepal</u> Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism between India and Nepal	26 November		
80.	<u>Netherlands</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Public Health.	30 January 2014		
81.	<u>Oman</u> Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation on Criminal Matters between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Sultanate of Oman.	29 October 2014	28 November 2014	
82.	<u>Peru</u> Agreement on Defence Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Peru	28 October 2013	06 June 2014	
83.	<u>Peru</u> Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Republic of Peru on Cooperation in the field of Education	28 October 2013		
84.	<u>Peru</u> Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Culture the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture of the Government of the Republic of Peru for Cooperation in the Fields of Museum Development, Conservation of Movable Cultural Property and Dissemination and Promotion of Cultural Heritage	28 October 2013		
85.	<u>Quebec</u> Understanding on Social Security between the Republic of India and Quebec	26 November 2013	01 January 2014	
86.	<u>Russia</u> Treaty between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	21 October 2013	01 January 2014	

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
87.	<u>Russia</u> Protocol for consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs & Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia for the period 2015-2016.	11 December 2014		
88.	<u>Russia</u> Agreement for Training of Indian Armed Forces Personnel in the Military Educational Establishments of the Defence Ministry of the Russian Federation.	11 December 2014		
89.	<u>Russia</u> Strategic Vision for Strengthening Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation.	11 December 2014		
90.	<u>Russia</u> Provisions for the Technical Data and Information Nondisclosure in the framework of cooperation in the field of Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy	11 December 2014		
91.	<u>Russia</u> Programme of Cooperation (POC) under Framework of Inter-governmental Agreement for Enhancement of Cooperation in Oil & Gas in 2015-16.	11 December 2014		
92.	<u>Russia</u> MoU between Quality Council of India (QCI) and Federal Accreditation Service of Russian Federation on technical cooperation on accreditation.	11 December 2014		
93.	<u>Russia</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) on cooperation in Health Research.	11 December 2014		
94.	<u>Russia</u> MoU between ACRON of Russia and NMDC of India (consortium leader) to implement the understanding reached to acquire stake in a potash mine in Russia.	11 December 2014		
95.	<u>San Marino</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of San Marino for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes.	19 December 2013	22 July 2014	

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
96.	<u>Saudi Arabia</u> Agreement on Labour Co-operation for Domestic Service Workers Recruitment between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Labour of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	02 January 2014	23 January 2014	
97.	<u>Spain</u> Agreement between the Republic of India and the Government and the Kingdom of Spain on Cooperation in the field of Audio-Visual Co-Production	26 October 2012	28 March 2014	
98.	<u>Spain</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Department of AYUSH, GOI and the National Herbarium and Department of Life Sciences, the University of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago on cooperation in the field of Medicinal Plants	May 2014		
99.	<u>St. Kitts &amp; Nevis</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis for the Exchange of Information Relating to Taxes.	11 November 2014		
100.	<u>Sweden</u> Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and Kingdom of Sweden.	26 November 2012	26 November 2012	01 August 2014
101.	<u>United Arab Emirates</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on the Promotion and Protection of Investments	12 December 2013	26 February 2014	21 August 2014
102.	<u>USA</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America on co-operation in New and Renewable Energy to facilitate clean energy access	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2014		29 January 2014
103.	<u>USA</u> Statement of Intent between the FDA of the USA and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the field of Medical Products.	10 February 2014		10 February 2014
104.	<u>Viet Nam</u> Agreement between the Republic of India and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	01 November 2013	01 January 2014	
105.	<u>Viet Nam</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	15 September 2014	19 December 2014	

## Appendix I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of signature	Date of Deposit Ratification Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into Force
106.	<u>Viet Nam</u> Maritime Shipping Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	24 May 2013	01 January 2014	
107.	<u>Viet Nam</u> Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of the Republic of India.	20 November 2013		02 June 2014
108.	<u>Vietnam</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for Establishing the Centre for English Language and Information Technology Training at the Telecommunications University, Ministry of Defense, Vietnam.	28 October 2014		28 October 2014
109.	<u>Vietnam</u> Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the Conservation and Restoration of the World Heritage Site of My Son, Quang Nam Province, Vietnam	28 October 2014		
110.	<u>Vietnam</u> The Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the years 2015-2017.	28 October 2014		28 October 2014
111.	<u>Vietnam</u> Memorandum of Understanding For Co-Operation Broadcasting between Prasar Bharati, New Delhi, India and the Voice of Vietnam (VOV), Hanoi, Vietnam for Exchange of Audio Visual Programmes.	28 October 2014		28 October 2014
112.	<u>Vietnam</u> Memorandum of Understanding Between the Ministry of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India and the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Cooperation in Youth Affairs.	15 September 2014		15 September 2014

## APPENDIX II

### INSTRUMENTS OF FULL POWERS ISSUED DURING THE PERIOD 01 January – 31 December 2014

Sl. No.	Convention/Treaty	Date of Issue of Full Powers
1.	<u>Fiji</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Fiji for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	23 January 2014
2.	<u>Marrakesh Treaty</u> Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or otherwise Print Disabled.	07 February 2014
3.	<u>Viet Nam</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.	25 March 2014
4.	<u>ASEAN</u> Agreement on Trade in Services under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.	12 August 2014
5.	<u>ASEAN</u> Agreement on Investment under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.	12 August 2014
6.	<u>Nalanda University</u> Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Nalanda University	21 May 2014
7.	<u>Minamata Convention</u> Minamata Convention on Mercury	19 August 2014
8.	<u>Hong Kong</u> Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	18 September 2014
9.	<u>Oman</u> Agreement between Government of the Republic of India and Sultanate of Oman on legal and judicial cooperation in criminal matters	29 October 2014

### APPENDIX III

#### INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION/ACCESSION ISSUED DURING THE PERIOD of 01 January 2014 – 31 December 2014

Sl. No.	Instruments of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification
1.	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Federative Republic of Brazil on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	01 January 2014
2.	Understanding on Social Security between the Republic of India and Quebec	01 January 2014
3.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	01 January 2014
4.	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Socialist Republic of View Nam on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	01 January 2014
5.	Maritime Shipping Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Socialist Republic of View Nam	01 January 2014
6.	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	23 January 2014
7.	Agreement on Labour Co-operation for Domestic Service Workers Recruitment between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Labour of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	23 January 2014
8.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	05 February 2014
9.	Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the State of Kuwait on Transfer of Sentenced Persons	07 January 2014
10.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Fiji for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	26 February 2014
11.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on the Promotion and Protection of Investments	26 February 2014
12.	Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminals Sentenced Abroad	14 March 2014
13.	Constitution of the International Tea Producers Forum	25 March 2014

### Appendix III

Sl. No.	Instruments of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification
14.	Audiovisual Co-production Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Canada.	25 March 2014
15.	Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan.	18 April 2013
16.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	03 May 2013
17.	Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	25 April 2014
18.	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Government and the Kingdom of Spain on Cooperation in the field of Audio-Visual Co-Production	28 March 2014
19.	Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or otherwise Print Disabled	23 May 2014
20.	Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the Government of India and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities.	12 May 2014
21.	Agreement on Defence Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Peru	06 June 2014
22.	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic	22 July 2014
23.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of San Marino for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes.	22 July 2014
24.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters	12 August 2014
25.	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	12 August 2014
26.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the Protection of Classified Military Information	18 September 2014
27.	Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	28 November 2014

### Appendix III

Sl. No.	Instruments of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification
28.	Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of Sultanate of Oman.	28 November 2014
29.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Mutual Administrative Assistance and Co-operation in Customs Matters.	28 November 2014
30.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	19 December 2014

## 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	42	Djibouti
7	Argentina	43	Dominican Republic
8	Armenia	44	Ecuador
9	Azerbaijan	45	Egypt
10	Bahamas	46	El-Salvador
11	Bahrain	47	Equatorial Guinea
12	Bangladesh	48	Eritrea
13	Barbados	49	Estonia
14	Belarus	50	Ethiopia
15	Belize	51	Fiji
16	Benin	52	Gabon
17	Bhutan	53	Georgia
18	Bolivia	54	Grenada
19	Bosnia - Herzegovina	55	Guatemala
20	Brazil	56	Guinea
21	Brunei Darussalam	57	Guinea Bissau
22	Bulgaria	58	Guyana
23	Burkina Faso	59	Haiti
24	Burundi	60	Honduras
25	Cambodia	61	Hungary
26	Cape Verde Island	62	Indonesia
27	Cayman Island	63	Iran
28	Central African Republic	64	Iraq
29	Chad	65	Jamaica
30	Chile	66	Jordan
31	Colombia	67	Kazakhstan
32	Commonwealth of Dominica	68	Kiribati
33	Comoros	69	Korea(DPRK)
34	Congo	70	Kyrgyzstan

## Appendix IV

S. No.	Country	S. No.	Country
71	Laos	106	Republic of Sao Tome
72	Latvia	107	Romania
73	Lebanon	108	Russia
74	Liberia	109	Rwanda
75	Libya	110	Samoa
76	Lithuania	111	Senegal
77	Macedonia	112	Serbia
78	Madagascar	113	Singapore
79	Malaysia	114	Slovak Republic
80	Maldives	115	Solomon Island
81	Mali	116	Somalia
82	Marshall Islands	117	Sri Lanka
83	Mauritania	118	St. Kitts & Nevis
84	Mexico	119	St. Lucia
85	Micronesia	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	129	Tonga
95	Niger	130	Trinidad & Tobago
96	Oman	131	Tunisia
97	Palau	132	Turkey
98	Palestine	133	Turkmenistan
99	Panama	134	Turks & Caicos Island
100	Papua New Guinea	135	Tuvalu
101	Paraguay	136	Ukraine
102	Peru	137	Uruguay
103	Philippines	138	Uzbekistan
104	Poland	139	Vanuatu
105	Qatar	140	Venezuela

## Appendix IV

S. No.	Country	S. No.	Country
141	Vietnam	151	Mozambique
142	Yemen	152	Namibia
<b>SCAAP Countries</b>		153	Nigeria
143	Cameroon	154	Seychelles
144	Cameroon	155	Sierra Leone
145	Gambia	156	South Africa
146	Ghana	157	Swaziland
147	Kenya	158	Tanzania
148	Lesotho	159	Uganda
149	Malawi	160	Zambia
150	Mauritius	161	Zimbabwe

## Appendix V

### List of ITEC/SCAAP Empanelled Institutes

S. No.	Name of Institute	City
<b>Accounts, Audit, Banking and Finance Courses</b>		
1.	Institute of Government Accounts and Finance	New Delhi
2.	International Center for Information and System Audit	Noida
3.	National Institute of Bank Management	Pune
<b>IT, Telecommunication and English Courses</b>		
4.	Aptech Limited	New Delhi
5.	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing	Mohali
6.	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing	Noida
7.	Centre for Excellence in Telecom Technology and Management	Mumbai
8.	CMC Ltd.	New Delhi
9.	English and Foreign Languages University	Hyderabad
10.	NIIT Ltd	New Delhi
11.	UTL Technologies Ltd.	Bangalore
<b>Management Courses</b>		
12.	Administrative Staff College of India	Hyderabad
13.	National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development	Delhi
14.	International Management Institute	New Delhi
15.	Indian Institute of Management	Ahmedabad
<b>SME/Rural Development Courses</b>		
16.	Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India	Ahmedabad
17.	National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development	NOIDA
18.	National Institute for Micro Small & Medium Enterprises	Hyderabad
19.	National Institute of Rural Development	Hyderabad
<b>Specialized Courses</b>		
20.	Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training	New Delhi
21.	Human Settlement Management Institute	New Delhi
22.	Indian Institute of Mass Communication	New Delhi
23.	International Statistical Education Centre	Kolkata
24.	National Crime Records Bureau	New Delhi
25.	National Institute of Training for Standardization (Bureau of Indian Standards)	NOIDA
26.	National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research	Chennai
27.	National University of Educational Planning and Administration	New Delhi
28.	Rafi Ahmed Kidwai National Postal Academy	Ghaziabad

## Appendix V

S. No.	Name of Institute	City
29.	Research and Information System for Developing Countries	New Delhi
30.	V.V. Giri National Labour Institute	NOIDA
<b>Technical Courses</b>		
31.	Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute	Faridabad
32.	Central Institute of Rural Electrification	Hyderabad
33.	Central Institute of Tool Design	Hyderabad
34.	Central Scientific Instruments Organization	New Delhi
35.	Fluid Control Research Institute	Kerala
36.	Geological Survey of India- Training Institute, Hyderabad	
37.	Indian Institute of Production Management	Kansbahal, Orissa
38.	Indian Institute of Remote Sensing	Dehradun
39.	Indian Institute of Technology – Roorkee	Department of Hydrology
40.	Indian Institute of Technology – Roorkee	Department of Water Resources Development and Management
41.	National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research – SAS Nagar	Punjab
42.	South India Textile Research Association	Coimbatore
<b>Environment and Renewable Energy Courses</b>		
43.	Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, Indian Institute of Technology	Roorkee
44.	Barefoot College	Tilonia, Rajasthan
45.	Centre for Wind Energy Technology	Chennai
46.	National Institute of Solar Energy	Gurgaon
47.	TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute)	New Delhi

## Appendix VI

### Conferences/ Seminars/ Study Projects organized/undertaken by Universities/ Institutions which were funded partially or wholly by Policy Planning & Research Division during 2014-15.

S. No.	Project Details	Institute
1	Seminar on "The Arab spring: The Present Scenario and Policy Option for India" held at IIC.	WANA
2	Four Seminars on (i) The India Economy: Economic Reforms & economic Policy including foreign policy dimension (14 June 2014) (ii) Cold War Redux: Indo-Russian relations & India's policy challenges (09 August 2014) (iii) Defence preparedness & Higher Defence Organisation in India and (15 November 2014) (iv) Internal Security & Insurgency in India: the external dimension (24 January 2015).	Asia Centre, Bangalore
3	International Seminar on "India's Foreign Policy strategies through the 21st Century from 26-28 February 2015	University of Kerala
4	Seminar on "Synergy Building in Indo-US Relations: Challenges in the Coming decade" by Prof. Vijaylakshmi to be held in March 2015	Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies in JNU

## Appendix VII

Statement showing the total number of passport applications received and passports issued, total miscellaneous applications received and services rendered; No. of passports issued as well as revenue under tatkaal scheme; and total revenue and expenditure of passport offices during 01 January to December 2014							
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	4,05,717	3,96,359	4,938	4,01,297	14,217	13,572	4,14,869
Amritsar	1,00,743	97,106	3,908	1,01,014	4,793	4,645	1,05,659
Bangalore	5,07,350	4,53,747	58,477	5,12,224	13,055	12,393	5,24,617
Bareilly	1,11,351	89,505	3,459	92,964	2,887	2,846	95,810
Bhopal	1,33,025	1,30,249	11,534	1,41,783	1,555	1,520	1,43,303
Bhubaneswar	89,730	87,743	3,049	90,792	3,776	3,680	94,472
Chandigarh	3,67,126	3,60,680	13,696	3,74,376	15,093	14,414	3,88,790
Chennai	3,77,260	3,51,963	19,352	3,71,315	17,387	16,987	3,88,302
Cochin	3,04,759	2,43,163	60,822	3,03,985	24,529	24,425	3,28,410
Coimbatore	1,13,268	1,11,809	2,287	1,14,096	1,936	1,914	1,16,010
Dehradun	70,172	65,030	5,264	70,294	1,939	1,918	72,212
Delhi	4,46,961	3,64,661	64,536	4,29,197	8,846	8,625	4,37,822
Ghaziabad	1,61,666	1,30,887	15,648	1,46,535	2,535	2,308	1,48,843
Goa	42,944	41,807	345	42,152	5,039	5,028	47,180
Guwahati	62,488	55,496	7,124	62,620	1,690	1,572	64,192
Hyderabad	6,73,886	6,16,314	30,254	6,46,568	43,883	40,986	6,87,554
Jaipur	2,46,584	2,33,211	5,739	2,38,950	11,889	11,785	2,50,735
Jalandhar	2,15,929	2,11,644	877	2,12,521	18,366	18,070	2,30,591
Jammu	28,559	28,357	25	28,382	3,813	1,303	29,685
Kolkata	4,31,629	3,68,665	25,665	3,94,330	14,233	13,722	4,08,052
Kozhikode	2,77,609	2,42,372	35,481	2,77,853	9,834	9,792	2,87,645
Lucknow	6,00,127	5,52,457	22,980	5,75,437	27,026	26,487	6,01,924
Madurai	2,23,626	2,29,421	156	2,29,577	10,355	10,175	2,39,752
Malappuram	2,42,712	2,00,349	40,088	2,40,437	5,498	5,443	2,45,880
Mumbai	3,75,444	3,36,315	37,849	3,74,164	10,338	9,921	3,84,085
Nagpur	97,757	85,910	5,598	91,508	1,480	1,456	92,964
Patna	2,89,941	2,41,453	2,924	2,44,377	12,422	12,111	2,56,488

## Appendix VII

Statement showing the total number of passport applications received and passports issued, total miscellaneous applications received and services rendered; No. of passports issued as well as revenue under tatkaal scheme; and total revenue and expenditure of passport offices during 01 January to December 2014							
RPO	Total No. of Passport application received (Normal+ Tatkaal)	No. of Normal Passport issued	No. of Tatkaal Passport issued	Total No. of Passports issued (Normal +Tatkaal)	No. of miscellaneous applications received	No. of miscellaneous services rendered	Total issued Passport and miscellaneous services rendered
Pune	2,20,887	1,89,475	20,947	2,10,422	4,440	4,089	2,14,511
Raipur	33,943	33,304	938	34,242	297	293	34,535
Ranchi	66,608	62,094	2,234	64,328	2,495	2,398	66,726
Shimla	31,670	27,904	3,231	31,135	1,600	1,562	32,697
Srinagar	55,217	55,938	205	56,143	2,081	270	56,413
Surat	1,30,160	1,23,725	4,669	1,28,394	8,548	8,533	1,36,927
Thane	2,38,342	2,10,508	18,031	2,28,539	6,234	5,892	2,34,431
Trichy	1,93,907	1,97,295	1,375	1,98,670	11,954	11,915	2,10,585
Trivandrum	1,89,017	1,60,580	27,223	1,87,803	13,704	13,636	2,01,439
Visakhapatnam	1,87,082	1,72,898	7,919	1,80,817	14,727	14,060	1,94,877
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,45,196</b>	<b>75,60,394</b>	<b>5,68,847</b>	<b>81,29,241</b>	<b>3,54,494</b>	<b>3,39,746</b>	<b>84,68,987</b>
A	37 RPO's (Passport+Miscellaneous Services =81,29,241+3,39,746					84,68,987	
B	MEA, PV-II Section (Official & Diplomatic Passports)=17560+2648					20,208	
C	Andaman & Nicobar Islands					3,529	
D	RPO Delhi issued (IC)					7,641	
E	Surrender Certificate & LOC Issued= 2595+4278					6,873	
	PPt+ECs+Miscellaneous services by Indian Missions/Posts						
	<b>Grand Total</b>						

## Appendix VIII

### Cadre Strength of the Central Passport Organisation as on 31 December 2014

Group & Name of post	Total sanctioned strength
<b>Group 'A'</b>	
Passport Officer	17
Deputy Passport Officer	71
Assistant Passport Officer	135
<b>Sub-total :</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>Group 'B'(Gazetted)</b>	
Passport Granting Officer	320
Superintendent	245
<b>Subtotal :</b>	<b>565</b>
<b>Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted)</b>	
Assistant	428
Hindi Translator	23
Stenographer Grade I	17
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>468</b>
<b>Group 'C' (Non-Gazetted)</b>	
UDC	628
UDC(Hindi)	04
LDC	648
Driver	00
Stenographer Grade II	13
Office Assistant	148
<b>Subtotal :</b>	<b>1441</b>
II. Posts created by the Union Cabinet decision in 2007 to man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project	
Technical	15
Administrative	06
<b>Sub-total :</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Grand Total (I + II)</b>	<b>2718</b>

## Appendix IX

### Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad as on 31 March 2015 (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	31	36
2	Grade II	6	41	47
3	Grade III	38	126	164
4	Grade IV	54	148	202
5	Junior Admn. Gradee/Senior Scale	98	232	330
6	(i) Junior Scale	10	25	35
	(ii) Probationers Reserve	62		62
	(iii) Leave Reserve	15		15
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	19		19
	(v) Training Reserve	7		7
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>917</b>
	<b>IFS(B)</b>			
7	(i) Grade I	126	120	246
	(i) Deputation Reserve	6		6
8	(i) Integrated Grades II & III	351	225	576
	(i) Leave Reserve	30		30
	(i) Deputation Reserve	16		16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25		25
9	(i) Grade IV	267	333	600
	(i) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(i) Deputation Reserve	55		55
10	(i) Grade V/VI	157	88	245
	(i) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(i) Deputation Reserve	14		14
11	(i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre	61	77	138
	(i) Leave Reserve	24		24
12	(i) Stenographer's Cadre	377	509	886
	(i) Leave Reserve	47		47
	(i) 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	1728	1379	3107
	Grand Total	2042	1982	4024

## 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 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015**

S.No	Groups	Total number of vacancies	SC	ST	OBC
1.	Group A	119	10	11	9
2.	Group B	295	45	37	16
3.	Group C	241	05	21	76
	Total	655	60	69	101

## Appendix XI

### Number of IFS Officers with Proficiency in various languages:

Sr. No.	Language	Number of officers
1.	ARABIC	95
2.	BHASA INDONESIA	10
3.	BHASA MALAY	1
4.	BHASA THAI	1
5.	BURMESE	7
6.	CHINESE	72
7.	FRENCH	79
8.	GERMAN	29
9.	HEBREW	6
10.	JAPANESE	25
11.	KAZAKH	1
12.	KISWAHILI	2
13.	KOREN	5
14.	PERSIAN	21
15.	PORTUGESE	22
16.	PUSHTU	2
17.	RUSSIAN	87
18.	SERBI-CROATIAN	1
19.	SINHALESE	4
20.	SPANISH	73
21.	TURKISH	7
22.	UKRANIAN	1
23.	VIETNAMESE	4
	TOTAL	555

## Appendix XII

### List of RIS Publications

#### Book

- ASEAN-India Deepening Economic Partnership in Mekong Region by Prabir De (ed)
- Development Policies and Trade: Strengthening Global and Regional Value Chains through Rules of Origin by Ram Upendra Das and Rajan Sudesh Ratna

#### Reports

- South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2014
- Transforming Connectivity Corridors between India and Myanmar into Development Corridors by Ambassador V. S. Seshadri
- Survey Report on Biotechnology Capacity in Asia-Pacific: Opportunities for National Initiatives and Regional Cooperation
- Meaning of Indian Economic Dynamism for the East Asian Economic Integration Process by Ram Upendra Das
- Developing Cross-Border Production Networks between North Eastern Region of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar: A Preliminary Assessment by Prabir De and Manab Majumdar
- ASEAN-India Maritime Connectivity Report
- Dynamics of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership: Proceedings of the Second Round Table on ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks

#### Discussion Papers

192 The Growth-Employment Relationship Since 2000 by Shipra Nigam

191 The European Union's Proposed Carbon Equalisation System: Some Implications for India's Exports by Biswajit Dhar

#### Policy Briefs

65 Access and Benefit Sharing under the Biodiversity Act: Towards a More Effective Regime

64 It is Not Just About Economic Growth in China: Finances Matter

#### FIDC Policy Brief

3 Post-2015 Development Agenda: An Indian Perspective

#### Journals

##### *South Asia Economic Journal*

1. Volume 15, Number 2, September 2014

##### *Asian Biotechnology Development Review*

2. Volume 16, Number 2, July 2014

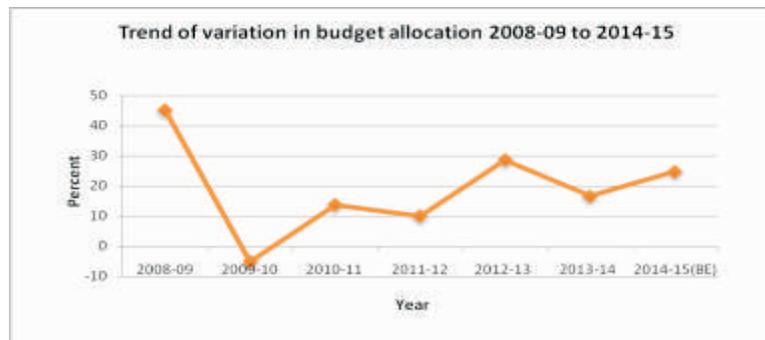
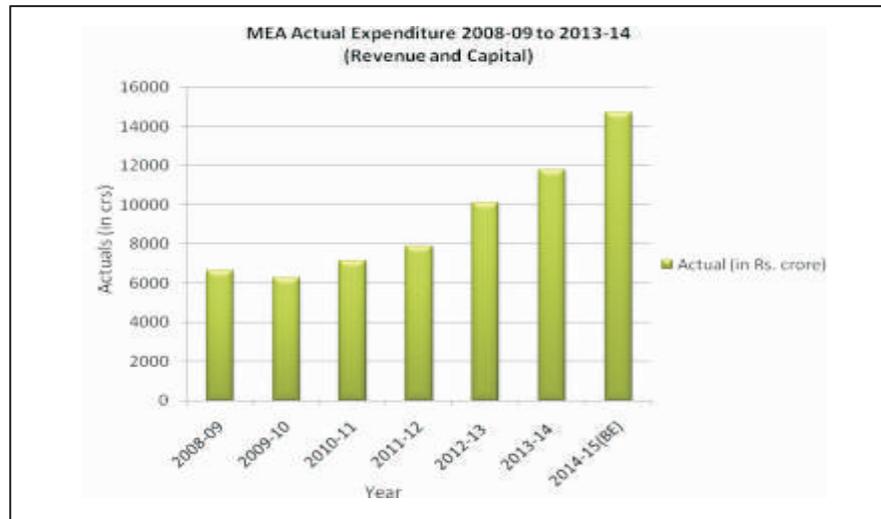
## Appendix XIII

### Finances of the Ministry of External Affairs in 2014-15

The Budget allocation (BE) 2014-15 is ₹ 14730.39 crore, which is 25.7 % more than BE 2013-14.

### MEA Actual Expenditure 2008-09 to 2013-14 (Revenue and Capital)

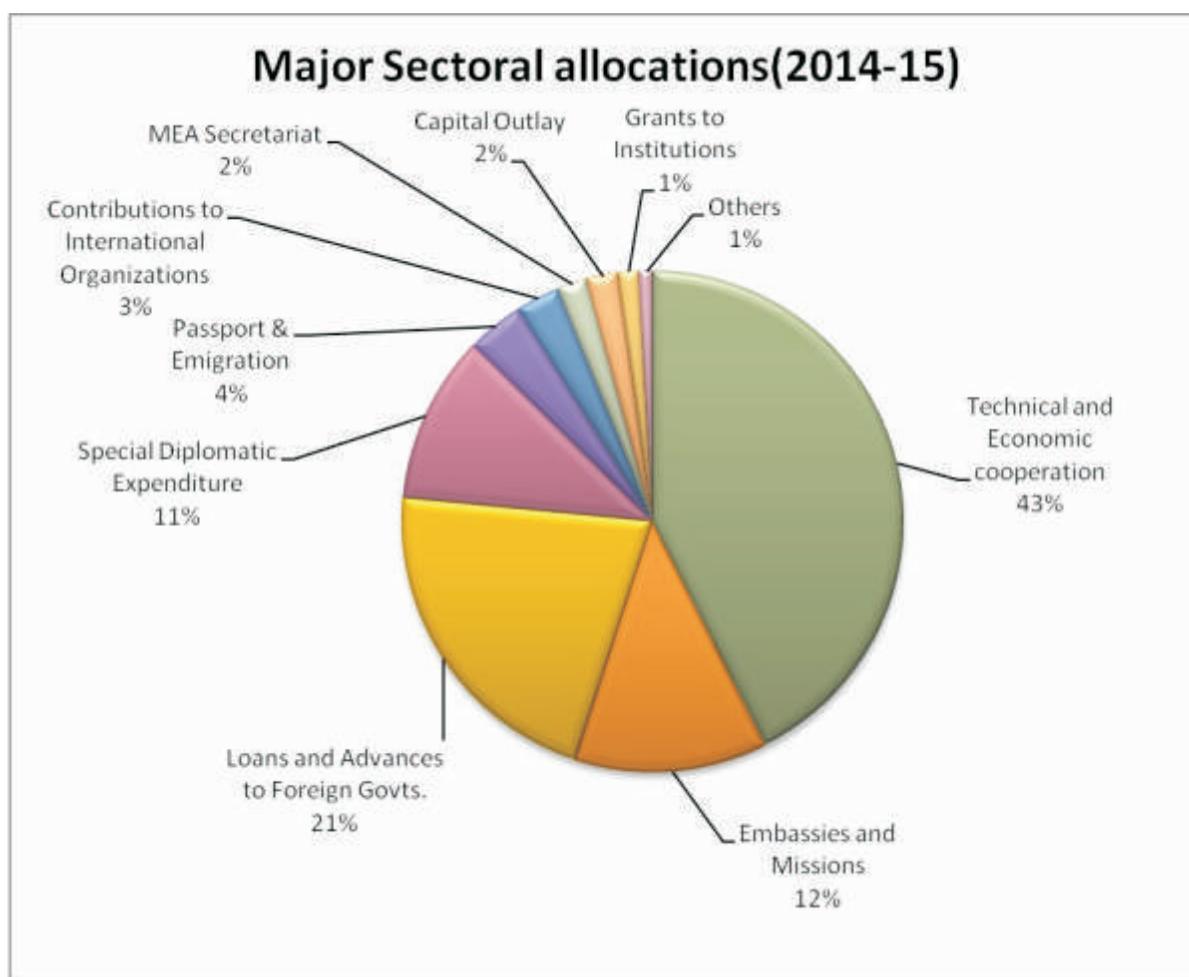
Years	Actual (in ₹ crore)	%age variation from previous year
2008-09	6630.73	45.02
2009-10	6290.77	-5.13
2010-11	7153.27	13.71
2011-12	7872.76	10.06
2012-13	10120.88	28.55
2013-14	11807.36	16.66
2014-15(BE)	14730.39	24.75



## Appendix XIV

### Major Sectoral Allocations in 2014-15 (Budget Estimates)

Sectors	Allocation (in ₹ crore)
Technical and Economic cooperation	6268.81
Embassies and Missions	1832.31
Loans and Advances to Foreign Govts.	3166.01
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	1596.01
Passport & Emigration	542.83
Contributions to International Organizations	417.59
MEA Secretariat	282.76
Capital Outlay	300
Grants to Institutions	198.3
Others	125.77
Total	14730.39



## Appendix XV

### Principal Destinations of India's Technical Cooperation Programme

The principal beneficiaries of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes in the Current Financial Year 2014-15 were as under (figures pertain to Budget Estimates 2014-15):

S. No.	Technical Cooperation Budget	(In Rupees crore)	% of India's Total Aid & Loan Budget
1.	Bhutan	3065.99	48.91%
2.	Bangladesh	350.00	5.58%
3.	Afghanistan	676.00	10.78%
4.	Sri Lanka	500.00	7.98%
5.	Nepal	450.00	7.18%
6.	Myanmar	330.00	5.26%
7.	African Countries	350.00	5.58%
8.	Eurasian Countries	40.00	0.64%
9.	Maldives	25.00	0.40%
10.	Latin American Countries	30.00	0.48%
11.	Mongolia	2.50	0.04%
12.	Others	449.32	7.17%
	Total	6268.81	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	2010-11	-	-	1	-
2	2011-12	-	-	-	-
3	2012-13	-	-	1	-
4	2013	-	-	1	-
5	2014	-	6	2	-
<b>Total</b>		-	6	5	-

**The Summary of important audit observations appearing in the most recent audit reports of the year ending January, 2015 are given below:-**

1	Performance Audit of Global Estate Management	<p><b>Lack of domain information and non-preparation of action plan</b></p> <p>It was seen that even essential domain information i.e. owned, rental and leased number of Chancery buildings/Embassy residences/Staff residences etc were not readily available with MEA. The absence of the information indicates a lack of a systematic approach towards reduction of rental liability as assured to the PAC. The MEA was also yet to develop an action plan for estate management despite an assurance given to the PAC.</p> <p><b>Delay in acquisition of property</b></p> <p>The Ministry had rendered assurance to the PAC that significant steps had been taken to streamline and speed-up the internal processes related to acquisition and construction of property. However, audit noted in seven cases (Geneva, Berne, Hamburg, Munich, Bishkek, Stockholm and Milan) deficiencies and delays in decision making persisted. Failure in purchase of land/acquisition of property resulted in rental outgo amounting to ₹ 7.83 crore during 2011-12.</p> <p><b>Delays in construction activities</b></p> <p>Audit noted delays in commencement of construction of properties in ten cases (Shanghai, Port of Spain, Port Louis, Dar-Es-Salaam, Kathmandu, Tashkent,</p>
---	-----------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

		<p><b>Lack of domain information and non-preparation of action plan</b></p> <p>It was seen that even essential domain information i.e. owned, rental and leased number of Chancery buildings/Embassy residences/Staff residences etc were not readily available with MEA. The absence of the information indicates a lack of a systematic approach towards reduction of rental liability as assured to the PAC. The MEA was also yet to develop an action plan for estate management despite an assurance given to the PAC.</p> <p><b>Delay in acquisition of property</b></p> <p>The Ministry had rendered assurance to the PAC that significant steps had been taken to streamline and speed-up the internal processes related to acquisition and construction of property. However, audit noted in seven cases (Geneva, Berne, Hamburg, Munich, Bishkek, Stockholm and Milan) deficiencies and delays in decision making persisted. Failure in purchase of land/acquisition of property resulted in rental outgo amounting to ₹ 7.83 crore during 2011-12.</p> <p><b>Delays in construction activities</b></p> <p>Audit noted delays in commencement of construction of properties in ten cases (Shanghai, Port of Spain, port louis, Dar-Es-Salaam, Kathmandu, Tashkent, Kyiv, Brasilia, Doha and Nicosia). The delays were attributable to delays in submission of drawings, failure to firm-up the type of properties required, non finalisation of project designs, delays in obtaining approval from local authorities, frequent changes in project requirements and other procedural delays. Most of these delays were internal to the Ministry. The PAC during the examination of the previous audit report of property management had also urged the MEA to put in place specific time frames and monitoring mechanism to avoid delay in pre construction activities. The annual rental outgo in these cases, in 2011-12 was ₹16.36 crore.</p>
2	Maintenance of bank account outside Government Accounts	Embassy of India, Buenos Aires, Argentina operated bank account and carried out transactions of Argentine Peso 41,17,118 (5.10 crore) without routing these through books of accounts of the Government.  (Paragraph 5.1)
3	Violation of rules in procurement of goods	Consulate General of India, Atlanta procured computer hardware/software, office equipment and furniture/fittings worth 1.61 crore in three separate purchases in violation of Rules and without following fair, transparent and reasonable procedure.  (Paragraph 5.2)
4	Fictitious payment vouchers/ receipt challans in Monthly Accounts	The Consulate General of India, Houston, USA prepared fictitious payment vouchers of US\$ 3,72,632 and receipt challans of US\$ 3,62,172 and accounted these in its monthly accounts submitted to the Ministry. There were withdrawals of US\$ 69,356 and deposits of US\$ 39,266 without routing through the cash book. The accounts of the Consulate suffered from serious inaccuracies which was fraught with the risk of short accounting of receipts and unaccounted withdrawals.  (Paragraph 5.3)

5	Overpayment of foreign allowance to project management teams	The Missions in Moscow and Paris paid discretionary foreign allowance instead of foreign compensatory allowance to six officers of Indians Air Force posted in project management teams in Moscow and Paris. This resulted in overpayment of ₹74.69 lakh to the officers during November 2009 to August 2013. (Paragraph 5.4)
6	Short collection of fees for passport Miscellaneous Services	Non-revision of Passport Miscellaneous Services fees resulted in loss of revenue of ₹ 1.52 crore.
7	Undue financial benefit to the service provider	Irregular increase of service charges for surrender of passport services and levy of inadmissible administrative fee on such services resulted in undue financial benefit of ₹ 67.36 lakh to the service provider during September 2010 to March 2013. (Paragraph 5.6)

## Abbreviations

AALCO	Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation	FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum	FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations	FIDC	Forum for Indian Development Cooperation
ASEM	Asia Europe Meeting	FMCT	Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty
ASSOCHAM	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry	FTA	Free Trade Agreement
AU	African Union	G-20	Group of Twenty
AWG-LC	Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action	GCTF	Global Counter Terrorism Forum
AYUSH	Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy	GFMD	Global Forum for Migration and Development
BARC	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	GOI	Government of India
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	HEP	Hydro-Electric Project
BIPPA	Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement	HRC	Human Rights Council
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa	IAFS	India-Africa Forum Summit
CBM	Confidence Building Measure	IANS	Indo-Asian News Service
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear	IBSA	India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum
CECA	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	I/C	Independent Charge
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States	ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
CEPA	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry	ICWA	Indian Council of World Affairs
CLMV	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Burma, and Vietnam	IDP	Internally Displaced Person
CPIO	Central Public Information Officer	IDFR	Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations
CPV	Consular Passport and Visa	IDSA	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses
DTAA	Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement	IEA	International Energy Agency
EAM	External Affairs Minister	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
EETPC	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
		IONS	Institute of Noetic Sciences
		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	RTI	Right to Information
ITEC	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional 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		





**Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India**

The Annual Report can be accessed at : [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)